

# Cybersmart

## KIDS ONLINE

smart Net surfing for kids and their grown ups

## School of the Air students play Cybersmart Detectives

For the first time, ACMA's Cybersmart Detectives has been played by students in remote locations. In June 2006, the online game that teaches children key internet safety messages was played by School of the Air students on remote stations in the Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas, the Flinders and Gawler Ranges, and other remote areas of South Australia, along with students in Adelaide schools.

Students with visual impairment were also able to participate with the assistance of Cando4Kids – Townsend House, a charitable organisation supporting children with sensory impairments. Each team had a sighted facilitator to assist students in reading material on the screen.

The students were brought together into teams in 'virtual rooms' to discuss the issues and formulate questions for the online experts using webcams and customised Centra Symposium software. More than two hundred South Australian schoolchildren participated.

The event was run in partnership with the South Australia Police and hosted by Grange Primary School. As well as the School of the Air, other participating schools were the

Charles Campbell Secondary College, with Townsend House supporting students with visual impairment, Christies Beach Primary, Grange Primary, Loreto College Junior School, St Ignatius Junior School, Stradbroke Primary, Tyndale Christian School and Walford Anglican School for Girls.

Experts from the police, education, child advocacy agencies and the internet industry guided students through the activity, with school-based police officers on hand to answer students' questions after the event. Experts were located in virtual control rooms around Australia—in Adelaide at Grange Primary and the South Australia Police Crime

Reduction Section, in Townsville at the Juvenile Aid Bureau, in Brisbane at Queensland Police Headquarters and in Perth at the Western Australia Police's Cyber Predator

Team, as well as in ACMA's offices in Sydney and Melbourne. Control room participants also included representatives from NetAlert, Internode and the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Aimed at the upper primary school age group (identified as most 'at risk'), Cybersmart Detectives uses the internet to teach children key internet safety messages, especially about using internet chat rooms. ACMA provides advice and assistance through its internet safety website for families, [www.cybersmartkids.com.au](http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au), and printed resources, as well as

a complaints hotline at [www.acma.gov.au/hotline](http://www.acma.gov.au/hotline) for reporting offensive internet material.

The brochures *Cybersmart Guide* and *How to be Phone Smart* are on the ACMA website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to Internet > Content Regulation > Community awareness) or are available from ACMA.



ADELAIDE SCHOOLCHILDREN PLAYING CYBERSMART DETECTIVES

## Review finds Spam Act effective

A report of the review of the *Spam Act 2003* was released by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan in June 2006, after it was tabled in parliament.

In releasing the report, the minister said the review provided an opportunity to ensure that the Spam Act was continuing to operate effectively and protect Australians from unsolicited and unwanted electronic messages.

The review found that ACMA has undertaken effective and appropriate enforcement of the Spam Act. Since its enforcement activities began, Australia has dropped from 10th to 23rd on the list of worldwide sources of spam. Spam from the entire Australasian region now accounts for less than 0.8 per cent of global spam.

The legislation, as part of a multi-layered strategy against spam, enabled active enforcement, productive industry partnerships and

international cooperation against the global problem. The review highlighted the strong action taken by both the government and Australian industry in combating spam. ISPs and the e-marketing industry have each developed codes of practice in support of the Spam Act.

The Australian legislative approach has been recommended as a template for other countries seeking to address spam by both the International Telecommunication Union and the

anti-spam organisation Spamhaus.

More than 60 submissions were received in response to an issues paper released as part of the review late last year and the recommendations of the report take these comments into account.

The review report and submissions received are on the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts website at [www.dcita.gov.au/spam](http://www.dcita.gov.au/spam).