

# Australians encouraged to stay smart online during National Cyber Security Awareness Week

The ACMA was a key partner of the Australian Government's National Cyber Security Awareness Week initiative in June, hosting and participating in a range of activities designed to help Australians understand and manage the cybersecurity risks that they face.

The annual event promotes the importance of cybersecurity and details the simple steps Australians can take to protect their personal and financial information online.

'Cybersecurity is a critical aspect of the digital economy and the current community concerns about privacy and identity theft highlight the importance of Australians protecting themselves when they're online,' said Chris Chapman, Chairman of the ACMA.

The ACMA participated in a number of events in the lead-up to and during the week, including:

- > The launch of Cybersmart Hero, a new online anti-cyberbullying activity for students in the last year of primary school. The activity, part of the ACMA's Cybersmart program, was launched by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, at Westgarth Primary School in Melbourne on 4 June.
- > The Cyber Security Roundtable for People with Disabilities on 7 June. After opening the Roundtable, the Minister presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr Alwyn 'Murph' Emond, who generously participated in a community service announcement last year demonstrating how to use the National Relay System. The National Relay System, which is managed by the ACMA, is a phone solution for people who are deaf or have a speech or hearing impairment. The ACMA's Manager of e-Security, Strategy and Education, Suzanne Shipard, was also a panellist in a session at the Roundtable titled 'Targeted consumer education'. The event was held at Parliament House, Canberra and was organised by the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN).
- > The launch of Spam SMS, a new spam reporting tool providing Australians with a quick and easy way to report spam SMS by forwarding messages to 0429 999 888. The ACMA Chairman,

Chris Chapman, launched the new tool at the Phoenix Youth Centre in Footscray, Melbourne on 9 June. As part of the launch, artists from the Footscray Community Arts Centre X Fear of a Brown Planet's current project, Hip Hop Academy, created a stunning graffiti art mural on the topic of spam.

- > The unveiling of a Pre-Service Teacher program at Deakin University's Burwood Campus in Melbourne on 10 June. The program equips pre-service teachers with the skills and confidence they will need to manage cybersafety education and awareness issues in schools today. The program, which includes a section on cybersecurity, builds on the ACMA's successful Cybersafety Outreach—Professional Development for Educators program.
- > The debut of the latest instalment of Hector's World™, an online learning resource for primary school children that is available on the ACMA's Cybersmart website. The new episode, which focuses on cybersecurity, was launched by ACMA Executive Manager, Security, Safety and e-Education, Andree Wright, in front of a class of Grade 3 students at Birchgrove Public School in Sydney on 11 June. Martin Cocker, CEO of Netsafe, New Zealand, also participated in the launch.

Some of these events are covered in more detail in this issue of *ACMASphere*.

Another important event during National Cyber Security Awareness Week was the Minister's launch on 6 June of a new ISP Code of Practice on cybersecurity. The Code was developed by the Internet Industry Association in partnership with the Australian Government. On the same day, Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, launched a new consumer information booklet, *Protecting Yourself Online—What Everyone Needs to Know*.

National Cyber Security Awareness Week is an annual initiative of the Australian Government held in partnership with industry, community and consumer groups and state and territory governments. For more information on the week and to download a copy of *Protecting Yourself Online—What Everyone Needs to Know*, visit [www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au).

For more information on the ACMA's cybersmart initiatives visit [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au).

## Six easy tips for better online security:

1. Install security software and update it regularly.
2. Turn on automatic updates so that all your software receives the latest fixes.
3. Get a stronger password and change it at least twice a year.
4. Stop and think before you click on links or attachments.
5. Stop and think before you share any personal or financial information—about yourself or your friends and family.
6. Know what your children are doing online. Make sure they know to stay safe and encourage them to report anything suspicious.

Source: [www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au)



The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, speaking at the Cyber Security Roundtable for People with Disabilities on 7 June.