HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY STAY SMART ONLINE

More and more people are embracing mobile devices to stay connected. In fact, a recent study by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) revealed that half of Australia's working population is now mobile. Stay Smart Online is encouraging libraries to participate in Stay Smart Online Week in June by hosting local events, sharing free materials and helping spread the message through social media.

With the proliferation of mobile devices, the internet has well and truly become a part of our daily lives. However, the popularity of laptops, tablets and smart phones means Australians must increasingly be vigilant about online security.

Reflecting the importance of staying secure online when using these devices, Stay Smart Online Week will this year be promoting the theme 'On the Go'.

The Australian Government initiative promotes valuable online safety and security information to the public and is a great time to remind people about the simple steps they can take to protect their personal and financial information online.

Minister for Communications, Malcolm Turnbull (on our cover this month), said ALIA and many of its library members had been great partners of the Stay Smart Online initiative, and continued to play a valuable role in educating and supporting internet users from all walks of life.

"Libraries are the hub of many communities, and can be a great place to spread the message of online safety and security to a wider audience," Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull said.

"As we become increasingly connected online it is important we work together to better understand how to stay safe and secure on the internet, whether at home, the workplace or school," Minister Turnbull said.

Library staff are encouraged to share tips with patrons using mobile devices in their library and can also help people using public computers at a library to be safe and secure online. For instance, libraries should turn off the option for users to 'save user name and password' when visiting a website, and remind patrons to not leave computers unattended when logged in.

Library users should also delete browsing history before logging out of the computer, as internet browsers store information about passwords used and pages visited. It is also best not to access any personal information or make financial transactions online when using a public computer.

There are also a number of resources available on the Stay Smart Online website (www.staysmartonline.gov.au) for schools and families to use at home including the Cybersafety Help Button, an online resource providing easy online access to online safety information and assistance. The application offers counselling, reporting and educational resources associated with online risks.

The Easy Guide to Socialising Online provides tips for how parents and children can protect themselves when using social networking sites, online games and search engines and Budd:e is a fun and engaging education package with interactive learning activities for both primary and secondary students in which children can play games for points and build their very own personalised robot or cyborg, while learning important online security and safety behaviours.

Libraries can also 'like' Stay Smart Online on Facebook and subscribe to the Stay Smart Online Alert Service, a free service to explain recent online threats and scams, and provide solutions to help manage any risks.

Stay Smart Online Week will be held Monday 2 to Friday 6 June 2014. For more information and to become a partner, visit www.staysmartonline.gov.au.

Department of Communications
www.staysmartonline.gov.au

STAYING SMART ON THE GO

Install anti-virus software on your phone: Anti-virus software can act as a 'gatekeeper' by monitoring information transferred between the internet and your device, scanning and checking the files you download or open.

Lock your device with a passcode, password or biometric when not in use: Use strong passwords and change them regularly to make it difficult for others to access information stored on your mobile device or in your online accounts.

Learn about the best way to create and store passwords: Never store passwords for important accounts on your device and avoid passwords that would be readily identifiable or easy for anyone to guess, such as your name or business name.

Only download apps from reputable publishers: Always read permission requests and be careful when allowing applications to access your personal information, including your location. When mobile banking, only use applications supplied by your financial institution.

Do not use public wi-fi for online banking, shopping or other financial transactions: When connecting to the internet using wi-fi, try to use an encrypted network that requires a password.

WHO WILL BE IN YOUR LIBRARY DURING STAY SMART ONLINE WEEK?

This year libraries who registered as Stay Smart Online partners and hold a Stay Smart Online Week event are in the running to be chosen for Bajo and Hex from ABC's *Good Game* or Peter Price from *Crime Stoppers* to visit during Stay Smart Online Week. Visit the ALIA website (www.alia.org.au) for more information.