



SENATOR THE HON STEPHEN CONROY

MINISTER FOR BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

MEDIA RELEASE

Help Button for Australians Online

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Senator Stephen Conroy today launched the Cyber Safety Help Button, to help Australian children and families to stay safe online.

Senator Conroy launched the Cyber Safety Help Button with the help of students at Telopea Park School in Canberra.

“The internet offers our young people many exciting opportunities but there are also some dangers and the Help Button will provide valuable information for students, teachers and parents,” Senator Conroy said.

“Importantly, the Help Button was designed by young people as part of the work of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on Cyber Safety.

“YAG members have been testing the Help Button and providing valuable feedback since June and now anyone can download it onto their computer at school or home.”

Once downloaded onto a computer, the button can be set to hover above other applications or minimised in the taskbar.

“Once it’s been downloaded all people have to do is click on it and choose whether they want to talk, report or learn about cyber safety issues.

“There are some great cyber safety resources currently available and the Help Button brings them all together in a way that’s easily accessible for young people.

“The Button offers a direct link to Kids Helpline, so if children are worried by cyberbullying or any other upsetting issue, they can phone or chat online to a professional counsellor.

“Young people can also report cyber safety issues directly to participating social networking and online game websites such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and Moshi Monsters.

“They can also report scams, offensive websites and improper contact.”

Senator Conroy said future enhancements were planned for the Help Button such as making it suitable for mobile platforms, network downloading and additional resources for users to access.

“Young people are constantly accessing the cyber world either at home or at school for education, entertainment or to socialise,” Senator Conroy said.

“The Cyber Safety Help Button provides a one stop shop for our children if they ever feel uncomfortable online and for parents and teachers that is very reassuring.”

To download the Cybersafety Help Button free of charge go to:

www.dbcde.gov.au/helpbutton.

For more information on the help button, email helpbutton@dbcde.gov.au

Date: 7 November 2010

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