

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **THE COALITION'S REVIEW OF ONLINE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN**

The Coalition has established a working group to consult with key technology, education and cyber-safety leaders, as well as other interested parties, to further develop its online safety policy in the areas of education, regulation and enforcement.

The Working Group will invite comment on previous Coalition policies, particularly the most recent online safety policy which included the following measures:

- the provision of PC-based filters to families;
- the expansion of ACMA's cyber-safety programme;
- the empowerment of school principals to deal effectively with cyberbullying issues in schools through:
  - the establishment of a National Cyberbullying Taskforce which will develop a code for social networking sites and recommend a universal system for children to report cyberbullying and refer offensive material;
  - the development of national reporting requirements for all schools in relation to bullying in schools – both on and off campus; and
  - the expansion of existing research into cyberbullying to better understand what it is and how to combat it; and
- the establishment of a new Ministerial Advisory Committee on Social Networking.

The members of the Working Group are: Paul Fletcher (Chair), Senator Gary Humphries (Senator for Australian Capital Territory), Alex Hawke (Member for Mitchell), Natasha Griggs (Member for Solomon), Wyatt Roy (Member for Longman), Patrick Secker (Member for Barker), Senator Stephen Parry (Senator for Tasmania), Senator Bridget McKenzie (Senator for Victoria) and Luke Simpkins (Member for Cowan).

#### **Terms of Reference**

The Working Group's objective will be to inform future Coalition policies aimed at ensuring that there is better support for children and young people – and their parents, teachers and other carers – in protecting them against the risks they face in the online environment, such as online bullying and illegal and inappropriate content.

The Working Group will examine and report on the risks that children and young people face in the online environment including, but not limited to, the following:

- online bullying;
- potential exposure to sexual predators;
- reputation and privacy risks (including through the self-publishing of inappropriate, illegal or otherwise questionable content);
- theft and financial risks (including the use of online games which can incur high and ongoing fees);
- exposure to illegal and/or inappropriate content (including behavioural issues as a consequence of accessing pornography, violent content, anorexia websites and other illegal/inappropriate content); and

For the purposes of this review the “online environment” will include all activity relating to computers (in homes, schools and libraries), game consoles and mobile devices like smartphones and tablets.

The Working Group will also investigate the roles and responsibilities of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), the Australian Federal Police (AFP), state police services, schools, parents,

ISPs, providers of social networking websites and other groups in protecting the safety of children and young people online.

The Working Group will examine the evidence of the risks children are exposed to; the measures available today to protect them; and identify gaps which have arisen due to the rapid development of technology and the consequent changes in children's online behaviour.

It will seek to recommend practical regulatory measures to deliver additional protection to children and young people against the risks they face in the online environment, including ways to deal with illegal or defamatory content that is hosted outside Australia.

We want to help parents, teachers and carers to protect children in their care against online dangers – just as they protect them against the dangers of drowning, or being run over, or being abducted by a stranger.

### **Roundtables, Community Forums and Submissions**

In the course of undertaking the review, the Working Group will:

- convene and host a series of roundtables with key technology, education and cyber-safety leaders, as well as other interested groups;
- convene and host a series of community forums;
- consult with interested parties through a series of online events; and
- seek written submissions from other stakeholders who are unable to attend the roundtables or community forums.

<b>Dates for roundtables and community forums</b>	<b>City</b>
Friday 24 February	Hobart
Wednesday 7 March	Sydney
Monday 26 March	Adelaide
Tuesday 27 March	Perth
Thursday 5 April	Melbourne
Thursday 19 April	Darwin
Friday 20 April	Brisbane
Ongoing (on parliamentary sitting days in March 2012)	Canberra

Specific venues and times for the roundtables and community forums will be confirmed at the time of booking.

Written submissions are invited by Friday 20 April and can be made to:

Helen Moreland  
Senior Adviser (Social Policy)  
(Secretary to the Working Group)  
Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Tony Abbott MHR  
Suite RG 109, Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Email: [helen.moreland@aph.gov.au](mailto:helen.moreland@aph.gov.au)

Questions about the Working Group should be directed to Ms Moreland at the email address above.