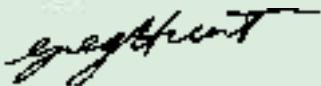## A personal note

The internet is a very positive medium - it allows local residents to gain access to information from around the world.

However with these benefits come some risks. This newsletter contains useful hints to help parents protect their children from some of the dangers that can arise.

I also support the Federal Coalition Government's stronger laws that are helping prevent children being exposed to pornographic and other offensive material on the internet.

I hope you find this information useful.

Regards,

Greg Hunt MP

Useful Internet Sites

www.fed.gov.au
Government Entry Point

www.pm.gov.au
Prime Minister of Australia

www.peo.gov.au
Parliamentary Education Office

www.aph.gov.au
Australian Parliament House

www.anzacsite.gov.au
ANZAC information site

www.awm.gov.au
Australian War Memorial

www.myfuture.edu.au
Career opportunities for school leavers

www.nga.gov.au
National Gallery of Australia

www.nma.gov.au
National Museum of Australia

www.screensound.gov.au
National Screen and Sound Archive

www.greghunt.org

Protecting your children

Tips for safer internet use

A community newsletter from

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Internet Safety

Is your child using the internet safely?

The internet has become a popular pastime and useful education tool for both adults and children the world over. Unfortunately, there are also risks from those who seek to upset and cause harm to children.

This can be done by sending unwanted material to your child, such as explicit pictures or messages.

In extreme cases, they may attempt to meet your child with the intent of causing them harm. While most children handle these internet risks well, it is a sad fact that some do not.

A child predator is someone who stalks children for sexual purposes, especially through the use of e-mail and chat rooms.

Reducing the risk

How can I reduce the chances of my child being at risk?

- Talk to your child and make sure they understand the risks of talking to people they don't know on the internet.

- Log on to the internet together, spend time together on-line.

- Put the computer in a room people use often.

- Download a program such as Net Nanny which prevents any kind of pornography being viewed.

- Maintain access to your child's e-mail account and check up on them from time to time.

- Set ground rules for your child - make sure they know exactly what they are allowed to do.

Warning Signs

What are the warning signs?

- Does your child spend a lot of time on the internet, especially at night?

- Does your child change the screen on the computer quickly as you enter the room?

- Does your child receive calls or call other people you don't know?

- Does your child receive mail or gifts from someone you don't know?

- Does your child often use an on-line account belonging to someone else?

- Is your child becoming more and more withdrawn from the family?

- Have you found explicit material on your child's computer?

House Rules

What rules should I put in place?

- Always let you know when they go on-line.

- Never tell anyone any personal information about themselves.

- Never send a photo of themselves to anyone they do not know.

- Never give out their e-mail or chat room password - not even to their best friend.

- Never download pictures or e-mails that have been sent to them from someone they don't know.

- If they do receive anything that makes them feel uncomfortable they should immediately log off the internet and tell you.

- Never arrange a meeting with someone that they met on-line.

What should I do?

What should I do if my child is contacted by a child predator?

- Contact the police

- Talk with your child about the seriousness of the situation.

- Make sure your child does not use the same chat room and identification or e-mail address again.

- Warn your child's friends and their parents.