MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

PARENTS ENCOURAGED TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

1 July 2013

Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, today encouraged parents and caregivers to talk with their children and raise awareness about online behaviour.

“The internet has become so much part of everyone’s lives. It is with youngsters all the time and has a big influence on their lives.

“Unfortunately, there are downsides and children can be easily targeted through cyber-bullying, sexting, stalking, online grooming, fraud, exposure to inappropriate content and identity theft because so much of their world is about communicating online.”

Mr Chandler said the Department of Education and Children’s Services would facilitate a workshop on July 29 for parents on online awareness and e-security using the ThinkUKnow program, which has a partnership with Northern Territory Police.

“The program encourages parents, caregivers and their children to talk to each other so it is easier for children to say if something goes wrong. Talking to each other about online behaviour helps equip youngsters so they remain safe. The pitfalls to being online and using mobile technology are mind-boggling.

“Chat rooms, buddies, texting, sharing photos, blogging all seem innocent but it is too easy to give away information to the wrong people. As parents we can help children build resilience so they can enjoy themselves and make the most of this marvellous form of communication.

“Simple things to remember to avoid this type of behaviour; limit your personal details available online, don’t accept friends requests from strangers, never provide personal details like phone number, date of birth, address, school, and set social media privacy settings to private. Be careful posting images, as they are then considered public property and can be used by anyone, and will remain online forever.”

More information is at: http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/

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