Australians are increasingly relying on the internet in their everyday lives, from banking and shopping, through to using emails, social networking and blogs to keep in touch with family and friends. We are using a range of devices such as computers, mobile and smart phones, tablets, computer game consoles and other devices to go online.

While the internet offers many benefits, it is important that users adopt safe and secure online practices. We need to know who we are providing information to and be confident they will treat it securely and appropriately.

The Australian Government’s Cybersafety Help Button also provides internet users with easy online access to cybersafety information and assistance available in Australia. The help button is free and available at http://www.dbcde.gov.au/online_safety_and_security/cybersafetyhelpbutton_download.

Visit www.staysmart.online.gov.au for further information on how to protect yourself online.

Here are some tips internet users can use to protect their personal and financial information online:

- Install and renew your security software and update it regularly.
- Turn on automatic updates on all your software, including your operating system and other applications.
- Set strong passwords, particularly for important online accounts and change them regularly.
- Think carefully before you click on links and attachments, particularly in emails and on social networking sites from people you don’t know.
- Use privacy settings to control who has access to your information on social networking sites.
- Stop and think before you post any photos or financial or personal information about yourself, your friends or family.
- Use a secure payment method such as PayPal, BPay, or credit card when shopping online.
- Remove all traces of personal data before disposing of your computer.
- Keep informed about the latest cyber security risks and talk with your family about how to Stay Smart Online.