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Australian Minister talks Internet Censorship as Victoria burns





Senator the Hon
Stephen Conroy

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Australia participates in Safer Internet Day 2009

Young people around Australia will participate in activities promoting responsible internet use during Safer Internet Day 2009.

"The themes for Safer Internet Day 2009—safe social networking and the prevention of cyber-bullying—are parallel to the popularity of services such as Facebook, MySpace, Habbo Hotel and Bebo among young people," the Minister for Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy said.

"Young people are highly engaged with the online world and it is important that they have the knowledge and skills to be responsible cyber-citizens."

Australia is one of more than 50 countries expected to recognise Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10 February, 2009.

Activities organised by the Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA) include:

- social networking and consumer safety forums for secondary school students
- launch of new cyber-bullying initiatives for primary school children on the SuperClubsPLUS Australia web
- launch of Cybersmart Detectives Game in schools in New South Wales.

"Statistics show that young people spend as much as 65 per cent of their online time engaged in social networking and communication activities," Senator Conroy said.

"While most online experiences for young people are positive, they are never risk-free, so it is important that we encourage safer online behaviours."

The Rudd Government is investing \$125.8 million cyber-safety plan to help create a safer online environment.

Measures include the law enforcement, education, content filtering, research and international cooperation. The plan also includes creating a Youth Advisory Group to help guide effective responses to online safety risks.

For more information on the cyber-safety plan, visit www.dccde.gov.au/cybersafetyplan

For more information on ACMA's activities for Safer Internet Day 2009, visit www.acma.gov.au

-ends-

Date: 9 February 2009
Contact: Tim Marshall 0408 258 457

As we've reported regularly over [the last two days](#), Victoria, Australia has experienced the worst natural disaster in Australian history. As I type this post, the official death toll has risen to 130, with up to 200 people believed dead.

It's a tragedy beyond all reckoning. So what do you think the Australian Minister for Communications and the Digital Economy Senator Stephen Conroy was doing?

Well he was promoting the Australian Government's censorship proposal.

In a release titled "Australia participates in Safer Internet Day 2009" Senator Conroy promoted the Rudd Government's \$125.8 million cyber-safety plan to help create a safer online environment. The cornerstone of that policy is the Great Firewall of Australia.

In case some bright spark in the Government picks up on the sensitivity fail, the screen capture above captures Conroy's fuck the fires, censorship stands in the way of no man press release.

I've sent a message to the Australian Prime Minister on Twitter at [@kevinruddpm](#) calling on Conroy to be sacked, and I'd encourage others to do so.

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What a disgusting prat.

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Jaybo [11 hours ago](#)

He needs to be sacked, but not for that. He's the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy not the Minister for Bushfire prevention. (And that's not to take anything at all away from the tragedy that's happening in Victoria)

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websinthe [11 hours ago](#)

The most surprising thing about this is that it's Conroy's home state that is up in flames!

can we call him Nero now?

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