



**Senator Catryna Bilyk
Labor Senator for Tasmania
MEDIA RELEASE**

'Sneaky Hat' could expose more than you bargain for

The Chair of the Australian Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber Safety, Senator Catryna Bilyk, today expressed concern over the developing trend of young people posting naked and semi-naked photos of themselves on Facebook, warning that what they post online could affect them for life.

The trend started with a Facebook page called 'Sneaky Hat' and involves young people posing naked with a hat covering their breasts and/or genitals.

Although the original page has since been taken down, the 'Sneaky Hat' craze continues to be popular with children and teenagers.

"Young people need to understand that once you post images online you immediately lose control over who has access to them and how they are spread," Senator Bilyk said.

Senator Bilyk warned that images posted or 'tagged' on Facebook could turn up in internet searches, such as Google, or remain in the public domain for many years to come.

"These images could be found in background checks by a future employer and may even damage your job prospects," said Senator Bilyk.

"Even worse, they could fall into the hands of child sexual predators."

Noting that the creators of, and contributors to, the Sneaky Hat page could potentially face criminal charges, Senator Bilyk warned followers of the trend to consider the legal ramifications.

"In some jurisdictions, you could potentially be charged with publishing or disseminating child exploitation material even if the picture you posted is of yourself."

Senator Bilyk urged young people to carefully consider the consequences before joining the 'Sneaky Hat' trend.

"It is just not worth the risk and embarrassment," Senator Bilyk said.

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