

This month: Stay Smart Online Week, and confirming parental income.

G'day, I'm Hank Jongen, here to tell you what's happening with the department in October.

'Stay Smart Online Week' is about raising awareness of the ways you can protect yourself online.

This year, I'll be talking to experienced leaders in scams and online security.

We'll discuss current issues, and tips on how you can stay smart online.

Keep an eye out for the discussion on the department's Media Hub website soon.

In the meantime, one simple thing you can do to make sure you're protecting yourself online is to create strong passwords.

Your passwords should be easy for you to remember, but hard for others to guess.

If you think you've been scammed or have given out personal info like your Centrelink Customer Reference Number or Medicare card number, call the department's helpdesk, and report it to Scamwatch.

If you're a student, you may get a letter asking for your parents' income details. This is so we can make sure you're paid the right amount.

The best way for parents to confirm their income is online.

They can use the 'Advise Parental Income' tool on our website, or in their own Centrelink online account.

It's important to respond to the letter by the due date, or your payment may stop.

Not everyone will get a letter, so don't worry if you don't get one. It just means we've already got the information we need.

If you have any questions, ask our Student Update team on Facebook or Twitter, or search our website.

Thanks for watching. Don't forget to like or follow us on social media.

You can also subscribe to our news channels to keep up to date.

I'll see you next month.