Guideline: Laser pointer guidelines

Purpose
To inform staff of guidelines for laser pointers

Guideline

1. Laser pointers are a common tool for many lecturers to highlight or direct a person to a relevant location. A presentation laser pointer should be a class I or class II laser product and labelled as such. Class 3 (III) laser pointers are not suitable for presentations and their use is restricted.
   - A laser pointer is not a toy. Keep out of reach of children and juveniles.
   - Never point the laser pointer at people.
   - Misuse of a laser pointer may cause discomfort glare. Viewing the laser beam may cause a temporary blindness and an after image that is disturbing to the victim. Deliberately staring into a laser beam may cause retinal damage.
   - The pointer should only be used to point out inanimate objects, such as slide images etc.
   - Avoid shining on mirror-like targets and objects where reflections may become a problem.
   - Never view the laser beam with any optical instrument, unless approved by the Laser Safety Officer.
   - Take the batteries out when not in use to avoid accidental exposures.

2. Class 3 (hand held) laser pointers that emit laser radiation in excess of 1mW can be considered a prohibited weapon under the ACT Prohibited Weapons Act 1996. These dangerous lasers should only be used by trained and aware staff with a legitimate reason.

3. More information on the hazards of lasers and appropriate safety measures is available from the ANU OHS Unit.