



## Role of the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner

The Offices' functions include:

1. A national leadership role—to promote and coordinate online safety for children.
2. Complaint handling for the reporting of seriously harmful cyberbullying.
3. An education role—research, resources for schools and tech abuse.

### ? What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is a distinct form of aggression. It differs from traditional bullying in the lack of verbal cues, the permanence of digital data and the 24/7 accessibility. Anonymity separates cyberbullying from traditional bullying.

### 🚫 Cyberbullying and sport

**Cyberbullying can affect clubs and sporting organisations. It can manifest itself in the form of:**

- \* Online racism
- \* Targeted threats/intimidation/harassment to opposition players, teams and coaches
- \* Abusive tweets, death threats
- \* Defaming of referees, coaches, management
- \* False accusations—drug taking, favouritism

Clubs and sporting groups need clear processes to reduce the risks of cyberbullying happening in your community.

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eSafety Commissioner

## HOW TO REPORT CYBERBULLYING MATERIAL

-  **1** Report the cyberbullying material to the social media service
-  **2** Collect evidence - copy URLs or take screenshots of the material

**If the content is not removed within 48 hours**

-  **3** Report it to [esafety.gov.au/reportcyberbullying](https://esafety.gov.au/reportcyberbullying)
-  **4** Block the person and talk to someone you trust

If you are in immediate danger, call 000 (triple zero)  
If you need to talk to someone, visit [kids helpline.com.au](https://kids helpline.com.au) or call them on 1800 55 1800, 24 hours a day 7 days a week

### How to report cyberbullying

#### The Office can:

- \* Help you get serious cyberbullying material removed from social media services.
- \* Work with parents, schools or the police to help make the cyberbullying stop.
- \* Refer to Kids Helpline for free confidential counselling and support – 1800 55 1800

**Where serious cyberbullying and online harassment or threats involves over 18 year olds, report to the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN).**

### Minimise risks when using social media

- \* If using social media as a coach, ensure all team members can be included-some social media accounts have age restrictions and some members may not have access.
- \* While clubs and sporting organisation don't necessarily need a social media policy, make sure you include clearly stated expectations on technology use in codes of behaviour, member protection or related policies, guidelines and duty statements.
- \* Consider how and when you educate all members of your sporting community about social media protocols and expectations.
- \* Involve athletes in creating team conduct policy-conversations should encompass all forms of communication including social media.

### Protecting yourself and young people on social media

- \* Establish online boundaries with young people.
- \* Have a professional account separate to your personal account.
- \* Communicate with young people on public platforms.
- \* Make all communication open and transparent-avoid private messaging eg: Facebook Messenger, Kik.

### Photos, videos and social media

- \* Don't assume consent when it comes to photography and video.
- \* Check out the eSafety website for FAQs related to the use of photos, videos and social media.

[www.esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/esafety-issues/photos-videos-and-social\\_media](https://www.esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/esafety-issues/photos-videos-and-social_media)