



# BE DEADLY ONLINE



## Yarning circle - lesson plan

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**Topic:** Cyberbullying, sexting, digital footprint, positive uses of technology

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**Target age group:**

Middle and upper primary

Lower, middle and upper secondary

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**Lesson duration:**

15 - 45 minutes (Middle and upper primary)

10 - 45 minutes (Lower and middle secondary)

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**Lesson overview:**

This lesson explores the significance of yarning and storytelling in Indigenous cultures.

It supports students to learn about cyberbullying and sexting and how to use technology in a positive and healthy way.

The length of the lesson will depend on the number of posters reviewed and associated activities that you choose to undertake.

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**Objectives:**

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- identify key themes related to the responsible use of technology.
  - examine different forms of communication.
  - identify how different forms of communication can be used to tell stories about online safety.
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## Resources:

- Videos: (1) Dumb stuff; (2) Respect circle; and (3) That's not team spirit.
- Posters: listed under the heading 'Teaching notes' below.
- Yarning circle protocol (included at the end of this document).
- Butchers paper and enough white board markers for each student to use, if you are delivering the lesson face to face.
- An interactive platform with a white board function, if you are delivering the lesson online.



## Australian curriculum:

This lesson module supports a number of capabilities in the Australian Curriculum including:

1. Information and Communication Technology
2. Ethical Behaviour
3. Personal and Social Capability
4. Intercultural Understanding.

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## Teaching notes

The Be Deadly Online poster set contains four posters:

- 1) 'Think twice before posting online' highlights the implications of sending nudes and sexting for the sender, the recipient/s and the friends/family who get involved.
- 2) 'Online business is everyone's business. Protect yourself. Set your post to private' highlights what a digital footprint is, how quickly a message or image can reach many people and how easy it is to lose control of something once it has been posted.
- 3) 'Make good choices. Make your mob proud' highlights how technology can be used in a positive way and the benefits of sharing stories and staying in contact with friends and family.
- 4) 'Bullying online. Shame longtime' shows how sending negative messages online and uploading posts that hurt other people can have long term consequences.

## Activity instructions

### 1. Use the videos and posters to generate a student discussion

#### 1.1 Form a virtual or online yarning circle to begin the activity.

If you are delivering this activity face to face as a class, form a complete circle around the butchers paper on the floor. Make sure that everyone has pens and markers and a clear space so they can see one another. Explain that sitting in a circle for yarning like this is the way things are done in many Aboriginal communities.

If you are delivering the resources online, ask the students to imagine they are forming a circle. Check they are comfortable using online interactive white boards.

- 1.2** In your yarning circle, explain to the class that learning and communicating through pictures and images is an important part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Ask students to watch the video and then look at the poster and identify what is being communicated. Encourage the class to draw or write their answers on the butchers paper or use the online interactive whiteboard.
- 1.3** Explain to the class that communicating without words is an important part of Aboriginal culture. Discuss how non-verbal communication includes body language, sign language and facial expressions. Ask them to look at the poster again and see what each character is communicating visually, without words.
- 1.4** In your yarning circle, discuss the importance of local community to Aboriginal people. Explain that in Aboriginal culture, learning and new information is always assessed in relation to what is already known by the community. Link this to traditional story telling where stories were told, person to person. Consider the impact of technology and how it has changed the way stories are shared and told. Use the **Respect Circle** video to explore this further.
- 1.5** Place paper on the wall next to each Be Deadly Online poster and discuss these questions:
- What does this issue mean for me and my family?
  - In what ways do we communicate in the same way as our Elders and adults in the community. What is different?
  - How can I use this new learning to help my family and community?
- 1.6** Watch the ‘Dumb stuff’ video. Brainstorm with the class to answer the questions again focusing on the themes from the posters.

Depending on available time repeat this process for each poster.

## Additional teaching notes

### **Understanding cultural protocol and yarning circles**

Yarning and storytelling are important in Aboriginal culture.

Yarning is an informal conversation that is culturally friendly and recognised by Aboriginal people. It provides the opportunity to talk about something or someone. It also gives people the chance to provide and receive information.

Yarning circles are designed to allow all students to have their say in a safe space without judgement. Each student is encouraged to speak, one at a time, without interruption. This is a process that helps to develop deep listening skills. It is a way of sharing knowledge and establishing rules around respectful behaviour.

You can find more information about the protocols and processes associated with yarning circles on the **[Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority website](#)**.

## How the eSafety Commissioner can help

Students may disclose personal welfare issues during these discussions and require professional support. eSafety can help in a number of ways.

**eSafety** provides a wide range of **education resources** to support student learning about online safety. We help Australians experiencing online bullying or abuse to take action or make a report.

Young people aged 18 years or under can make a complaint about **cyberbullying** directly to eSafety. If an intimate image has been shared, or someone has threatened to share it without consent, this can be **reported to eSafety**.

Illegal and harmful content is addressed by eSafety's Investigations team, which investigates complaints and can assist with removing offensive content.

## Other places to get support

### **National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)**

NACCHO is the national authority on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander comprehensive primary health care. Support services can be found in each State and Territory.  
[naccho.org.au](http://naccho.org.au)

### **Solid Kids**

The Solid Kids website provides locally relevant and culturally secure bullying prevention, based on the 'Solid Kids, Solid Schools' project involving Yamaji communities in Western Australia.

[solidkids.net.au](http://solidkids.net.au)

### **Kids Helpline** 1800 55 1800

Kids Helpline is a free, private and confidential phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25 in Australia. It is available 24/7.

[kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)

### **Lifeline** 13 11 14

Lifeline provides free, confidential 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.

[lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

### **Beyond Blue** 1300 22 4636

Beyond Blue provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve the best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live.

[beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au)

### **eheadspace** 1800 650 890

eheadspace is a confidential, free, secure space where young people 12 to 25 or their family, can chat, email, or speak on the phone with a qualified youth mental health professional.

[headspace.org.au/eheadspace](http://headspace.org.au/eheadspace)

**Bullying. No Way!**

Bullying. No Way! provides information about how individuals, schools, and communities can work together to help schools create learning environments where every student and school community member is safe, supported, respected, and valued.

**[bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://bullyingnoway.gov.au)**

**Youth Law Australia**

Youth Law Australia provides free, confidential legal information and help for young people under 25.

**[yla.org.au](http://yla.org.au)**

**Australian Human Rights Commission**

The Australian Human Rights Commission is an independent third party which investigates complaints about discrimination and human rights breaches.

**[humanrights.gov.au](http://humanrights.gov.au)**

eSafety acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging.