

Online Safety Laws Fact Sheet

How to use this fact sheet



The fact sheet is written in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This fact sheet was written by the Australian Government and the eSafety Commissioner, or eSafety for short.



eSafety keeps people safe while using the internet.

eSafety works for the Australian Government.



When you see the word 'we' it means eSafety.

You can ask for help to read this document.



A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.



How to report severe online abuse

Abuse is when someone treats you badly.

Online abuse happens on the internet.

This includes social media, like:

- Facebook
- TikTok
- YouTube
- Snapchat
- Instagram.



Online abuse can also happen on:

- Games
- Online chats like WhatsApp or Facetime
- Emails
- Text messages
- Websites.



When we say 'severe online abuse' we mean it harms your mental or physical health.

Mental health means how healthy your mind is.

Physical health means how healthy your body is.





There are laws to protect people from severe online abuse.

They are called online safety laws.



eSafety helps people who have been hurt by others online.



If online abuse happens to you, you should make a report to eSafety.

eSafety can help protect you on the internet.



What can I report to eSafety?

These are the things you can report to eSafety:

- Image-based abuse
- Illegal and violent content
- Adult cyber abuse
- Cyberbullying of a child.



We explain what these words mean below.



What is image-based abuse?

Image-based abuse is when someone shares private photos or videos of you without your consent.



Consent means you have agreed to let someone share these photos or videos.



Images that should not be shared without your consent include photos or videos of you:

- Naked or partly naked.
- Doing something private.



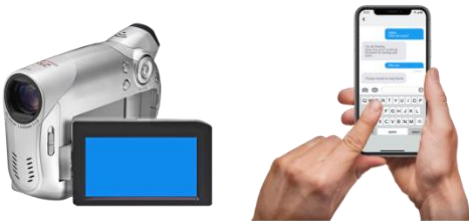
Sharing images might look like:

- Posting a photo or video on social media.
- Sending a photo or video to someone else.

What is illegal and violent content?

Content includes:

- Videos
- Photos
- Text messages
- Comments
- Social media posts.





Illegal content is anything that is made by breaking the law.



Violent content is anything that shows extreme violence, like hurting someone.

Examples of illegal and violent content include:

- Photos or videos of children doing sexual acts.
- Asking children to share nude photos.
- Group chats or message boards that talk about hurting other people.
- Videos or photos that show someone being hurt.

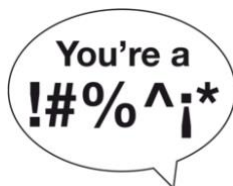


What is adult cyber abuse?

Adult cyber abuse is when someone uses the internet to harm an adult on purpose.



An adult is any person over the age of 18.



Adult cyber abuse happens online and can look like:

- Someone sending you lots of mean messages to make you feel sad or upset.



Adult cyber abuse can also look like:

- Someone trying to make you feel scared.
- Someone posting your phone number or address online without your permission.



What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is when someone uses the internet to harm a person under the age of 18.

This can include making a child feel:

- Very sad
- Embarrassed
- Scared.



Cyberbullying can happen through:

- Chatting online
- Posting on the internet
- Commenting on social media
- Talking in online forums or in a game.





What should you do if online abuse happens to you?

Everyone should feel safe online.



If online abuse happens to you, it is not your fault.



You should collect evidence like photos or screenshots of harmful:

- Posts
- Comments
- Messages.



You should write down when and where the abuse happens.



You can use this evidence to make a report to eSafety.



What happens when you report online abuse?

When you make a report, eSafety will look into what is happening.



If the content is against the law, eSafety can help protect you.



Actions eSafety could take include:

- Removing things from the internet.
- Stopping people from sending harmful messages.
- Taking legal action against people causing you harm.
- Telling you how to get support so you can feel better.



How do I make a report?

Everyone in Australia can report severe online abuse.

It is free to make a report.



You can ask a friend, family member or support person to help you.



You can make a report for someone else if they have agreed to it.



Some reports can be made without sharing your name or personal details.



To make a report, visit this website:

www.eSafety.gov.au/report

Where can I find more information?



You can learn more at: www.eSafety.gov.au