

eSafety Youth Council

Application Guide

Everything you need to know before you apply



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Join the eSafety Youth Council

Got something to share about online spaces?

About eSafety

The [eSafety Commissioner](#) (eSafety) is the Australian Government's independent online safety regulator. Our job is to help people have safer, more positive experiences online. We do that by:

- helping people remove serious online harm like cyberbullying and image-based abuse
- working with tech companies to make their platforms safer
- creating education programs, tools and campaigns that build people's confidence online.

We know young people are the experts in their own online experiences, that's why we created the Youth Council to help make sure your voices guide what we do and how we do it.

How we support you

Our team works behind the scenes to support the Youth Council and amplify your voices. To turn your ideas into impact, we:

- make sure that every meeting is **engaging and inclusive**
- **provide resources and training** so that members feel confident sharing their ideas
- **turn your insights into action** by feeding them into eSafety's programs, campaigns and resources
- **celebrate diversity** and make sure every voice is heard.



What are you signing up for?

Being on the Youth Council means using your voice and experiences to help shape how eSafety supports young people online. As a member, you'll:



Meet regularly online (and two in-person meetings) with other members from around Australia



Share what life online is really like for young people



Give feedback on eSafety's projects, from resources and campaigns to policies and research



Represent the Youth Council at events and workshops



Build your confidence and skills in communications, teamwork and leadership



No matter if you are shy or loud, there is a place for you to contribute in the eSafety Youth Council.

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I wish to ensure that our voices, ideas and problems are heard and resolved."

Your lived experience helps guide real decisions and resources.



Time, commitment and reward

We know life's busy, so your involvement can flex around school, uni or work.

What	How long	Expectation	Reward
Online Council meetings	1.5 hour meetings every two months	Expected to attend	An honorarium (a thank you payment) of \$90 per online Council meeting
In-person Council meetings	Across two days in August 2026 and December 2027 at an eSafety office in Melbourne, Sydney or Canberra	Expected to attend	An honorarium of \$200 per in-person Council meeting (<i>Travel expenses will be organised or reimbursed by eSafety</i>)
Youth Council training (includes onboarding session, media training etc)	Usually 1-1.5 hours per session	Depends on the training – some training will be mandatory	Depends on the training (<i>We aim to provide an honorarium and/or the opportunity to benefit your own learning and skills development.</i>)
Other engagement opportunities	Depends on the project – could be 1 hour or a few meetings across a few months.	Optional	Depends on the project (<i>We aim to provide an honorarium and/or the opportunity to benefit your own learning and skills development.</i>)
Social nights	1 hour every few months	Optional	Fun times with the team!

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My favourite part was hearing someone say something really insightful and learning from it."

You'll meet young people from across Australia and learn from different perspectives.



What do we discuss in the meetings?

The Council talks about all kinds of issues that affect young people online, like:

- cyberbullying and harassment
- mental health and wellbeing
- impacts of algorithms and recommender systems
- unwanted online contact
- sexual extortion and coercive control
- impacts of generative AI and deepfakes.

You will also have the opportunity to suggest online safety topics that you feel are relevant to young people and important to address.

eSafety Youth Council

Meeting Agenda

Activity
Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement of Country• Meeting expectations and housekeeping• Support team introductions• Group introductions
Welcome address <p>A welcome from Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner.</p>
Q&A with the Commissioner <p>Questions from the YC for the Commissioner.</p>
BREAK
Ice breaker activity <p>Small groups in breakout rooms.</p>
Wellbeing reminder
A spotlight on the eSafety Investigators <p>A day in the life of an eSafety Investigator.</p>
BREAK
Group discussions <p>Two groups to discuss and brainstorm how to better support young people affected by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fight videos• Sexual extortion
Meeting Close

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The gathering was fun and engaging, it was a great opportunity to meet and get to know my fellow council members IRL.

The information was fun, the nights were inclusive and the presentations were awesome.”

Youth Council members take part in two in-person Gatherings across the 18-month term. It's a chance to connect, learn and collaborate face-to-face.



What else could you do on the eSafety Youth Council?

There are plenty of ways to get involved beyond the regular meetings. Past members have:

- **met with senior leaders** of Big Tech organisations
- **presented and spoken at various national and international events** to share youth insights, including the Digital Childhoods Summit in Canberra and the DG CNECT Safer Internet Forum
- written and launched an [**open letter to Big Tech companies**](#) on Safer Internet Day 2023
- written a submission and presented further evidence to the [**Joint Select Committee on Social Media and Australian Society**](#)
- consulted with eSafety and the Australian Government on the **social media minimum age legislation**
- **collaborated with WeProtect Global Alliance** to develop the youth-led #MyVoice #MyFuture media campaign tackling online safety, digital rights and online harm
- **co-developed 'The Digital Landscape'** with eSafety, a quarterly online safety resource designed to provide young people with bite-sized emerging online safety information and advice.
- engaged with young people from international online safety organisations as part of the Global Online Safety Regulators Network '[**Youth Dialogues**](#)'.



Key dates

11th

February

Applications open

29th

March

Applications close

Here's what happens after you apply:

Early April

You'll find out if you've progressed to the next stage

20-24th
April

If you progress to the next stage, you'll have a quick video chat (about 15-20 minutes) with the eSafety team

Early May

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application

3rd
June

Online induction session (meet the team + get set up)

10th
June

First official Youth Council meeting

After the first meeting, online meetings happen every two months, with two in-person gatherings across your 18-month term. See below for more details.

Exact dates and times may shift, but we will keep you updated.

Before you apply

Before you send in your application, make sure you'll be available for most of the meetings and training sessions below. We know life gets busy, but the more often you can join us, the more you'll get out of the experience.

All dates are subject to change.

If your application is selected to progress to the next stage:		
Chat with us – 15-to-20-minute video call on Microsoft Teams	We'll invite you to a short video call with our team members to help us learn a little more about you.	Between 20 April and 24 April 2026
If you have been selected to join the eSafety Youth Council:		
1-on-1 introduction calls – a 15-to-20-minute video call on Microsoft Teams	A short video call with us where you will also have the chance to ask questions about your role on the Council and help us better understand what you might need from us.	Between 25 May and 29 May 2026
Induction session – a 15-to-20-minute video call on Microsoft Teams	An online induction session to get you onboard with all things eSafety Youth Council and eSafety, including meeting all the other successful applicants. You will receive an honorarium for your attendance.	3 June 2026 – 5:30pm to 7pm AEST
Youth Council meetings – 1.5-hour online meetings on Microsoft Teams	eSafety Youth Council's regular meetings, held every two months. These meetings give you the chance to discuss and work with your fellow Council members on online safety topics affecting young people. You will receive an honorarium for your attendance. All meetings are likely to be 5:30pm to 7pm (Syd/Mel time).	2026 Meeting Dates Meeting 1 – 10 June 2026 Meeting 3 – 14 October 2026 Meeting 4 – 9 December 2026 2027 Meeting Dates Meeting 5 – 10 February 2027 Meeting 6 – 14 April 2027 Meeting 7 – 9 June 2027 Meeting 8 – 11 August 2027 Meeting 9 – 13 October 2027
Youth Council in-person meetings – held across two days at an eSafety office	An opportunity to gather for an in-person Council meeting, hosted at an eSafety office (Sydney, Melbourne or Canberra). These meetings allow us to come together to dive deeper into online safety topics and meet with relevant eSafety teams. You will receive an honorarium for your attendance.	2026 Meeting Dates Meeting 2 – 3 to 4 August 2026 (in Melbourne) 2027 Meeting Dates Meeting 10 – 6 to 7 December 2027 (TBC)

How to apply

You'll apply through a short online form via Microsoft Forms. You can answer however feels most comfortable to you – write it out, record a video, make an audio clip or upload something creative. There's no 'right' way to do it. We just want to hear your ideas and your perspective.

Ways to respond

- For text-based responses – Type your answers (up to 200 words per question)
- For video responses – Upload a video as unlisted to Vimeo, or if you're over 16 you can upload an unlisted YouTube video (max 3 minutes).
- For other creative responses – Email your file as an attachment (max file upload 25 MB) to youth@esafety.gov.au using our template in the application form.

eSafety reserves the right to refuse to review any links to or uploads of content that appear unsafe or malicious.

What you'll be asked

You will be asked:	Why are we asking this?
Your first and last name, and your pronouns	So we know who you are and how to address you
Your contact details, including your email address and phone number	To contact you. We often contact you via email but if we need to reach you quickly, we may text you.
Your date of birth	To make sure you meet the age ranges of the eSafety Youth Council. If you are selected to join, we also keep track of our Council members' birthdays so we can wish you a happy birthday. We'll also monitor if we need you to complete a certain task, like apply for a Working with Children check in your state/territory.
Your postcode	So, we can get a sense of the geographical regions of the young people applying.
Demographic questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender• If you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander• If you identify as LGBTQI+• If you are from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse (CALD) background• If you identify as living with disability• If you identify as neurodivergent	These questions are optional, but they will help us know more about you and will help us form a diverse and inclusive Youth Council.

You will be asked:	Why are we asking this?
Other questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education/employment status How you heard about the eSafety Youth Council opportunity If you have been part of any youth advisory council or group before 	<p>These questions are optional, but they help us get an idea of where you're at and how you heard about the opportunity.</p> <p>If you are selected to join, this information will also help us understand your possible school/work commitments and diverse range of experiences.</p>
Your accessibility needs	<p>This question is optional, but if you are selected to join, this information will help us understand if there are additional supports or considerations that will help you to fully participate.</p>
Your comfort levels in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading or facilitating meetings Recording video or audio content Public speaking and presenting Writing and editing 	<p>This question is optional, but your response will help us understand how comfortable you might be with some of our regular activities.</p> <p><i>Note: There are no right or wrong answers. Your responses will not advantage or disadvantage you from being selected to join the eSafety Youth Council.</i></p>
If you have or are willing to apply for a Working with Children Check in your state/territory.	<p>Depending on the Working with Children Check requirements of your state/territory, you may be required to have a valid Working with Children Check as you will be working with young people under the age of 18.</p> <p>eSafety will reimburse you for any costs related to applying and/or registering for a Working with Children Check in your state/territory.</p> <p><i>Note: You will not be able to participate in the eSafety Youth Council without a valid Working with Children Check if you are eligible.</i></p>
Support from your parent/carer to apply (If you are under the age of 18)	<p>To let us know that you have spoken to your parent/carer about this opportunity and they are supportive of you applying.</p> <p>If you are selected to join, your parent/carer will need to sign a consent form before you are able to participate.</p>
If you had one chance to pitch an online safety issue affecting young people to the eSafety Commissioner, what would it be and what should eSafety do to help address it?	<p>To give us an idea of what online safety topic you think is important and relevant to young people, and how you think eSafety should address the issue and support young people.</p>
Why would you be a great fit for the eSafety Youth Council?	<p>To help us understand what experiences, skills, personal qualities, interests or knowledge that you have that will be a strong addition.</p> <p><i>Note: You do not need any formal or specific experience to apply. We are looking for any young person with a keen interest in online safety with natural personal qualities or learned skills and knowledge.</i></p>

Need help?

Got a question? We got you.

Email youth@eSafety.gov.au if you:

- need any support to make an application
- have any questions about the application process
- wish to withdraw your application.

Once you hit submit, that's it, there's no editing – so please double check you're happy with your application.

For more information about applying, including our frequently asked questions, please visit [our website](#).

You've got this. Take your time, be yourself, and remember – we're not looking for perfect. We're looking for passionate people who care about making a difference online.

Legal and Privacy Notices

eSafety abides by the Commonwealth Child Safety Framework (CCSF). To see how eSafety creates child safe cultures and practices, please see our [Child Safe Policy](#).

You can learn about your rights in relation to personal information collected by eSafety by reading our [Privacy Policy](#). Our [Personal Information Collection Notice](#) explains what information we collect, and what we do with it.

eSafety is permitted to disclose information to certain parties Under the Part 15 of the *Online Safety Act 2021 (Cth)*, (including the Minister for Communications, and the Minister's Office) during the course of performing our functions.

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I hope my time on the Youth Council helps drive meaningful change in policy and systems, so young people are safer online."

Your ideas can influence systems and priorities that shape how young people are supported online.





[eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)