
Subject: Invitation to Speak: Global Summit in Washington D.C.
Date: Thursday, 3 February 2022 at 3:08:23 am Australian Eastern Daylight Time
From: § 47F @counterhate.co.uk on behalf of Imran Ahmed § 47F @counterhate.com>
To: Julie Inman Grant § 47E(d) @eSafety.gov.au>
CC: § 47E(d) @esafety.gov.au <§ 47E(d) @esafety.gov.au>

Dear Julie,

First, we want to thank you for the important work that you have been doing through your current role as the e-Safety Commissioner and we are excited to have you confirmed as a speaker at our upcoming “Global Summit to Address Online Harm and Misinformation” [*working title*].

About CCDH

The Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) is an international, not-for-profit NGO that seeks to disrupt the architecture of online hate and misinformation. CCDH has been at the forefront of unmasking how online platforms and search engines drive radicalization, online harm, and misinformation. The Center's work combines both analysis and active disruption of these networks. We champion levers for change to increase the economic, political, and social costs of all parts of the infrastructure - the actors, systems, and culture - that support and profit from hate and misinformation (for example, climate change denial, sexual and reproductive health, anti-vax, antisemitism, and identity-based hate). You can read more about our recent work [here](#). CCDH is independent and does not receive money from technology companies. We have offices in London and Washington D.C., and connections globally.

The Global Summit

We know that we have an impact - but we can't do this alone. The driving purpose of the Global Summit is to build a coalition for change, and a collective strategy and roadmap for how we get there. That shift is fundamental. We need to reset our relationship with digital technology to ensure that democratic and human rights principles are embedded and that people are put ahead of profit.

Right now, we are seeing regulatory reforms in different jurisdictions, and there is an appetite for change in the US. There's a lot we can learn from each other to maximize the impact of any changes. There's also an important role for civil society in shaping the reforms.

Through the Global Summit, we have an opportunity to bring together some of the leading international thinkers, regulators, and activists, to share international insights and create a new generation of the Internet. The only way we can tackle the systemic problems with digital harm is through a civil society sector that is engaged, building partnerships, and pulling efforts in the same direction.

From our work, we know the problems that exist and can see a window of opportunity to make some real and effective change in the US and globally - the time for collective and coordinated action is now. The Global Summit will be an important catalyst for building a stronger civil society response and global reform of digital platforms.

Your involvement in the Global Summit

We would like to confirm your involvement in the Global Summit, as a panel member on international regulation. We have approached a range of experts - regulators and MPs - who have been working on different law reforms in their respective jurisdictions and see this as an opportunity to build a shared understanding of the existing landscape and what else may be needed to deal with underlying causes and emerging threats. We know that you have a lot of experience to share, including your work with abhorrent violent material, the recent regulatory reforms, and your publication *Safety by Design*.

Logistics

The Global Summit is scheduled to be held at [The Cosmos Club](#) in Washington D.C. on 19 May 2022.

Given the high profile of this event and speakers, and the sensitive nature of the topics we will be discussing, security will be an essential component of this event being successful. We will also work to manage the COVID-19 risk. One of the requirements of the venue is that attendees have a vaccination certificate and provide this four days prior to the event.

In addition to CCDH staff, we anticipate that there will be approximately 75 attendees in person (alongside a secure link for live-streamed sessions).

I am happy to answer any questions that you may have, and of course, for my team to work with you and your team to support your involvement in the Global Summit.

Best wishes

Imran Ahmed
CEO, [Center for Countering Digital Hate](#)

s 47F

Subject: RE: Invitation to Speak: Global Summit in Washington D.C. [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 4 March 2022 at 5:33:37 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time
From: s [REDACTED]@esafety.gov.au <s [REDACTED]@esafety.gov.au>
To: s [REDACTED]@counterhate.com <s [REDACTED]@counterhate.com>
CC: s [REDACTED]@esafety.gov.au <s [REDACTED]@esafety.gov.au>, s 22 [REDACTED]@eSafety.gov.au, s 22 [REDACTED]@eSafety.gov.au, events@counterhate.com <events@counterhate.com>, s 22 [REDACTED]@eSafety.gov.au
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png, image007.jpg

Dear Imran

I hope you're well.

We are in the process of making arrangements for the Commissioner's trip to the United States and I would be grateful if you could assist by advising the format of the panel discussion and provide a draft schedule/agenda of the summit with the date and time of the Commissioner's panel.

It would also assist us to know what involvement you would like the Commissioner to have over the course of the summit, what subject you would like her to focus on and a list of confirmed guests/presenters.

I understand that you are likely still in the planning stages but any additional information would assist.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

s 22 [REDACTED]

s 22 [REDACTED]



 eSafety Commissioner



s 22 [REDACTED]



esafety.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.

From: s 22 [REDACTED]@eSafety.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 24 February 2022 12:37 PM
To: s [REDACTED]@counterhate.com
Cc: s 47E(d)@esafety.gov.au; s 22 [REDACTED]@eSafety.gov.au; s 22 [REDACTED]@eSafety.gov.au
Subject: Invitation to Speak: Global Summit in Washington D.C. [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Dear Imran

Thank you for your kind invitation for Commissioner Inman Grant to speak at your global summit to address online harm and misinformation in Washington D.C. on 19 May 2022.

The Commissioner is very interested in speaking at the event and is hoping to attend in person. We are in the process of confirming

a number of details and will get back to you soon.

If there is anything I can assist with in the meantime please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kind regards

s 22

s 22



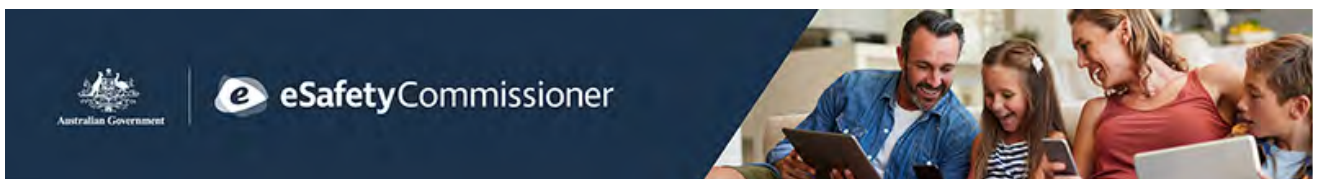
 eSafety Commissioner



s 22



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



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From: Imran Ahmed <S [redacted]@counterhate.com>

Date: 16 February 2024 at 6:05:38 am AEDT

To: Julie Inman Grant <S 47E(d) [redacted]@esafety.gov.au>, S 47E(d) [redacted]@esafety.gov.au

Cc: Events Teams <events@counterhate.com>

Subject: Invitation to Speak: Global Summit in Washington D.C.

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I am happy to answer any questions that you may have, and of course, for my team to work with you and your team to support your involvement in the Global Summit.

Best wishes

Imran Ahmed

CEO, [Center for Countering Digital Hate](#)

S 47F

Subject: Re: Invitation: CCDH Global Summit - Hold for Panel 3 briefing @ Fri 29 Apr 2022 3pm - 4pm (EDT) s 47E(d) @esafety.gov.au [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 8 April 2022 at 7:36:11 am Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: s 47F @counterhate.com>
To: s @esafety.gov.au <s @esafety.gov.au>
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png, image007.jpg

And many thanks for the bio and photo.

Best wishes

s

On Thu, 7 Apr 2022 at 17:34, s 47F @counterhate.com> wrote:

Was just thinking about how this fits in with work that you've all been doing as well. We'll be covering it at the Global Summit but let me know if there are opportunities to do something together on this in Australia as well.

[Here's a link](#) to the full study, s 22

On Thu, 7 Apr 2022 at 17:32, s 47E(d) @esafety.gov.au <s 47E(d) @esafety.gov.au> wrote:

Hi s

See attached, Julie's photo and bio. I will complete Julie and s 22 registrations today.

Also it was very interesting to read about CCDH's report this morning in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#).

If I can help further please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kind regards

s

From: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Sent: Friday, 8 April 2022 5:41 AM
To: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Cc: Julie Inman Grant s 47E(d) @eSafety.gov.au>; s 22 @eSafety.gov.au>; s 22 @eSafety.gov.au>; s 22 @eSafety.gov.au>; s 47E(d) @esafety.gov.au
Subject: Re: Invitation: CCDH Global Summit - Hold for Panel 3 briefing @ Fri 29 Apr 2022 3pm - 4pm (EDT) (s 47E(d) @esafety.gov.au) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi everyone

Just following up on a housekeeping matter:

- **Photo and biography:** Can you email me through a photo of Julie and a bio that we can include in the Global Summit programme - by Monday 11 April at the latest? Apologies if you've already done this. Just making sure that we have it. It would be great if you can email it through.

Many thanks!

s

On Thu, 7 Apr 2022 at 09:59, s 47F <[redacted]>@counterhate.com> wrote:

Hi s

I'll have a look at the timezones - it's very tricky though, given where everyone is situated. I think we'll still have to make it Saturday but will try for slightly later that day so it's not too crazy.

Yes to the registrations - we need them for dietary / security, etc purposes and group emails about the event. Both need to bring proof of vaccination to show at the venue too.

s

On Tue, 5 Apr 2022 at 04:41, Julie Inman Grant s 47E(d) <[redacted]>@esafety.gov.au> wrote:

Hi s

Thank you sending through the invitation for the panel briefing.

Unfortunately the meeting is scheduled for Saturday 5am Sydney time. I appreciate you have a number of time zones to coordinate but I was wondering if it was possible to move it to an earlier time slot. Perhaps Friday 8.30/9.00am (Sydney time) which would be your Thursday early evening. Or another time that works for you.

Also, I would be grateful if you could advise if Julie and s 22 <[redacted]> International Strategy and Futures who will be attending with Julie need to register for the event. My apologies if this was in a previous email that I missed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

s 22

s 22



s 22





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-----Original Appointment-----

From: s 47F <[redacted]@counterhate.co.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 6:19 AM

To: s 22 <[redacted]>

Subject: Invitation: CCDH Global Summit - Hold for Panel 3 briefing @ Fri 29 Apr 2022 3pm - 4pm (EDT)

(s 47E(d)) <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au>

When: Saturday, 30 April 2022 5:00 AM-6:00 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Where:

You have been invited to the following event.

CCDH Global Summit - Hold for Panel 3 briefing

When Fri 29 Apr 2022 3pm – 4pm Eastern Time - New York

Joining info Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/cbs-aces-usy

Join by phone
(US) [+1 252-316-6737](tel:+12523166737) (PIN: 831873935)

[More phone numbers](#)

Calendar s 47E(d) <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au>

- Who**
- s <[redacted]@counterhate.co.uk> -organiser
 - s <[redacted]@counterhate.com>
 - s 47F <[redacted]>
 - s 47F <[redacted]>
 - s 47E(d) <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au>
 - s 47F <[redacted]>
 - s 47F <[redacted]>

[more details »](#)

Just shifting this time by half an hour to accommodate s 47F <[redacted]>

Going s 47E(d) <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au>? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account s 47E(d) <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au> because you are an attendee of this event.

To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively, you can sign up for a Google Account at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organiser and be added to the guest list, invite others regardless of their own invitation status or to modify your RSVP. [Learn more](#)

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From: Imran Ahmed <s 47F@counterhate.com>
Sent: Thursday, 22 June 2023 10:28 PM
To: Julie Inman Grant
Cc: eSafety Parliamentary; s 47F
Subject: Re: eSafety Commissioner takes regulatory action against Twitter around Online Hate

Dear Julie,

Thanks so much for your email -- it *is* hard to believe it's been a year since the conference in DC. I am copying in our s 47F .

We saw the news come in this morning and appreciated your heads-up. Thank you very much for citing our work in the release and congratulations on the great coverage so far!

Whilst it continues to be troubling to see how Musk's takeover of the platform has turbocharged hate on the platform, it's encouraging that the powers within Australia's regulatory model give you levers to force transparency around his decision-making. CCDH's [STAR Framework](#), which we developed after last year's conference, also demands transparency as a key part of holding social media platforms to account. I'm glad that Australia is leading the charge here.

Please keep us updated on your progress on this and let me know if you'd like to schedule a call to discuss further. We've had a few interactions with Twitter during Musk's tenure and some success in reducing the advertising revenue for the platform. And of course, we're continuing to develop research to highlight the harms on the platform.

Best wishes,

Imran

On Wed, Jun 21, 2023 at 3:47 PM Julie Inman Grant s 47E(d) @esafety.gov.au> wrote:

Dear Imran: It's hard to believe it has been more than a year since your stunning meeting in DC. Lots has transpired since then and I thought I share with you that we leveraged some of your research to make out statement of reasons more compelling in taking on Twitter around online hate.

I believe that transparency is vital to ensuring that online services and platforms are safe by design. Without transparency, there can be no meaningful accountability from the global giants shaping our society, enabling our discourse, and facilitating unprecedented communications.

In January last year, stronger modernised online safety protections under the Online Safety Act took effect in Australia. In addition to enhancing eSafety's powers to tackle specific harms such as adult cyber abuse, image-based abuse, child cyberbullying and illegal content, the Act gives me the ability to require information from companies about how they are keeping their users safe.

These [Basic Online Safety Expectations \('BOSE'\)](#) place transparency at the heart of our regulatory model. They are a novel framework of powers. Through their use, eSafety can compel companies to 'show us their working' on specific online safety concerns, rather than being shielded by marketing spin or glossy handouts. By using these powers, eSafety is rapidly developing a strong baseline understanding of where industry is doing well, but where there is more work to do, to harden their services from abuse and malfeasance.

Today, I have issued a BOSE notice to Twitter, challenging the company to explain what they are doing to combat online hate. Twitter has 28 days to respond to the notice and a failure to comply may attract a penalty of up to AUD\$687,500 per day.

By taking this step, I aim to shed light on how Twitter is addressing what appears to be a recent surge in hate on the platform, both general and targeted. In particular, I want to understand how Twitter is enforcing its own clear rules prohibiting hateful conduct, and how trust and safety is enabled within the company.

Unfortunately, our experience and that of others suggests that Twitter is falling well short of the mark in both respects.

eSafety has received more complaints about online hate on Twitter than any other service in the last 12 months, with many of these appearing to coincide with the change in ownership last October. The increase overlaps with the platform's reported reinstatement of over 62,000 accounts previously banned for breaching Twitter rules, including 75 with more than 1 million followers. I am concerned that these accounts are playing an outsized role in fuelling the platform's toxicity.

The impact of hate on marginalised communities is not a theoretical concern. New eSafety research has found that 1 in 5 Australians have experienced online hate in the last 12 months, and we know that First Nations people and members of the LGBTQI+ community, face hate at twice the rate of the national average. Overall, one in six adults targeted by online abuse report that their physical health suffered as a result; the figure rises to one in three when emotional and mental wellbeing is considered.

As with previous notices, eSafety will release a report summarising the information we receive. I will keep you updated on the outcome of this process, and our findings.

Thank you again for your important contribution to our collective work of making the internet a safer place for all.

All the best,

Julie

Julie Inman Grant
Commissioner



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Imran Ahmed (he/ him)

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

[Center for Countering Digital Hate](#)

[Imran's Twitter](#) | [CCDH Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Media release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.01am 22 JUNE 2023

eSafety demands answers from Twitter about how it's tackling online hate

Australia's eSafety Commissioner has issued a legal notice to Twitter seeking information about what the social media giant is doing to tackle online hate on the platform.

eSafety received more complaints about online hate on Twitter in the past 12 months than any other platform and has received an increasing number of reports of serious online abuse since Elon Musk's takeover of the company in October, 2022.

The rise in complaints also coincides with a slashing of Twitter's global workforce from 8,000 employees to 1,500 including in its trust and safety teams, coupled with ending its public policy presence in Australia.

This is at the same time a 'general amnesty' was announced by Musk in November, which reportedly saw 62,000 banned or suspended users reinstated to the platform, including 75 accounts with over 1 million followers.

eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said Twitter's terms of use and policies currently prohibit hateful conduct on the platform, but rising complaints to eSafety and reports of this content remaining publicly visible on the platform, show that Twitter is not likely to be enforcing its own rules.

"We are seeing a worrying surge in hate online," Ms Inman Grant said. "eSafety research shows that nearly 1 in 5 Australians have experienced some form of online hate. This level of online abuse is already inexcusably high, but if you're a First Nations Australian, you are disabled or identify as LGBTIQ+ you experience online hate at double the rate of the rest of the population.

"Twitter appears to have dropped the ball on tackling hate. A third of all complaints about online hate reported to us are now happening on Twitter.

"We are also aware of reports that the reinstatement of some of these previously banned accounts has emboldened extreme polarisers, peddlers of outrage and hate, including neo-Nazis both in Australia and overseas."

eSafety is far from being alone in its concern about increasing levels of toxicity and hate on Twitter, particularly targeting marginalised communities.

Last month, US advocacy group [GLAAD](#) designated Twitter as the most hateful platform towards the LGBTQ+ community as part of their third annual social media index.

[Research](#) by the UK-based [Center for Countering Digital Hate](#) (CCDH) demonstrated that slurs against African Americans showed up on Twitter an average of 1,282 times a day before Musk took over the platform. Afterwards, they more than doubled to an average of 3,876 times a day.

The CCDH also [found](#) that those paying for a Twitter Blue Check seemed to enjoy a level of impunity when it came to the enforcement of Twitter's rules governing online hate, compared to non-paying users and even had their Tweets boosted by the platform's algorithms.

The [Anti-Defamation League](#) (ADL) also [found](#) that antisemitic posts referring to Jews or Judaism soared more than 61 per cent just two weeks after Musk acquired the platform.

“We need accountability from these platforms and action to protect their users and you cannot have accountability without transparency and that’s what legal notices like this one are designed to achieve,” Ms Inman Grant said.

This latest notice on online hate follows a bid in February to get answers from the platform (along with TikTok, Google YouTube, Twitch and Discord) on the steps the company is taking to address child sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual extortion and the promotion of harmful content by its algorithms.

eSafety is currently assessing the responses to those notices and expects to release appropriate information in due course.

If Twitter fails to respond to the most recent notice within 28 days, the company could face maximum financial penalties of nearly \$700,000 a day for continuing breaches.

eSafety's regulatory powers under the Online Safety Act cover serious adult online abuse as well as the cyber bullying of children and image-based abuse. In some cases, hate speech may meet the statutory thresholds of adult cyber abuse. eSafety encourages all individuals who feel they have been the target of online abuse to report to the platform and, if the platform fails to act, to report to eSafety at www.esafety.gov.au/report.

eSafety makes its regulatory decisions impartially and in accordance with the legislative test prescribed in the Online Safety Act.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please phone 0439 519 684 or email media@esafety.gov.au

From: s 47F [redacted]@counterhate.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 11:30 PM
To: s 22 [redacted]
Cc: s 47F@counterhate.com; Julie Inman Grant; s 22 [redacted]
Subject: Re: Musk's Latest Action Against CCDH [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]

You don't often get email from s [redacted]@counterhate.co.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear s 22 [redacted]

Thank you very much for this update. We'll look forward to when you publish your findings in future, completely understand.

Our launch is now live, so you can find the press release and letters we received from Musk on our website at these links:

-
-
- Press release:
 - https://counterhate.com/blog/self-proclaimed-free-speech-absolutist-elon-musk-tries-to-silence-independent-researchers-center-for-countering-digital-hate/?utm_source=p&p-pol&utm_medium=stakeholders-email&utm_campaign=muskmeltdown
-
-
- Letters from Musks Lawyers and our response:
 - https://counterhate.com/blog/letters-from-the-lawyers-musk-threatens-ccd-h-with-brazen-attempt-to-silence-honest-criticism/?utm_source=p&p-pol&utm_medium=stakeholders-email&utm_campaign=muskmeltdown
-
-
- New York Times:
 - ["Twitter Threatens Legal Action Against Nonprofit That Tracks Hate Speech"](#)
-
-
- Social links from CCDH:
 - [Thread](#)
-

Best,
s 47F [redacted]

On Mon, 31 Jul 2023 at 10:54, s 22 [redacted]@esafety.gov.au> wrote:

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Legal Privilege**

Dear s 47F

Thank you for your email to Julie.

Julie has asked me to respond to your query regarding the status of Twitter's response to eSafety's notice seeking information about what it is doing to tackle online hate on the platform. While the original notice deadline has passed, Twitter asked for an extension of a few weeks, which was granted. We intend to publish appropriate information from the notice process in due course to improve transparency and accountability. As we are in the middle of this process, we cannot add anything further but will let you know once there is a public update.

We will look out for your press release tomorrow.

Kind regards

s 22

s 22 Industry Regulation and Legal Services



s 22

 esafety.gov.au



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From: Julie Inman Grant [s 47E\(d\)@eSafety.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d)@eSafety.gov.au)

Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 6:48 AM

To: s 22@esafety.gov.au; s 22@eSafety.gov.au; s 22@eSafety.gov.au; s 22@eSafety.gov.au; s 22@eSafety.gov.au; s 22@eSafety.gov.au

Subject: FW: Musk's Latest Action Against CCDH [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Legal Privilege**

FYI

From: s 47F@counterhate.co.uk

Sent: Monday, 31 July 2023 4:30 AM

To: Julie Inman Grant [s 47E\(d\)@eSafety.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d)@eSafety.gov.au)

Cc: Imran Ahmed s 47F@counterhate.com

Subject: Musk's Latest Action Against CCDH

You don't often get email from s 47F@counterhate.co.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Julie,

I wanted to give you a heads-up on something CCDH is releasing tomorrow, which I think you'll find interesting especially in light of your latest action against Twitter related to the rise of online hate on the platform.

You may have seen in recent days that Musk attacked CCDH and Imran by calling the organisation "truly evil" and Imran a "rat" on his account, followed by Musk attempting to cold-call the Chair of CCDH's board. The situation escalated, and we will be publishing a legal threat we received from Musk's lawyers and our own lawyers' response tomorrow morning.

I've attached our press release with a strict embargo for 8am Eastern, Monday morning with the full details of the situation. We cite your leadership on taking action against Twitter within the release. It's now clear to us that Musk is showing his true colors by attempting to silence researchers like

CCDH who report and criticize the rise of hate and disinformation on his platform, but these bullying tactics cannot be tolerated.

We welcome your thoughts and hope we can count on your support in the launch tomorrow - please keep this confidential until the embargo lifts, but once the word is out, we plan to make lots of noise.

I'd also love to hear more about your progress on holding Twitter to account on hate and disinfo - I understand we're now past the 28 days since you issued the notice!

Best,

s 47F

--

s 47F

s 47F

Center for Countering Digital Hate

counterhate.com | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

--

s 47F

s 47F

Center for Countering Digital Hate

counterhate.com | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

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Self-Proclaimed “Free Speech Absolutist” Elon Musk Tries to Silence Independent Researchers Center for Countering Digital Hate

CCDH Research Shows Hate Proliferating on Platform Under Musk; Musk Blames CCDH for Advertisers’ Exodus

- [The Center for Countering Digital Hate \(CCDH\)](#) has been a leading voice exposing how Musk’s leadership and the changes he is making to “X” have led to a proliferation of hate speech on the platform
- While Musk proclaims himself to be an advocate for free speech, his latest tactics involve making brazen verbal and legal threats against CCDH, all while allowing racist, antisemitic content to proliferate on his platform
- [Research](#) by CCDH shows hate speech on the platform has proliferated under Musk, and the company is doing nothing to stop it
- [Musk has disclosed ad revenue is down 50% since his takeover](#) and [blamed](#) CCDH, among others, for advertisers fleeing the platform

WASHINGTON, DC (July 31, 2023) – A lawyer for the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH), an independent research nonprofit, sent a [letter](#) today to Elon Musk’s legal counsel in response to a blatant attempt by Musk to intimidate and silence the organization, which has published significant research over the past year showing that Musk has fostered the proliferation of hate, racism, and disinformation on the social media platform “X” (formerly known as Twitter), as explained in that letter signed by Roberta Kaplan of Kaplan Hecker & Fink. Musk and his legal team, led by attorney Alex Spiro at Quinn Emanuel, have engaged in an aggressive campaign to intimidate, bully, and silence CCDH, including by [Musk calling the organization “evil” and its CEO a “rat,”](#) by targeting the chair of the CCDH Board, and most recently by threatening a bogus lawsuit against the organization based on a frivolous [legal theory](#). While Elon Musk proclaims to be a “free speech absolutist,” his actions against CCDH show the lengths he will go to silence those who seek to hold him to account.

“Elon Musk’s actions represent a brazen attempt to silence honest criticism and independent research, in the desperate hope that he can stem the tide of negative stories and rebuild his relationship with advertisers,” said Imran Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Countering Digital Hate. **“Advertisers are fleeing his platform for one clear reason: Elon Musk has supported the proliferation of hate and racism on it, and he doesn’t care to stop it. Musk is targeting CCDH because we reveal the truth about the spread of hate and disinformation on Twitter under his ownership, and it’s impacting his bottom line. CCDH will continue to hold social media companies that spread hate and disinformation online accountable to the public.”**

Ahmed added: **“This should be the last time anyone dares to claim Musk is a ‘free speech absolutist’ - he is in fact a bully who uses attack dogs to terrorize his opponents into silence.”**

When Musk completed his takeover of Twitter in October 2022, he said he would make radical changes to the platform. He put up the Bat Signal to welcome back previously banned users, including neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and known superspreaders of disinformation. At the same time, Musk slashed the 'Trust and Safety Team' and senior managers departed in quick succession, causing the platform to toxify rapidly. His billionaire bully-boy tactics to try to silence his critics are directly at odds with his purported commitment to open and transparent debate. Rather than address serious issues with Twitter's handling of toxic hate and disinformation raised by researchers, Musk has used his platform to launch a series of attacks on independent watchdog groups like CCDH.

The Center for Countering Digital Hate works to stop the spread of online hate and disinformation through innovative research, public campaigns and policy advocacy. Since Musk took over Twitter in late 2022, CCDH has been studying and publishing research on the startling rise in hate speech, disinformation and incitement to harm on Twitter, which has been echoed by the independent findings of other civil society organizations, and researchers around the globe. CCDH believes the public has a right to know about the spread of hate and disinformation on the social media platforms that shape our lives, our culture and our politics.

Research produced by the Center has exposed how Elon Musk's decisions have contributed to the spread of hate and disinformation on Twitter under his ownership:

- [Proving](#) the volume of tweets containing slurs have risen by up to 202%
- [Showing](#) that tweets linking LGBTQ+ people to "grooming" have more than doubled
- Demonstrating that climate denial [content](#) and [accounts](#) are surging
- [Challenging](#) Twitter for making up to \$19m from ads on content from toxic accounts
- [Showing](#) that paid-for verification is helping spread disinformation
- [Revealing](#) Twitter's failure to act on hate posted by Twitter Blue subscribers

Sweeping changes to the platform and the escalation of toxic activity, as highlighted by the work of CCDH and other groups, has given rise to advertisers' concern for the impact on brand safety. [Musk himself has disclosed that Twitter's ad revenue is down 50%](#). Members of Twitter's own Trust and Safety Council resigned, [citing CCDH findings in their resignation statement](#). [Australia's eSafety Commissioner](#) recently cited CCDH's research as well in a legal notice to Twitter under Australia's Online Safety Act, requiring answers about what it is actually doing to prevent online hate from spreading on its service. Germany and the European Commission have similarly expressed concern, again citing CCDH findings.

Ahmed continued: "Elon Musk wants to silence his critics so he can continue to give a megaphone to hate and disinformation while avoiding the consequences. He thinks he has a right to take advertisers' dollars with absolute impunity for the inevitable consequences of promoting and amplifying hate and disinformation to millions. The Center for Countering Digital Hate exposes hate, lies, and harm wherever we find it. Our work has included studies of self harm and eating disorder content targeting teenage girls on TikTok, the way Google Search ads are sold to people spreading racial hatred and disinformation, and how Meta has serially failed to ensure its platforms are safe for users. We stand by our fact-based research, our demands for accountability, and our right to criticize the world's richest man when appropriate."

###

CCDH is a US non-profit (501c3) that researches the architecture of online hate and misinformation. The Center has offices in Washington, D.C. and London, UK.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

Letter from Musk's lawyers, and CCDH's response

Fiction vs. Fact

Fiction: Musk’s legal letter has baselessly accused CCDH of being funded by its competitors or foreign governments, being “funded in support of an ulterior agenda”.

Fact: CCDH is an accredited 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the United States and a nonprofit limited by guarantee in the United Kingdom. We do not accept any funding from tech companies, governments, or their affiliates.

Fiction: Twitter’s representation seeks to undermine the credibility of CCDH’s research, stating “CCDH’s claims in [its report] are false, misleading, or both” (...) “and they are not supported by anything that could credibly be called research”.

Fact: Twitter’s lawyers failed to point to any inaccuracies in the research, nor did they refute CCDH’s findings. In fact, under Musk’s leadership, Twitter itself has taken steps to curtail research on the platform. To criticize CCDH’s research for being too limited, while simultaneously taking steps to close the platform off to independent research and analysis is the height of hypocrisy from Twitter.

Timeline of our research, and its impact on Twitter

Twitter Timeline

27 October 2022	Elon Musk takes over Twitter.
28 October	CCDH joins other leading organizations in warning that Musk’s plans for Twitter could cause a surge in hate on the platform.
1 November	CCDH joins a coalition of 60 groups calling on Twitter’s top advertisers to demand that Elon Musk keep his promises on hate and brand safety.
4 November	Elon Musk claims that hate speech is declining on Twitter
10 November	CCDH uses independent tools to demonstrate that the volume of hate speech on Twitter had actually increased significantly.
18 November	Musk claims that hate speech will be “max deboosted & demonetized”
2 December	The New York Times publishes a front page article about surging hate speech on Twitter prominently featuring CCDH’s research .
2 December	CCDH analysis shows “climate scam” tweets have surged under Musk.
5 December	White House press secretary refers to “rising volume” of hate on Twitter.
6 December	Senator Durbin urges Twitter to act on antisemitism, citing CCDH.
8 December	Members of Congress write to Twitter urging action on hate speech, citing CCDH.
8 December	Members of Twitter’s Trust and Safety Council resign citing CCDH.
12 December	Musk relaunches “Twitter Blue” offering paid subscribers blue ticks.
18 December	Musk personally attacks Rep. Schiff, author of a letter to Twitter citing CCDH research on hate speech, tweeting “his brain is too small”.

23 December	CCDH analyzes popular tweets from Twitter Blue subscribers about Ukraine, climate and vaccines, showing 27% are disinformation.
25 January	HateAid launches lawsuit against Twitter in Germany over antisemitism citing CCDH.
9 February	CCDH research reveals that Elon Musk's decision to reinstate just ten accounts banned for hate and disinformation could make him \$19m
9 February	The Stop Toxic Twitter coalition urges advertisers to withdraw from Twitter citing CCDH evidence of ads being displayed next to hateful content.
17 April	CCDH analysis shows climate deniers are growing rapidly under Musk.
18 March	Elon Musk announces Twitter Blue accounts will be boosted in replies.
28 March	CCDH demonstrates anti-LGBTQ+ "grooming" tweets have doubled.
28 March	Congressmen urge Twitter to act on anti-LGBTQ+ content, citing CCDH.
31 May	CCDH research showing Twitter failed to act on 99 of 100 hateful tweets from Blue subscribers. The Daily Beast's tweet with the research reaches 3 million views on Twitter.
5 June	Musk complains that "various nonprofits who influence the advertisers" are "basically cutting their revenue in half".
22 June	Australia's eSafety Commissioner urges Twitter to act on rising hate speech, citing a surge in complaints and CCDH's research.
15 July	Elon Musk tweets that Twitter's advertising revenue has dropped by 50%
18 July	Elon Musk tweets describing CCDH as " truly evil " and its CEO as a " rat ".
19 July	Mark Ruffalo criticizes Musk's attacks on CCDH, defending our work.
19 July	CCDH research is quoted in a Bloomberg article , republished by Time , as evidence that surging hate on Twitter is causing advertisers to withdraw.
19 July	Twitter CEO Linda Yaccarino claims the article is untrue without basis.
20 July	Elon Musk instructs his staff to demand a meeting with the chair of CCDH's board, and instructs lawyers to send a legal threat to CCDH.

From: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 December 2022 10:40 AM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22 Imran Ahmed; s 47F s 22
s 22
s 47F Julie Inman Grant
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Invite: Special pre-release briefing on new CCDH report - Deadly by Design (TikTok) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

Monday 12th at 4:30pm EST works for us.

Look forward to chatting then.

Best wishes

s
47F

On Mon, 5 Dec 2022 at 18:22, s 22 @esafety.gov.au> wrote:

Good morning s
47F

Unfortunately this week is heavily loaded with late night meetings.

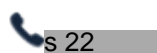
Can one of the below be accommodated ?

Monday 12th 4.30pm or 8.00pm DC time

(Sydney Tuesday 13th)

Regards,

s 22



eSafety acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia

and their continuing connection to land, water, culture and community.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait cultures, and to Elders past,

present and emerging.



From: s 47F <[redacted]> @counterhate.com>
Sent: Saturday, 3 December 2022 8:50 AM
To: Julie Inman Grant s 47E(d) <[redacted]> @eSafety.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 <[redacted]> @dfat.gov.au>; s 22 <[redacted]> @esafety.gov.au>; s 22 <[redacted]> @eSafety.gov.au>; s 47F <[redacted]> @counterhate.com>; s 47F <[redacted]> @counterhate.co.uk>; s 22 <[redacted]> @eSafety.gov.au>; s 22 <[redacted]> @esafety.gov.au>; s 22 <[redacted]> @eSafety.gov.au>; s 22 <[redacted]> @esafety.gov.au>; s 22 <[redacted]> @eSafety.gov.au>; s 22 <[redacted]> @esafety.gov.au>; s 47F <[redacted]> @counterhate.com>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Invite: Special pre-release briefing on new CCDH report - Deadly by Design (TikTok) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks so much Julie. I think it will be fine to find a time that aligns Canberra and Washington DC (EST). Looking forward to catching up and hearing more about your work too. We're due to release this report in the week of 12 December - so maybe sometime next week? It would be good if you and s 22 can loop in relevant government department officials to the meeting too - eg health, education, home affairs etc.? Looking at our diaries, we're currently free:

Monday evening from 4:30pm

Wednesday between 3 and 4pmEST

Thursday between 4-5pmEST

Let me know if one of those times works or we can look at the following week.

Thanks for responding on your Saturday, btw! Now back to your weekend!

Best wishes

s 47F

On Fri, 2 Dec 2022 at 16:37, Julie Inman Grant s 47E(d) <[redacted]> @esafety.gov.au> wrote:

Hi s 47F - I have no idea why your email bounced but thanks for persevering via s 22

That is a very powerful title so I gather you've got some pretty compelling evidence!!! I recall meeting your research director at your conference in DC but we didn't get the opportunity to really deep dive into all your research methods - so we would be really keen to understand the methodology and of course, hear more about the findings.

We will be releasing our tech trends and challenges paper on recommender engines next week and hopefully soon our report on the transparency legal notices we issued to Meta, WhatsApp, Microsoft, Skype, Apple, Snap & Omegle so it will be helpful to get these insights about Tik Tok but also understand if there are any looming questions that might need to be answered.

There are an important set of education and prevention questions here too for all of us. Through our own Mind the Gap research of young Australians and their parents, we found that indeed, 65% encounter seriously harmful content online but only half of their parents are aware.

So, super keen to get a pre-brief and there will be quite a bit of interest from my team from a range of areas. I think once we get a sense of the data, I think we can then hook you up with the right NGOs.

Let us know your ETA on launch! s 22 on my team can work with s 22 and team on finding a time - will we need to find a time that works for DC, London & Sydney/Canberra?

Many thanks again - so appreciate the heads up and the contribution CCDH is making in these global debates!

Julie

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Dec 2022, at 3:16 am, s 47F <[redacted]>@counterhate.co.uk> wrote:

Many thanks s 22 and thank you for forwarding! Lovely to meet you, s 22 Let me know when works best for a meeting as per below.

Best wishes

s
47F

On 2/12/2022, at 10:57 AM, s 22 <[redacted]>@dfat.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Dear Julie and s 22

Please see the below email from s 47F <[redacted]> at the Center for Countering Digital Hate.

I am forwarding on, as s 47F <[redacted]> received a bounce-back email when sending earlier today.

Kind regards

s 22

Digital Industry Engagement (Online Harms)

Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

s 22 [@dfat.gov.au](mailto: @dfat.gov.au)

s 22

From: s 47F [@counterhate.com](mailto: @counterhate.com)

Sent: Friday, 2 December 2022 10:26 AM

To: Julie Inman Grant s 47E(d) [@esafety.gov.au](mailto: @esafety.gov.au); s 22 [@esafety.gov.au](mailto: @esafety.gov.au); s 22 [@dfat.gov.au](mailto: @dfat.gov.au)

Cc: Imran Ahmed <s 47F [@counterhate.com](mailto: @counterhate.com)>; s 47F [@counterhate.co.uk](mailto: @counterhate.co.uk)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invite: Special pre-release briefing on new CCDH report - Deadly by Design (TikTok)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Hi everyone

We have a pretty hard hitting report coming out soon, which includes Australian data, and I wanted to make sure that you and other government colleagues had an opportunity to receive a special pre-briefing meeting on the key findings. **Let me know when would work in the next couple of weeks?**

I've included the blurb below if you can circulate?

Also interested in your thoughts on who we should contact in the Australian media who may be interested in this work? Maybe someone at the Sydney Morning Herald or a major station?

s 22 - **can you connect me with your Canadian counterpart?**

Julie - Are there Australian NGOs we should connect with on this report?
We can always discuss further at the pre-briefing.

Many thanks everyone - and look forward to catching up soon.

s 47F

Subject: *Invite: Special pre-release briefing on new CCDH report - Deadly by Design (TikTok)*

Hi everyone

I am reaching out to offer a special pre-release briefing meeting on the Center for Countering Digital Hate's new research on TikTok - *Deadly by Design* - revealing how TikTok's algorithm directs young and vulnerable users to mental health, suicide / self harm and eating disorder content.

Two-thirds of American teenagers use TikTok, and the average viewer spends 80 minutes a day on the application. For our study, Center for Countering Digital Hate researchers set up new accounts in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia at the minimum age TikTok allows, 13 years old.

This year, TikTok's Chief Operating Officer, Vanessa Pappas, testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. She stated that safety was a "priority" for her company and that the mission of TikTok was "to inspire creativity and bring joy."

However, the reality is quite different. Rather than entertainment and safety, our findings reveal a toxic environment for TikTok's youngest users, intensified for its most vulnerable, in which content that can lead to serious harm was being actively fed to users by TikTok's highly opaque algorithms.

The meeting will be a special opportunity to hear the key findings on the report that reveal the truth of what teenagers are experiencing on TikTok, ask questions and collaborate on next steps.

Please reach out directly to set up a meeting.

Best wishes

S

47F

About CCDH

The Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) is a US-based, not-for-profit NGO with 501(c)(3) status, that seeks to disrupt the architecture of online hate and misinformation. CCDH has been at the forefront of unmasking how online platforms and search engines drive radicalization, online harm and misinformation. The Center's work combines both analysis and active disruption of these networks. We champion levers for change to increase the economic, political, and social costs of all parts of the infrastructure - the actors, systems, and culture - that support and profit from hate and misinformation. You can read more about our recent work [here](#).

CCDH's 20+ staff are based out of offices in Washington DC and London. CCDH is independent and we do not take money from Big Tech.

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intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: s 22
Sent: Wednesday, 24 April 2024 1:49 PM
To: s 47F@counterhate.com
Cc: s 22
Subject: FW: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F

Unfortunately, Commission Julie Inman-Grant will be unable to attend this, would you mind extending the invite to me or someone in my team?

Thanks
s 22

Strategy, Engagement and Research
eSafety Commissioner

 s 22  s 22
 esafety.gov.au    



From: s 47F@counterhate.com
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 8:44 PM
Cc: s 47F@counterhate.com
Subject: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions

You don't often get email from s @counterhate.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi all,

I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you, and for those I haven't met, I am s 47F at [the Center for Countering Digital Hate \(CCDH\)](#). On behalf of CCDH, I am working on STAR 2.0, an updated policy framework to establish key global standards for social media reform. The STAR framework draws on the most essential elements for achieving this: **Safety by Design, Transparency, Accountability, and Responsibility.**

We first outlined our [STAR framework in 2022](#), and for this updated framework, **we are holding six listening sessions to hear from experts like yourself.** These invite-only sessions will be held in an open discussion format, under Chatham House rules, for 70 minutes. Attendees will be asked to provide their insights and responses to questions provided ahead of time.

Safety by Design:

- April 30, 10 AM EST/ 3PM GMT
- May 1, 1 PM EST/6 PM GMT

Transparency and Researcher Access:

- May 7, 10 AM EST/ 3PM GMT
- May 8, 1 PM EST/6 PM GMT

Accountability and Responsibility, with an emphasis on Section 230 reform:

- May 9, 9 AM EST/ 2PM GMT
- May 14, 10 AM EST/ 3PM GMT

You can sign up for a session by filling out [this form](#) or replying to this email no later than April 29th. If none of these times work for you, but you would still like to contribute, please reply to this email and let me know.

Best,

s 47F

Center for Countering Digital Hate

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From: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Sent: Thursday, 16 May 2024 5:56 AM
To: s 22
Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

Next Tuesday at 8am AEST/at Monday 6pm EDT works for both s and me. I will adjust the calendar invite shortly.

Best,
s 47F



Center for Countering Digital Hate
counterhate.com | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



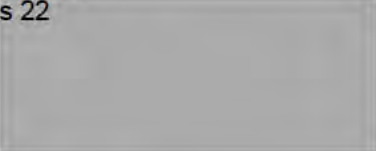
From: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:05 PM
To: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F

Unfortunately I can't make Thursday or Friday morning this week. Does next Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 8am AEST work for you?

Thanks
s 22



Industry Engagement and Enablement s 22





eSafety acknowledges all First Nations people for their continuing care of everything Country encompasses — land, waters and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, and to Elders past, present and future.

From: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 2:42 AM
To: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>
Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

I only just now realized that 8am AEST on your Wednesday the 15th is our Tuesday evening, which is when my colleague has a conflict. Earlier this week I meant to ask if we could meet our *Wednesday* evening at 6pm, which would be 8am AEST on your Thursday the 16th. Does that time still work for you?

Please, accept my sincerest apologies (again) for the confusion. The combination of time zone and date difference has apparently befuddled my brain.

Thanks,
s 47F

Center for Countering Digital Hate
counterhate.com | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



From: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:57 PM
To: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Cc: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>, s 47F @counterhate.com>
Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F


No problem, 8am AEST Wednesday 15th works for me. I sent you an email yesterday to confirm timing but it seems it may have been blocked by spam filters.

Looking forward to catching up tomorrow.

Thanks

s 22

Industry Engagement and Enablement s 22

 s 22

 s 22



eSafety acknowledges all First Nations people for their continuing care of everything Country encompasses — land, waters and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, and to Elders past, present and future.

From: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 8:00 AM
To: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>; s 47F @counterhate.com>
Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

My sincerest apologies for the confusion. I mistakenly originally sent an invite for 8am AEST on Wednesday, May 15th and then later sent an email over the weekend asking that we reschedule to that time!

Would 8am AEST on Wednesday, May 15th still work for you, however? If not, please let me know, and we can find another time for either later this week or next week.

Best,

s 47F

Center for Countering Digital Hate

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From: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 at 8:00 AM
To: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>, s 47F @counterhate.com>
Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

I unfortunately scheduled our upcoming meeting during a time when my colleague has another appointment, so I am going to move it to one of the other windows s 22 previously mentioned - 8am AEST on Wednesday, May 15th. If this time no longer works for s 22 please let me know, and we can find another one that does.

Best,

s 47F

From: s 47F @counterhate.com>
Date: Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 2:16 PM
To: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>, s 47F @counterhate.com>

Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

8am AEST on Tuesday, May 14th works on our end. I will go ahead and share a calendar invite with a Teams link for the meeting. s and I are looking forward to the conversation.
47F

Best,

s 47F

From: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 8:19 PM

To: s 47F @counterhate.com>

Cc: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>, s 47F @counterhate.com>

Subject: RE: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F

Yes, s 22 (cc'ed) can do 8am AEST Tues-Thurs either next week or the week following.

Regards

s 22

From: s 47F @counterhate.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 6:14 AM

To: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 @esafety.gov.au>; s 47F @counterhate.com>

Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

Just following up. Would you or someone on your team be available to talk about Safety by Design sometime soon?

Best,



Center for Countering Digital Hate

counterhate.com | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



From: § 47F <§ 47F@counterhate.com>
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 3:04 PM
To: § 22 <§ 22@esafety.gov.au>
Cc: § 22 <§ 22@esafety.gov.au>, § 47F <§ 47F@counterhate.com>
Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi § 22

No worries at all. Yes, we are happy to share the questions we had in mind. I've attached a one-pager with a list of what we would like to ask, though it is not meant to be exhaustive. Feel free to let me know if you need anything else from us.

Best,

§ 47F

From: § 22 <§ 22@esafety.gov.au>
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 6:02 AM
To: § 47F <§ 47F@counterhate.com>
Cc: § 22 <§ 22@esafety.gov.au>, § 47F <§ 47F@counterhate.com>
Subject: RE: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 47F

Apologies for my delayed reply, I've been on leave. Would you be able to email the questions to us first so we can determine which eSafety team member will be best placed to meet with you please?

Thank you

s 22

From: s 47F <[redacted]@counterhate.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 1:56 AM
To: s 22 <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au>; s 47F <[redacted]@counterhate.com>
Subject: Re: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear s 22

We are glad to hear that Commissioner Grant is interested in contributing to the discussion. Would you or another member of your team be available to schedule a shorter 1:1 conversation with us? We understand the time difference is large, so we are happy to find a time that works better with your schedules. The morning your time, evening ours might be our best bet.

Thanks,

s 47F



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s 47F

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From: s 22 <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au>
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 12:25 AM
To: s 47F <[redacted]@counterhate.com>
Cc: s 47F <[redacted]@counterhate.com>, s 22 <[redacted]@esafety.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s 47F

Commissioner Julie Inman Grant has passed your invitation along to my team, as we lead on Safety by Design. We are keen to contribute to the discussion, however the time difference makes it difficult to attend the sessions. Please let me know if we can contribute via another way, such as email.

Regards

s 22

s 22 Industry Engagement and Enablement | Strategy, Research and Engagement Branch



 eSafety Commissioner



eSafety acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, water, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

From: s 47F [@counterhate.com](mailto:s47f@counterhate.com)>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 8:44 PM
Cc: s 47F [@counterhate.com](mailto:s47f@counterhate.com)>
Subject: [Response Requested] STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions

You don't often get email from s [@counterhate.com](mailto:s47f@counterhate.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi all,

I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you, and for those I haven't met, I am s 47F [@counterhate.com](#) at [the Center for Countering Digital Hate \(CCDH\)](#). On behalf of CCDH, I am working on STAR 2.0, an updated policy framework to establish key global standards for social media reform. The STAR framework draws on the most essential elements for achieving this: **Safety by Design, Transparency, Accountability, and Responsibility.**

We first outlined our [STAR framework in 2022](#), and for this updated framework, **we are holding six listening sessions to hear from experts like yourself.** These invite-only sessions will be held in an open discussion format, under Chatham House rules, for 70 minutes. Attendees will be asked to provide their insights and responses to questions provided ahead of time.

Safety by Design:

- April 30, 10 AM EST/ 3PM GMT
- May 1, 1 PM EST/6 PM GMT

Transparency and Researcher Access:

- May 7, 10 AM EST/ 3PM GMT
- May 8, 1 PM EST/6 PM GMT

Accountability and Responsibility, with an emphasis on Section 230 reform:

- May 9, 9 AM EST/ 2PM GMT
- May 14, 10 AM EST/ 3PM GMT

You can sign up for a session by filling out [this form](#) or replying to this email no later than April 29th. If none of these times work for you, but you would still like to contribute, please reply to this email and let me know.

Best,

s 47F



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STAR 2.0 Policy Discussions

Center for Countering Digital Hate

Subject: Safety by Design

Date and time: TBD

Meeting link: TBD

Agenda

- (7.5 mins) Welcome and Overview
 - Overview of purpose and discussion format
 - Quick introductions by call participants

- (30 mins) Discussion Questions
 - What does an internet that is safe by design look like to the eSafety Commission?
 - How would users be empowered? And what new responsibilities would platforms have?

 - How would a user feel on an internet that is safe by design? What additional benefits would safety by design bring for users (e.g., better mental health)?

 - How do Australia's Basic Online Safety Expectations and industry codes for illegal and restricted content promote safety by design?
 - What lessons do you think other jurisdictions should learn from these regulatory tools?

 - Does the eSafety Commission think that the current safety mechanisms in place on platforms are sufficient for users? Which platforms are on the right track for safety by design?

 - Based on your experience, what enforcement powers should a digital regulator ideally possess? What tools have been the most successful in ensuring compliance with Australia's online safety regulations?

- (7.5 mins) Closing Remarks

From: Imran Ahmed, CCDH <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2022 5:06 AM
To: Julie Inman Grant
Subject: The STAR Framework



Dear Julie,

I wanted to follow up on our Global Summit to Address Online Harms + Misinformation from a couple of weeks ago.

First of all, if you want to review any part of the conference again or missed a panel when it was live, [you can find a full recording on CCDH's website here.](#)

But I also wanted to discuss the next steps. At the beginning of the day, I outlined CCDH's new STAR framework.

S - Safety by Design

T - Transparency of algorithms, enforcement of platform rules, and economics.

A - Accountability to democratic bodies and judicial institutions.

R - Responsibility for platforms and their senior executives

After years of exposing negligent platforms and bad actors who spread online hate and misinformation, we believe these four principles should be the starting point of any discussion on global action and regulation.

And the views of the experts in the room broadly coalesced around these too.

We heard from Julie Inman Grant, Australia's eSafety Commissioner, and Damian Collins, UK MP and Chair of the Joint Select Committee on the draft Online Safety Bill. They both stressed the need to prioritize **safety by design** – that moderation is not enough, that safety, human rights, and protections for privacy must be embedded within platforms before we can make any progress on tackling online harms.

Representative Lori Trahan spoke about embedding **transparency** as a principle. At a minimum, we need to open up the black box of social media and equip civil society and researchers with the tools they need to really understand the amplification and dissemination of malignant content.

When Rashad Robinson, the President of Color of Change spoke - he perfectly encompassed the need for **accountability**.

He put it best:

"We just have to get very clear: self-regulated companies are unregulated companies.... We need more public accountability for superspreaders of misinformation. We need an accountability structure that goes beyond the platforms. We need a whole-of-society set of solutions."

Finally when it came to understanding the need for **responsibility** from platforms and their senior executives, former Facebook employee and whistleblower Sophie Zhang told us

"Ultimately it is important to remember that Facebook is a company. They want to make money. To the extent they care about protecting democracy, it's only when it benefits their bottom line."

The people who joined us from across Government, civil society and academia are experts in their own rights and are all wrestling with these ideas and principles on how we can build a framework fit for the future.

This is just the start of the conversation. Things must, and will, change.

Best wishes,



Imran Ahmed
CEO, Center for Countering Digital Hate

P.S - At CCDH we've tripled the size of our research team and invested more into our campaigning capacity to meet the growing demand for our research and work. [Donate today and support us in exposing online hate and misinformation.](#)



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From: Imran Ahmed, CCDH <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 November 2022 3:07 AM
To: Julie Inman Grant
Subject: Hellscape



Julie, if you want to see what Elon Musks' dystopian 'Hellscape' for Twitter could look like, then you only need to look at the last 72 hours.

First, the UK's far-right neo-Nazi party "Briain First" returned to the platform after being banned in 2017 for extreme anti-Muslim hate – before having their account suspended again.

Then the man responsible for enforcing the rules, broke the rules. Elon Musk tweeted a conspiracy theory about the attack on Nancy Pelosi's husband from a 'News website' that claimed Hillary Clinton died in 2016, a body double debated Donald Trump, and that sunlight could be a remedy for Covid-19. Musk eventually deleted the tweet, but not before giving the disinformation its time in the limelight.

Within 12 hours of Musk taking over, the Network Contagion Research Institute found a 500% increase in the use of the N-word on Twitter.

Elon Musk signaled that Twitter now has no rules, sending a message that extremists, abusers, fraudsters, and misinformation merchants can operate with impunity. Unsurprisingly, they are all coming back.

We knew we were going to need to keep a watchful eye on Musk and his 'free speech' changes. It's clear that women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and marginalized groups will pay the price for racists' and bigots' freedom to abuse.

Donate today and stand up for the freedom of marginalized groups on Twitter whom Elon Musk seems content to throw under the bus.

[Donate](#)

We can't let there be any slip in the hard-fought progress we've made over years to hold Twitter to account for hate and misinformation on their platform. It's all in jeopardy if Twitter's new CEO gets his bonfire of moderation and hate speech policies.

Imran Ahmed,

Imran Ahmed



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Sunday, 9 July 2023 2:44 AM
To: § 22
Subject: § 22 you are driving real change.



§ 22 thank you for driving change to create safer online spaces.

We rely on incredible supporters like you to help pressure social media companies and drive change. Here are two recent successes that show **your pivotal role** in this fight.

#1 Instagram takes a step forward

Last year, our research uncovered that Instagram failed to take action on 9 in 10 reports of abuse against women in DMs. Thanks to our **collective action**, Instagram is now **testing a new feature to block explicit images and videos in DM requests**.

#2 Advocating for teens on TikTok

Our research revealed TikTok bombards teens with harmful content. But **our campaign compelled TikTok to listen to young people and work to make the app safer for teens**.

With your donation, we can continue **advocating for vital changes that protect young people and pressuring TikTok to prioritize users' safety**.

[Donate to CCDH](#) and **help drive change** and make the internet a safer space for everyone.

One-time donation

Monthly donation

Recurring donations mean you support our ongoing campaigns and research, and you help create enduring impact.

Your support fuels our innovative research, impactful campaigns, and effective policy advocacy. **Together, we can build a future where human rights and civil liberties thrive online.**

Thank you for being the catalyst for change.

The CCDH Team



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Friday, 29 September 2023 5:44 PM
To: s 22
Subject: Hold TikTok Accountable for Promoting Deadly Drugs



Dear s 22

There is a deadly trade of steroids and steroid-like drugs happening on TikTok, right now. [We need TikTok to take immediate action and stop this toxic trade.](#)

Young men striving for an unattainable superhero physique are turning to drugs to help get the look. Bodybuilding influencers on TikTok glorify the look and lifestyle, and promote the sale of deadly bodybuilding drugs, putting the health and safety of young people at risk.

In one video the influencer put up a video showing vast quantities of anabolic-androgenic steroids, simply captioned "Risk it". They know it's dangerous.

Our researchers found:

- These dangerous videos were seen a staggering 587 million times in the United States over the past three years.
- Among these viewers, 72% were young people aged 18 to 24, with 420 million views on videos featuring hashtags glorifying steroid-like drugs.
- SLD vendors collaborated with 35 paid influencers and could reach a staggering 1.8 million followers. These websites reach 540 times as many followers through TikTok influencers.

These steroid-like drugs (SLDs), including anabolic-androgenic steroids, peptides and SARMs, are illegal to sell for human consumption under US law. And their promotion on TikTok directly violates the platform's own community standards, which bans "the depiction, promotion, or trade of drugs or other controlled substances."

In recent years, [dozens of sudden, early deaths in the bodybuilding community have raised alarm bells about the risks of SLD abuse.](#) It's clear that TikTok's inaction is putting lives in jeopardy.

s 22 add your voice and call on TikTok to take immediate action against the promotion of dangerous drugs. You can make a difference and help protect young people from this toxic online trade.

[**Count me in >>**](#)

For many parents, TikTok is an enigma. Many parents don't fully understand how the platform works or the dangers it holds. If TikTok remains unwilling or unable to keep Americans safe, it's time for Congress to step in and ensure these platforms are fully transparent and accountable when they put lives at risk.

CCDH Team

[P.S - You can read more about the research on Twitter/X and NBC News' reporting here.](#)



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From: Campaigns, Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2024 3:38 AM
To: s 22
Subject: Women want to be safe online

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Dear s 22

This International Women's Day 2024, [we asked women from diverse backgrounds](#) to share what they'd want the internet to be like.

Their voices came together to ask for one thing: **a safer internet for all women**. They'd like to navigate through online spaces that are free from the manosphere's toxic misogyny, abuse, harassment, and anti-LGBTQ+ hate.

Here's what they said:

- "A safe online world is one where I can fully engage without fear of interacting with harmful content."

- “When I came out as a gay woman, I felt supported by my loved ones. However, my biggest concern at that time was seeing the hate on social media for LGBTQ+ people. To protect myself, I removed myself from the online world.”
- “Women have a fundamental right to safety online, but social media companies repeatedly fail us. “
- “I want to roam the internet without being interrupted by manosphere content which social media companies allow and often profit off.”
- “I'd like not to think that every time my younger sister goes out, someone influenced by Andrew Tate can treat her like trash.”
- “It can be discouraging to see so much online misogyny. As if all we've been fighting for was reduced to a man on a podcast saying women can't be enough, can't be independent, can't be powerful, and should only be mothers.”



CCDH's research has shown that social media and other digital platforms are **enabling the spread of toxic misogyny, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, and other harms against women and girls**. We've exposed how [teenage girls](#) are bombarded with harmful content that affects their mental health on TikTok; how high-profile women are subject to abuse on [Instagram's DMs](#); how [LGBTQ+ people](#) are harassed online; and how toxic [incel forums](#) spread their vile [misogyny](#).

Together, we can build a safer digital space for women and girls. Share our blog to make their voices heard everywhere.

Share on Facebook

Share on Twitter/X

Share on Instagram

Share on WhatsApp

Best wishes,

The CCDH team



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From: Imran Ahmed, Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2024 6:20 AM
To: s 22
Subject: We won. Elon Musk's lawsuit has been dismissed.

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s 22 together, we defeated Elon Musk's ridiculous lawsuit against us

[We won on all counts](#) of the case against us.

We're delighted. But let me cut to the chase.

Throughout Elon Musk's loud, hypocritical campaign of harassment, abuse, and lawfare designed to avoid taking responsibility for his own decisions, CCDH has remained quietly confident in the quality and integrity of our research and advocacy.

This frivolous lawsuit, nevertheless **has cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars and months of time and resources to fight back. We're so grateful to the thousands of supporters who donated to help us get to this victory.**

But running up our costs and wasting our time was exactly what Elon Musk wanted. He didn't want us to be focused on our mission and put our energy into protecting human rights, dignity, and civil liberties online and exposing the platforms that profit from this business model.

s 22 we won't let Elon Musk derail our mission. Make a donation today and get us back on track so we can focus our time, money, and resources on exposing the spread of hate and lies online.

[Donate today](#)

One thing is clear: the status quo doesn't work. We can't have a system where these companies can weaponize the courts to try and silence their critics yet be protected by the law to spread hate and lies that kill and harm people.

Elon Musk tried to end CCDH for exposing the truth. But this is just the beginning.

Thanks for your support,

Imran Ahmed

CEO & Founder

Center for Countering Digital Hate



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From: Campaigns, Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 March 2024 1:30 AM
To: s 22
Subject: An appeal? Bring it on.

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s 22 - thank you. We've been blown away by the support we've received from everyone in the last 24 hours.

But did you know X Corp. has already said that [they will appeal](#)?! - **Bring it on. We've beat them once, we'll do it again.**

We emphatically won our case getting Elon Musk's attack on us dismissed. It was lawfare in its more brazen form.

Everyone from [CNN](#), [The New York Times](#), [BBC](#), [The Washington Post](#), [NPR](#), and hundreds of other outlets have covered our victory.

Help spread the word. Elon Musk is a free speech hypocrite and we will always fight his, and anyone's, attempt to silence us. Please share!

Share on Twitter/X

Share on Facebook

Share on LinkedIn

If Elon Musk, the thin-skinned “free speech” hypocrite, decides to appeal, we’ll be ready. ^{s 22} [please donate today and help ensure our work can continue.](#)

Thank you for your support.

The CCDH Team



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From: The Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 1:01 AM
To: s 22
Subject: We beat Musk once; we'll beat him again.



s 22

A year ago, Elon Musk called CCDH “truly evil” and our CEO Imran Ahmed a “rat” on Twitter/X. Remember that?



This was the bully billionaire’s answer to CCDH’s clear-cut, fact-based reports showing how hate and disinformation skyrocketed on Twitter following his take over.

We touched a nerve – and that was only the beginning. **Keep reading for a recap:**

- Elon Musk’s X Corp threatened us with legal action and then followed through with a baseless lawsuit to silence CCDH’s work.

- But when the lawsuit suit reached the courts, California Judge Breyer dismissed it with prejudice, saying that “this case is about punishing the Defendants for their speech.”

Fighting one of the richest men in the world demanded a lot of time and resources, but it was the right thing to do. **You’ve been through it all with us, we are so grateful.**

But our fight is not over. You can help ensure that we have the funds to fight one of the richest men on Earth.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

Our victory in court was a huge win for organizations holding social media giants accountable. But Musk has decided to appeal the court’s decision.

With your help, we beat him once. Help us beat him again.

[HELP US BEAT MUSK](#)

Thank you for supporting us through this fight.

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team



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From: The Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 12:15 AM
To: s 22
Subject: What do Musk and Zuckerberg have in common?



s 22

In the last few weeks, hate and lies on social media have been spreading at an unparalleled speed. Our latest research shows that **Elon Musk's X and Mark Zuckerberg's Instagram** are dramatically failing to counter hate, abuse, and disinformation.

Let's start with Zuckerberg's Instagram. [We reported](#) 1,000 abusive comments to the platform that targeted **5 Republican and 5 Democrat** women candidates running for office in 2024.

- A week later, Instagram had **failed to act on 93%** of these hateful comments. These included sexist and racist abuse, as well as rape and death threats.
- One of their targets was Vice President and now the Democratic Party's presidential nominee **Kamala Harris**.

Violence and abuse have no place in our politics. Instagram must enforce its guidelines and protect public officials.



On to Elon Musk's X. The billionaire has not only transformed X into a **cesspit of hate and lies** where bad actors have the freedom to promote hateful claims and fuel real-world violence – but **Musk is actively spreading false and misleading claims himself.**

Only this month we showed:

- [Elon Musk](#) posted false and **misleading claims about the US election** at least 50 times this year, reaching nearly **1.2 billion views** on X. None of the posts displayed Community Notes.
- X amplified and profited from hate and disinformation that fueled the far-right riots in the UK:
 - [We estimate](#) that **X made over £27K a day** in the week following the UK's Southport stabbings from ads near posts by far-right disinformation spreaders **Andrew Tate, Laurence Fox, and others.** These included ads for well-known brands like GlaxoSmithKline, the British Medical Association, and the International Olympic Committee.
 - [Our analysis showed](#) that far-right figure **Tommy Robinson's** hateful and racist posts on X got over 434 million views in the week following the Southport attack.



Social media bosses care more about their pockets than people's safety. Together, we will keep exposing their failures and fighting for a better internet.

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with our latest findings and share our research with your friends and family.

FOLLOW ON TWITTER/X

FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK

FOLLOW ON LINKEDIN

FOLLOW ON INSTAGRAM

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team

PS. We need your support to keep investigating social media platforms and exposing their bosses' failures. [Please donate today.](#)



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 2:00 AM
To: s 22
Subject: Musk's Community Notes are failing democracy



s 22

If you're still using Twitter/X, have you noticed something weird about Community Notes?

Elon Musk once said that X's content moderation tool Community Notes is the **"best source of truth on the internet by far."** Is it though?

[We analyzed](#) a sample of accurate Community Notes debunking misleading claims about the US election and **found that 74% aren't being shown to users.**

How do Community Notes actually work?

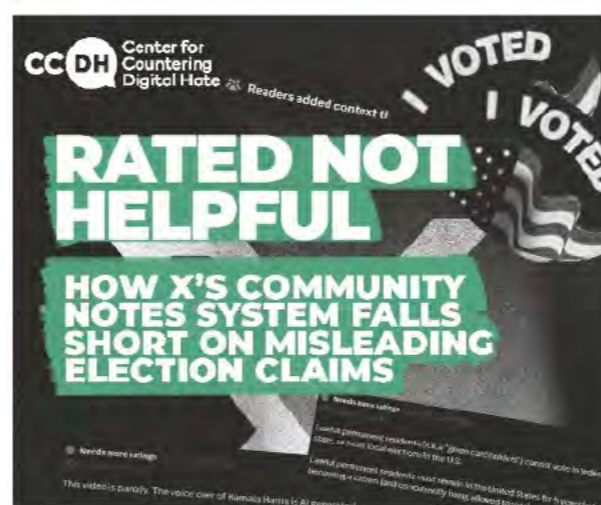
- Users can sign up to anonymously write and rate Community Notes, labels that add fact-checks or extra context to misleading posts.
- Proposed Community Notes are subject to a rating system in which members must answer if they're helpful: yes, somewhat, or no.

- Community Notes are only shown to most users if they're rated as 'helpful' by a wide range of Community Notes members .

Despite displaying accurate information from reliable sources, most of the Community Notes we found didn't have the necessary ratings to be shown – **letting posts promoting misleading claims about the US election reach 2.2 billion views**. Read the story in [The Washington Post](#).

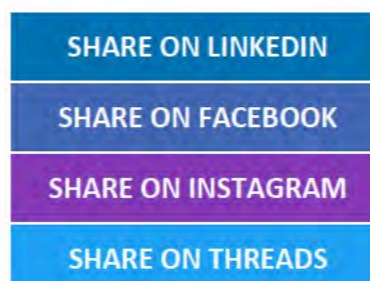
These misleading posts included previously debunked claims that:

- Democrats are importing illegal voters
- Donald Trump can't run for presidency
- The 2020 election was stolen



Community Notes are simply not enough to counter misinformation. Ahead of elections, the spread of unchecked false or misleading claims can mislead voters and fuel distrust of the electoral process.

Democracy is too fragile to let Musk's Community Notes go unchallenged. Share our new findings with your network and help us raise awareness about X's failure to counter potentially harmful misinformation.



Musk's behavior shows how self-regulation of social media platforms has failed. Lawmakers must demand that these companies invest in proper Trust and Safety teams, increasing transparency of their moderation efforts.

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team



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From: Imran Ahmed, Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Thursday, 28 November 2024 3:02 AM
To: s 22
Subject: I'm grateful to everyone working to protect kids online



Quick action: This Giving Tuesday, you can protect kids online. Donate to CCDH to help us hold social media companies accountable for the harms they create. [Donate today.](#)

Dear s 22

My child is not old enough to be on social media, but I know they will be one day. They will likely be savvy users of yet-to-be-developed platforms, mocking me mercilessly for my lack of understanding of any of them. When that day comes, **there are two possible scenarios.**

The first one is the scenario in which social media platforms remain as they are now: **unconcerned with young people's safety, unaccountable, and opaque.** In that frightening case, I know I will be as worried as the parents who [spoke to CCDH](#) about their struggle to protect their kids online.

I will lose sleep worrying about my **child's mental health** while social media algorithms feed them a never-ending stream of harmful content. I will be continually anxious about how online misinformation may affect my kid's perception of the world. I will be in constant fear of these platforms letting bad people reach out to them.

But there is this **another scenario** in which social media companies are held accountable and responsible for the harms they cause to kids. **Where young people's safety is the number one priority for these companies – as it is for us, their parents.**



s 22 I believe in this brighter future. I wouldn't be the CEO of an organization holding the most powerful social media giants in the world accountable with research and evidence if I wasn't hopeful.

It's not wishful thinking. **My hope is based on tangible evidence: the advances of online legislation around the world and the growing movement of parents challenging social media companies.**

Both the [UK's Online Safety Act](#) and the [European Union's Digital Services Act](#) address harms to children, restricting access to eating disorder, self-harm content, and pornography. These pieces of legislation are not perfect, but they are **huge steps to guarantee meaningful platform accountability** which can inspire lawmakers in other parts of the world.

In the US, [Section 230](#) of the Communications Decency Act is still the elephant in the room. This outdated law **shields social media companies from liability** for what is shared on their platforms, including harms to kids. Still, [parents](#) are taking the lead in holding these companies accountable.

Parents and advocates have struck a chord: Congress even held a [hearing with social media CEOs](#), in January, to grill them about the risks their platforms are posing to kids and teens.

This Thanksgiving, I thank these parents from the bottom of my heart. Some of them are facing the most excruciating pain anyone could ever feel after losing their child to social media harms – still, they're up there, undefeated, fighting for a safer internet for other kids.

CCDH will always be on parents' side. **We'll continue to amplify their voices, expose how platforms are harming children, and campaign for legislation that protects kids online. You can count on that.**

Want to support our work? You can [make a donation today](#). If you're not ready, you can tell your friends and family about our crucial research and campaigns.

Warm wishes,



Imran Ahmed

CEO, Center for Countering Digital Hate



General: info@counterhate.com | Press: press@counterhate.com

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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 December 2024 1:31 AM
To: s 22
Subject: JUST OUT: YouTube is hurting teenage girls



TW: eating disorders and self-harm.

s 22

Imagine you're a 13-year-old girl who just created a YouTube account. You watch a video promoting eating disorders. It's the first time you've encountered such content.

What does YouTube's algorithm do? Instead of directing teens away from this dangerous content, it starts recommending more harmful videos - including content about self-harm and suicide.

[CCDH's disturbing new report](#) shows that YouTube's algorithm is pushing young girls to watch videos glorifying eating disorders and promoting self-harm content that could lead to fatal consequences.

How do we know this?

- CCDH created a test account of a **13-year-old girl**.
- Then we simulated the experience of this girl encountering an **eating disorder video** for the first time. We repeated this test 100 times, clearing the account's history and cookies between simulations.
- In each of the 100 simulations, **we analyzed the top 10 videos on YouTube's "Up Next" recommendations** displayed next to the video we were watching.

In total, we analyzed **1,000 video recommendations**. This is what we found:

- 1 in 3 promoted harmful eating disorder content.
- 2 in 3 related to eating disorders or weight loss.
- 1 in 20 involved self-harm or suicide content.



- We reported 100 videos containing harmful eating disorder content to the platform. A week later, YouTube had failed to act against 81% of these videos.
- YouTube is profiting from this dangerous content by displaying ads from major brands, such as Grammarly, T-Mobile, HelloFresh, and Nike, next to these videos.

YouTube's failure can lead to offline consequences that seriously affect young people's lives. Read Anna Mockel's story in [CBS News](#).

CCDH's report represents a clear case for immediate change. It is a stark indictment of social media executives, regulators, lawmakers, and advertisers who have failed to stop the spread of eating disorder and self-harm content.

Join us in calling on YouTube to fix their algorithm and stop hurting kids. Together, we can pressure YouTube to stop enabling and profiting from this disturbing content.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2025 5:47 AM
To: s 22
Subject: YouTube is harming teen girls across the world



Content warning: eating disorders & self-harm

s 22

Did you see our latest report on YouTube hurting teenage girls? We have new findings – and it doesn't get any better.

YouTube is putting teenage girls at risk not only in the US, but also in the UK and in the European Union.

We repeated the experiment of creating a test YouTube account for a 13-year-old girl. This time, the two accounts created were based in the UK and in Ireland.

Then we watched a video promoting eating disorders for the first time and analyzed the videos recommended by YouTube in the “Up Next” tab.

In total, we analyzed 100 videos recommended by the platforms in each new place – **and what we found was disturbing.**

[In the UK:](#)

- **Over half of the videos** were related to eating disorders or weight loss
- YouTube is profiting from this dangerous content by displaying ads from major brands, such as **Ralph Lauren and L’Oreal**.

[In the EU:](#)

- **Nearly 3 in 4 videos** were for content about eating disorders or weight loss
- YouTube **failed to act against 79%** of the videos reported by us.



Illustration: Maaike Hartjes

In case you missed it: in December, we showed that YouTube is pushing young girls to watch videos glorifying eating disorders and promoting self-harm content [in the US](#). Here are some of our findings:

- 1 in 3 promoted harmful eating disorder content.

- 2 in 3 related to eating disorders or weight loss.
- 1 in 20 involved self-harm or suicide content.

CCDH's new findings reinforce the need for immediate change. They are a stark indictment of social media executives, regulators, and lawmakers, who are failing to keep users safe and letting eating disorder content reach teens in the EU, UK, and US.

Join us in calling on YouTube to fix their algorithm and stop hurting kids. Together, we can pressure YouTube to stop enabling and profiting from this disturbing content.

ADD YOUR NAME

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Thursday, 20 March 2025 3:35 AM
To: § 22
Subject: Free resources to help you counter hate and lies



§ 22

Do you feel that navigating the internet is becoming trickier? There is a constant stream of **hate and misinformation flooding our timelines which can make it harder to discern truth from lies.**

As social media platforms change and narratives get more divisive, it can be hard not to let anger get the upper hand and affect our judgment.

§ 22 this is not accidental. It is the essence of social media companies' business model.

To help you avoid the social media trap, CCDH created a series of insightful explainers about hate and misinformation narratives spread online, how the social media platforms work, and what can be done to make the internet safer.

Here's a preview:

- [Online Violence Against Women and Girls: Explained](#)
- [How can advertisers stop funding online hate and disinformation?](#)
- [Climate change is real. But why do some say it's a hoax?](#)
- [Understanding 5 types of racism online](#)



By learning how online harms spread and helping raise awareness, you can become an advocate for change.

Share these resources with your friends, family, and followers on social media to spark important and urgent conversations.



Together, we can create a safer and more inclusive online environment.

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 April 2025 11:56 PM
To: s 22
Subject: It's Earth Day, let's talk about climate action online



EARTH DAY

**Building a fairer internet
is climate action.**

s 22

To save the planet, we first need to protect the truth.

This year's Earth Day campaign "Our Power, Our Planet" urges everyone to support renewable energy. Yet, [our research](#) has shown that climate deniers are strategically spreading disinformation about clean energy online to **undermine the solutions we need to save our planet.**

By failing to counter the spread of climate denial, social media and search engine platforms are offering climate deniers the tools they need to amplify their lies – **damaging people's trust in science and delaying climate action.**

[Watch](#) our CEO Imran Ahmed warning about the dangers of climate denial at CAAD's Climate Information Integrity Summit in Brazil, in preparation for COP30:



s 22 social media platforms have become a polluted space where outrage and clicks outweigh truth.

Climate denial claims are not alternative facts – they are blatant lies.

Real freedom of speech requires informed citizens. That's why CCDH created an [explainer](#) on how social media and search engine platforms are enabling a cascade of climate mis and disinformation. **Share it with your friends and family:**



Building a fairer internet is climate action. Together, we're fighting for the future of our planet.

The time to act is now.

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Friday, 23 May 2025 1:20 AM
To: § 22
Subject: § 22 did you see? Incels are doubling down on hate.



§ 22

CCDH's latest research showed that the world's largest incel forum has doubled in size and responded to Netflix's Adolescence with renewed misogyny, racist insults, and antisemitic conspiracies. You can read more about our new study in [The i Paper](#) and [The Telegraph](#).

We know that this wave of misogyny and extremist ideas coming from the manosphere can feel overwhelming and disheartening, § 22 That's why we made these resources to help you, and your loved ones, navigate this conversation:

- [What is an incel?](#)
- [Inside the manosphere: understanding extreme misogyny online](#)

- [Parents Guide: How to navigate social media safely with your kids](#)

You can support our efforts to expose the manosphere and the platforms that allow their hate to spill into our feeds.

[Donate to CCDH](#) and help us build a safer internet for women, girls, and everyone else.

Donate Today

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Sunday, 1 June 2025 3:00 AM
To: § 22
Subject: Don't miss out!



§ 22

You are driving *real* change.

Your support powers our research, fuels our campaigns, and makes a genuine impact.

Want to see the difference you're making?

[Sign up](#) for our monthly newsletter and stay informed with the latest wins, research, and progress – all made possible with your support.

Sign Up Today

We have big plans for the next few months. From continuing to develop research on the topic everyone is talking about (**can you guess?**) to offering resources to help you navigate the internet safely, we're all hands on deck to protect human rights and civil liberties online.

To stay up-to-date with our work, don't miss out on our [monthly newsletter](#). Our plans for this year are only possible because of you. Thank you.

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team



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From: The Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Thursday, 19 June 2025 1:29 AM
To: § 22
Subject: YouTube banned Andrew Tate. So why is his content still everywhere?



§ 22

CCDH's [latest research](#) – featured in [The Times](#) – found that **YouTube enables and profits from Andrew Tate's misogynistic content—despite his ban.**

Tate is a social media influencer and self-proclaimed misogynist known for promoting hate and violence against women. He's been charged in the UK with 21 criminal offences, including rape and human trafficking. He was banned from YouTube in 2022 for breaking hate speech rules.

But here's what we found while looking at the **100 most viewed** videos featuring Tate's misogyny:

- Every single video is **accessible to users as young as 13**, with no age restrictions
- Almost 60% of the videos break YouTube's own **hate speech policies**
- Videos have been viewed nearly **54 million times**

- Nearly 1 in 3 feature **ads from major brands** like Hyundai and Lavazza

YouTube isn't just failing to act. It's profiting from hate.

What's more, Tate's followers are keeping his content circulating through a coordinated effort.

65 of the videos were posted by 'fan accounts', often by subscribers to his online course "The Real World", which pays users to repost his content.

This isn't just about one individual. It's about a platform that claims to ban hate—but keeps it online when it's **profitable**.

We're calling on YouTube to stop enabling and profiting from the spread of extreme misogyny. Lawmakers must hold YouTube accountable for the harms they cause.

Help us call for change. **Share our findings with your communities:**



Thanks for your support,

The CCDH Team



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From: The Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 July 2025 3:01 AM
To: s 22
Subject: s 22 could this training be for you?



s 22

Seeing hate and lies on your platform, but don't know what to do? Sign up for our **free Digital & Information Resilience Training**.

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

In this session you'll learn how platforms decide what you see, how that can lead to harm, and what you can do to navigate more safely. You'll leave with clear, useful tips for spotting misinformation, staying safe, and supporting young people online.

Sounds interesting? Join us on **Wednesday, 30th of July at 18:00 BST/19:00 CET**.

[REGISTER](#)

Together we can build a safer internet for all.

Best wishes,

The CCDH Team

P.S. Looking for a training session customized to just you or your organization's needs? [Get in touch](#) to request a private Resilience training with CCDH experts.



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From: Imran Ahmed, Center for Countering Digital Hate <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2025 3:15 AM
To: s 22
Subject: s 22 as a father, I need your help to protect kids like my daughter.



s 22

As a father of a **young daughter**, I think about the world she will grow up in—and I worry. I worry about the dangers she will face as **she navigates the internet** in just a few years. We've all heard the stories, but **here's the reality**: right now, kids all over the world are **exposed to serious harm online**.



The internet is **meant to be a place of learning, connection, and growth**. But too often, it's a place of confusion, fear, and danger.

I'm sure you've heard about how vulnerable kids are being fed dangerous advice by AI platforms. My team at CCDH recently uncovered how **ChatGPT is offering harmful guidance** on mental health, eating disorders, and substance abuse to teens as young as 13.

But it's not just AI. **YouTube** is allowing content that **glorifies misogyny**, like banned extremist Andrew Tate videos, to spread freely. And even worse, their algorithm is pushing eating disorder content to young girls at an alarming rate.

These aren't just statistics—they're real, life-threatening problems. And as a father, I can't stand by and let this continue. We have to protect our children.

But here's the good news: we can change this.

At CCDH, we're working tirelessly to **expose these dangers and hold companies accountable**. We're not stopping until we make the internet safer for our kids—my daughter, your children, all of them.

But **we can't do this alone**. We need your support.

Your donation will fuel our critical research, advocacy, and campaigns to make real change.

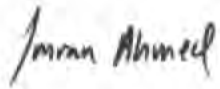
If we're going to protect the next generation from these harms, we need to act now.

Will you stand with me? Will you help us protect our children?

[Donate Today](#)

Thank you for being part of the solution. Together, we can make the internet a safer place for our kids.

With hope,



Imran

Dad and CEO, CCDH



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From: counterhate.com <info@counterhate.com>
Sent: Friday, 13 February 2026 5:00 AM
To: s 22
Subject: We've unmasked Grok and ChatGPT.



s 22

Popular AI platforms like Grok and ChatGPT **are exposing children to serious harms – and regulators are still playing catch-up.** [Grok](#) can easily generate sexualized images of children, and [ChatGPT](#) pretends to be their friend and offers dangerous advice.

This week was Safer Internet Day, but we fight for online safety every day. That's why we're reaching out.

s 22 you're an important member of the CCDH community. If you [donate \\$5 monthly](#), you can power our 2026 work and protect kids online all year round.

[Protect Kids Online Every Month](#)

Your first gift will power investigations and advocacy that:

- Expose Big Tech's failures
- Force tech companies and lawmakers to act before it's too late
- **Ensure kids, teens, families and everyone can feel safe online**



We're unmasking Big
Tech to protect kids

YOUR MONTHLY GIFT POWERS ONLINE SAFETY

Donate Today

Safety must be at the heart of every platform.

With gratitude,

The CCDH Team



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National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

Australia's leading bullying prevention initiative, [National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence](#), is on **Friday 18 March 2022**.

eSafety is supporting this important day with a special virtual classroom for middle to upper primary students.

Register your class for [Be an eSafe kid: A better internet starts with you](#), and help your students learn the impact their words and actions can have online.

[Register your class now](#)



Online Safety Youth Advisory Council

eSafety is looking for 20 young Australians, aged 13 to 24, to join our first ever [Online Safety Youth Advisory](#).

[Council.](#)

The group will play a vital role in sharing the voices of young people with the Australian Government, to understand how young people experience the online world and what can be done to make it positive and safe.

Application responses can be submitted in written or other creative form, such as video, audio, poster, song - a great way to engage your class on online safety issues.

Applications close 14 March 2022.

[Learn more](#)



Free accredited professional learning

eSafety's popular **Teacher Professional Learning** webinar, [Online harmful sexual behaviours, misinformation and emerging technologies](#), is now NESA and TQI accredited and will continue to run in 2022.

Educators can count this free module for two hours of identified professional learning.

[Register now](#)



Tech agreements for school and home

eSafety's [tech agreements](#) for ages five to eight encourage kids to collaborate in class and at home to establish online safety practices and commitments during the year.

Do you have smartboards or digital devices at your school? You can keep online safety messages visible, and create opportunities to discuss the issues, by downloading eSafety's [digital signage for schools](#). Available for primary and secondary schools.

[Find out more](#)



Looking for an online safety education provider?

Our [Trusted eSafety Provider](#) program can help you find external providers that meet eSafety's standards for delivery of evidence-based and curriculum-aligned online safety education. Visit [our website](#) to find a provider to suit your school's needs including face-to-face or online

delivery and programs specific to students, educators and parents.

Download eSafety's [Toolkit for Schools](#), which includes a [guide to engaging external online safety providers](#).

[Find a Trusted eSafety Provider](#)



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New research: Women's experiences with online abuse in their working lives

eSafety's new research report reveals **one in three women experience online abuse in their working lives** – and it can have devastating consequences for their careers.

Women's experiences with online abuse in their working lives, released today, coincides with **International Women's Day on 8 March**. The report explores the experiences of women who have strong online or media profiles for professional purposes.

The research found that 35% of women surveyed experienced some form of online abuse in a professional context. Incidences of abuse were higher among younger women (43%), those who identified as LGBTIQ+ (51%) and women living with a disability (57%).

Study participants described severe impacts to their mental health, a loss of confidence in their ability to do their job, reputational damage, and concerns for their personal safety and that of their families.

Given the high emotional toll, it is no surprise that almost a quarter of the women abused online said they were reluctant to move into leadership positions because they would be required to appear in the media or be online. This reticence was almost double for women living with a disability.

At eSafety, 75% of reports of online harms we receive come from women and girls. We work every day to

remove abusive online material and to help women develop skills, confidence and courage through our free programs and resources.

[Read the full research report](#) and please forward this email to your contacts. To learn more about how we are helping women and girls be safer online, visit esafety.gov.au/women.

[Read full report](#)



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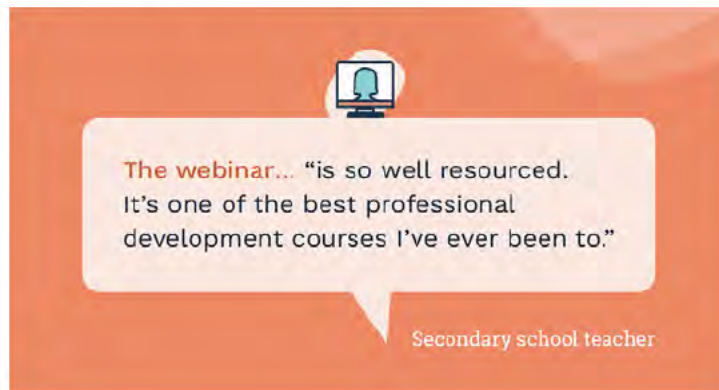
Tell us what you're into - to receive eSafety information you're most interested in, [update your preferences](#).

Privacy Policy - to find out how eSafety handles, manages and protects your personal information, check out our [privacy policy](#).



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eSafety’s professional learning gets top marks

eSafety’s accredited professional learning module [Online harmful sexual behaviours, misinformation and emerging technologies](#), has been independently evaluated.

Participants found the webinar to be a highly valuable professional learning opportunity. They reported feeling more confident about embedding online safety concepts into classwork and helping young people report online incidences.

[Learn more](#) about eSafety’s 2022 webinars.

[Read full report](#)



Professional learning webinars for 2022

eSafety's new professional learning webinar [Digital rights and responsibilities of students and educators](#), starts on Tuesday, 12 April 2022. It joins our existing topic, [Online harmful sexual behaviours, misinformation and emerging technologies](#).

Both webinars are open for registration now. Successful participants will gain two hours of NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) or Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) Accredited Professional Development.

[Register now](#)



Share your feedback on Safer Internet Day

Thank you for supporting [Safer Internet Day](#) and sharing your tips on how we can all play it fair online. To prepare for next year's campaign, we would love to hear your thoughts on how we can make it even better in 2023.

Please take a moment to give us some anonymous feedback. Whether it's more activities or different resources for your community, we want to hear how we can support you to get involved.

[Take the Survey](#)



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Having an online presence is a fundamental part of many women's working lives. [eSafety research](#) found one in three women had experienced work-related online abuse and nearly a quarter said it had stopped them taking public-facing, leadership roles.

As we build an equitable world of work post-pandemic, we must purposefully ensure the voices and perspectives of women are equally represented online.

Join eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant and LinkedIn's Public Policy VP, Sue Duke, for a discussion on how online abuse impacts women's working lives and what social platforms can do to keep their members safe.

Leveling Economic Opportunities through Online Safety for Women

A discussion with Sue Duke and Julie Inman Grant
Livestreaming Tuesday, 12 April 2022 | 11:00am (AEST)
[Register now](#) to watch the conversation

For audiences outside Australia, you can [register for the second session](#) at 10:00 BST | 09:00GMT on 12 April 2022.

[Learn more](#) about eSafety's Women In The Spotlight program and [read our latest research](#).

[Register to attend](#)



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**Parent and
Carer Webinar:**
Parental controls

Free webinar to share with your parent community

eSafety's Term 2 [webinar on parental controls](#) helps parents and carers learn about software tools and other strategies for [taming technology](#) at home.

The webinar explores the benefits and limitations of parental controls and covers how to safely set up devices and popular games and apps like Roblox and Youtube.

We've also created some handy [webinar posters](#) you can share with your school community.

[Download webinar posters](#)



Watch eSafety education videos on ClickView

We're excited to announce that all eSafety videos for primary and secondary educators are now available on [ClickView](#). The educational video platform is widely accessible in classrooms and curriculum aligned.

On the [eSafety channel](#), you'll find videos to enhance your online safety lessons and stimulate class discussions. Our popular *Be Deadly Online* series, created by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, is among the 40+ videos on offer.

[Watch now](#)



Supporting students experiencing online harms

eSafety can investigate the serious cyberbullying of children as well as adult cyber abuse, image-based abuse (the non-consensual sharing of intimate images) and illegal and restricted content.

Visit esafety.gov.au to learn more about the different types of online harms and how eSafety can help you or a student in your care.

If you would like more tools for supporting young people to be safer online, check out eSafety's [professional learning program](#). The two-hour, NESA and TQI accredited modules are designed for educators and those who work with young people. Curriculum-aligned resources are included to help you embed online safety education in all areas of learning.

[Register for professional learning](#)



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Dealing with dangerous online challenges

Apps like TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram allow young people to connect with peers, be creative and express themselves through images and videos.

Online dares and challenges encourage users to share videos of themselves or others taking part in a challenging activity. Sometimes, these dares can be creative, inspiring and build a sense of belonging. But young people can also feel pressure to participate, even if the challenge might result in harm to themselves or others.

Platforms usually don't allow activities that might cause harm. For example, TikTok's [Community Guidelines](#) ban dangerous challenges.

TikTok has also just released a [package of information and safety features](#) to help users stay safe around online challenges. The package includes a 4-step process that users need to go through before taking part in challenges, and they've also made it easier to report dangerous challenges.

Learn more about [dangerous online challenges](#) and how you can talk to young people about them and minimise the potential for harm.

[Learn More](#)



Taming the tech – how parental controls can help keep kids safer online

Recent [eSafety research](#) found 56% of parents and carers of children aged 8-10 use parental controls to keep their kids safer online.

Taking part in eSafety's [webinar on parental controls](#) can help you learn more about these software tools and other strategies for [taming the technology](#) in your home.

If you would like to learn more, watch the [parental controls video](#) and [download the fact sheets](#) on using parental controls to manage devices and apps.

[Register now](#)



Help young people make a report if something goes wrong online

The quickest way to have cyberbullying messages, violent or sexual material, illegal activity, or unwanted contact

removed from the internet is to report directly to the social media service or platform where the incident occurred.

Young people often need the support of an adult to make a report, so here are the steps you can take:

1. [Collect evidence](#) before reporting to the social media service or taking other action. Take screenshots showing what has been happening and for how long.
2. Report to the social media service, game, app, or website where the incident occurred. Use our [eSafety Guide](#) to help find the appropriate links for each service.
3. After you report abusive content to a service or platform, they may remove the content straight away. They may also block the person who posted it or delete their account. In the case of illegal content, the service may also refer the matter to police.

If the above process doesn't get you the support you need, [eSafety can help](#).

[Learn more about making a report](#)



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esafety.gov.au

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Find out how eSafety handles, manages and protects your personal information, see our [privacy policy](#).

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More opportunities for professional learning

We've added more dates to our professional learning over the holidays and in Term 3. Book in now for your free, accredited, two-hour session and explore the latest research, case studies and strategies to bring online safety into your classroom.

There are two modules to choose from: [*Digital rights and responsibilities of students and educators*](#) and [*Online harmful sexual behaviours, misinformation and emerging technologies*](#).

You can learn more about our professional learning program at esafety.gov.au.

Register now



Support young people to have positive experiences online

eSafety's [*Digital technologies and mental health*](#) video for parents and carers is also a great educator resource.

You'll find practical ways to encourage positive online behaviours and steps you can take if something online is impacting a child's mental wellbeing.

At only four minutes long, [the video](#) is an accessible resource to share with your school community.

[Watch video](#)



Enhance your online safety curriculum with trusted providers

eSafety endorses a range of quality providers to help deliver online safety education to your students, parents, and staff.

Whether your school is dealing with a specific issue or incident, or needs a whole-of-school online safety education strategy, eSafety and our network of [Trusted eSafety Providers](#) can help.

To find a provider, start with [program FAQs](#) and download the [Guide to engaging external online safety providers](#).

[Find out more](#)

Parent and Carer Webinar: Online gaming



Free online gaming webinar for your parent community

Playing games online can be great for socialising and an outlet for a child's imagination. There can also be some downsides.

Our [Safer online gaming](#) webinar looks at the positive aspects of gaming online, popular game titles, and strategies parents and carers can use to manage the risks.

Spread the word to your school community by sharing this [Safer online gaming webinar poster](#) in your school newsletter or app.

[Download webinar posters](#)



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**Parent and
Carer Webinar:**
Online gaming

Free safer online gaming webinar

Playing games online can be great for socialising and an outlet for a child's imagination. There can also be some downsides.

Help your child enjoy the fun of gaming safely. Book in for our [Safer online gaming](#) webinar to learn about popular games and pick up strategies for managing the risks.

Register now and share the link with other parents you know.

[Register now](#)



Is social media causing your child distress?

eSafety's new video [Digital technologies and mental health](#), helps parents and carers support young people to look after themselves on apps and social media.

The four-minute video provides tips on encouraging positive behaviours and what to do if your child experiences something distressing online.

Use eSafety's videos to learn about key issues and keep the conversation going with your kids about what they experience online.

[Watch the video](#) or [listen to the audio file](#).

Watch video



Is this app safe for my child?

Parents can find themselves put on the spot when their child demands to download an app.

In these situations, it's best to do some quick research. Use eSafety's [app checklist](#) to help you assess whether an app is suitable for your child.

Would you like to know more? eSafety's [Information sheets](#) for parents and carers cover a range of online safety topics in easy-to-read format. Share them with your friends and school community.

Download app checklist



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National Child Protection Week

[National Child Protection Week](#) starts on Sunday, 4 September so be sure to mark it in your calendar and get your school community involved.

eSafety will support this important initiative with a special virtual classroom for middle to upper primary students and professional learning webinar sessions.

Register your class for the [Be an eSafe kid: be safe, be supportive](#) virtual classroom and keep reading for information on eSafety's new teacher professional learning webinar.

Register your class



Parents urged to watch for signs of cyberbullying

With most kids back at school, the eSafety Commissioner is urging parents to look out for signs of cyberbullying.

Reports of cyberbullying to eSafety are up 80% this year compared with the first six months of 2021.

Of particular concern are social media challenges being shared by young people. While these online challenges can be fun, they can also be used to humiliate and shame others.

If you notice a young person in your care becoming anxious, withdrawn, secretive or not wanting to be around their friends, they may be experiencing online abuse.

[Read the media release](#) to learn more.

Media release



Critical incidents professional learning

As educators, you may need to respond to and report abuse or distressing content online. These 'critical incidents' could involve harms such as cyberbullying, fight videos, grooming, suicide or pornography.

eSafety's new professional learning webinar [Responding and reporting: critical online incidents in school settings](#), starts on Wednesday, 3 August 2022 and is free to attend.

This webinar supports wellbeing coordinators, school leaders and anyone involved in managing critical online incident response in the school community. It also includes steps on collecting evidence if you need to make a report to eSafety.

Register



New parent webinar posters to share

eSafety runs free webinars for parents and carers of school-aged children.

Share the details for Term 3 by displaying these handy [posters](#) at your school or including them in your next communication to parents.

Popular apps

Learn about TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube and help your children stay safe online.

Online sexual harassment and image-based abuse

Help teens deal with online sexual harassment and image-based abuse.

If you would like to learn more about how we are supporting families to be safer online, visit esafety.gov.au

Download the posters



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Help children stay safe on popular apps

Join us for eSafety's parents and carers [webinar on popular apps](#) TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube.

Support young people to use technology safely and get tips on what to do if your child has a negative experience online.

The sessions are free to join and start on Monday, 1 August 2022. [Register now](#) and share the link with other parents and carers you know.

[Register now](#)



Encourage safe digital play over the holidays

Winter holidays can mean more time indoors and more [time online](#).

eSafety can help you manage the change in routine with fun activities like [Be an eSafe kid](#). Get your children reading along with the colourful characters to learn about

positive behaviours and what to do if something goes wrong online.

You might also like to check out [The eSafety Guide](#) to learn about popular apps, games and social media. Some apps offer safety and privacy features such as [Messenger Kids](#) which allows parents to monitor their child's chat.

[Visit be an eSafe Kid](#)



Support young people to deal with online challenges

Online dares and challenges are something most parents and carers will be familiar with. While these activities can be entertaining and creative, some can involve bullying, risky or even life-threatening behaviour.

Let your child know they can talk to you if something online makes them feel unsafe or is encouraging them to be hurtful to others.

Here are some ways to support your child in these situations:

- Ask questions about the games and apps your kids are using and what they are watching online.
- Use parental controls and safeguards on devices to help manage what your child experiences online.
- Support your child to report online bullying to the platform on which it occurred. If the platform does not take action within 48 hours, you can report cyberbullying and other harmful content to [eSafety](#).

Read eSafety's latest blog on online challenges at [esafety.gov.au](#).

[Read the blog](#)



Update devices and settings to keep your family safe online

Technology is always changing so it's important to update devices and check privacy settings regularly.

Apart from routine updates, there are also new safety features being rolled out which can help keep families safer online.

- Apple have updated their settings to help parents manage what their child can do on their device. The new [communication safety](#) features help protect children from viewing or sharing nude photos in messages.
- Instagram's [expanded parental controls](#) lets teens invite their parents to supervise their activity on the app. Parents will see their child's new followers and accounts they follow, but won't see their messages or search history.

Read more about parental controls and using technology safely in the home at esafety.gov.au



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Play it safe
and fair online

esafety.gov.au

eSafety FOI 26021
Document 43 of 148

Together, we can change the game



Sadly, the ongoing use of social media platforms as a tool for abuse, hate, and discrimination online, particularly targeting AFL players, umpires and staff is getting worse. There is absolutely no place for this kind of abuse.

We're really proud to announce that we have once again [joined forces with the AFL](#) to tackle the important issue of online abuse within the AFL community. The partnership focuses on improving the online safety for AFL players, fans and the broader community and to raise awareness of the steps Australians can take to **#PlayItFairOnline**.

Just as players have their teammate's backs on the field, we all have a role to play in supporting our teams and communities online. When we see someone copping abuse online, we need to be upstanders by calling it out and lending a supportive comment. Collectively, we can reduce online abuse and create more positive fan engagement.

Watch the **#PlayItFairOnline** video and hear from some of the biggest names including Buddy Franklin and Chelsea Randall about how to stay safe online, be an upstander and report online abuse. Also, you can tune into Friday's clash between Richmond and Fremantle at 7:50PM EST to watch see the partnership officially kick off!

WATCH NOW



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NEW Classroom resource: Supporting respectful relationships through online boundaries and consent

eSafety's [online boundaries and consent resource](#) for Years 3-6 supports students to learn about consent and setting boundaries online.

This resource is curriculum-aligned and designed to form part of a whole-school approach to respectful relationships. It includes a 20-minute animated video, student worksheet and follow-up activities.

[Download resource](#)



NEW professional learning: Responding to and reporting critical incidents online

All schools want to support students and their parent community if something goes wrong online.

eSafety's new professional learning webinar, [Responding and reporting: Critical online incidents in school settings](#) is linked to F-10 Health and Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum and wellbeing activities and is suitable for all teachers, wellbeing coordinators and school leaders.

The session will provide the tools and strategies to address different online harms and inform participants of eSafety's reporting options, [how to collect evidence](#) and [how to make a report](#).

[Register Now](#)



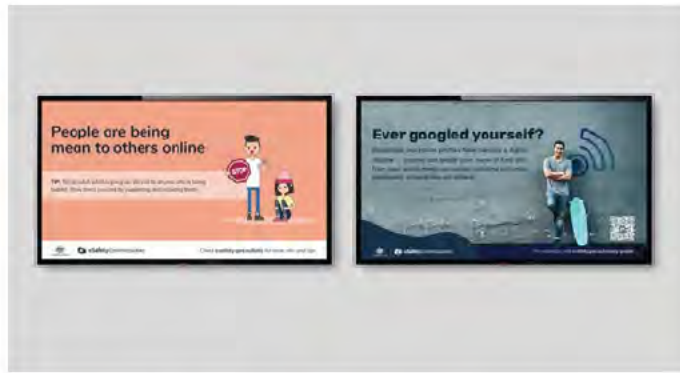
Become an eSafety Champion for your school

[eSafety Champions](#) are teachers, wellbeing professionals or staff representatives who make online safety a priority in their schools.

Champions are the first to know about new resources and events, have direct access to eSafety's expert education and training team and are invited to pilot and inform professional learning events.

We're committed to supporting schools with online safety and encourage all primary and secondary schools across Australia to have an eSafety Champion on staff.

[Sign up now](#)



Online safety digital signage available for schools

Keep online safety top of mind at your school by downloading [eSafety's digital signage](#) for classrooms and electronic screens.

Signage is available for primary and secondary schools and covers a range of issues, including cyberbullying, passcodes and dealing with unwanted contact online

[Download now](#)



Intergenerational program for secondary schools: Young Mentors

The [Young Mentors](#) program aims to improve older Australians' digital skills and knowledge by connecting them with teenagers.

The program offers young people the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills while making a valuable social contribution.

When [registering for the free program](#), schools will be provided with a comprehensive toolkit with promotional,

training and facilitation materials.

[Get Involved](#)



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New learning resources to help your family stay safe online

eSafety has released new resources to help parents and carers from all backgrounds protect their families online.

The new videos and advice sheets from the [*Online Safety for Every Family*](#) suite of resources covers how to:

- get started with social media
- enjoy safer online gaming
- help your child if they are bullied online.

To make sure more families can start a conversation with their children about online safety, [*the information comes in multiple languages*](#) - English, Simplified Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Tamil and Dari.

[Learn more](#)



Webinar: Online sexual harassment and image-based abuse

Did you know almost a third of reports made to eSafety about [image-based abuse](#) relate to people under 18?

While it can be devastating for a young person to have nude or intimate images of themselves shared without their consent, getting the right support can reduce the harm.

eSafety's [parent guide to online sexual harassment and image based-abuse webinar](#) covers how to report image-based abuse and where to get support if your child experiences abuse online. [Register now](#) for the last sessions in 2022.

[Register now](#)



Use parental controls to keep your family safe online

Many games, apps and social media sites now come with parental controls, with [Snapchat](#) the latest to launch an in-app Family Center to support young people to have safer experiences online.

eSafety's [parental controls video](#) helps parents and carers understand the benefits and limitations, the different controls you can access and what safety settings to use when there are no parental controls available.

[Watch now](#)

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
4 - 10 September 2022



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Introducing the Mighty Heroes and their online safety superpowers

'Mighty Heroes' is a new lower primary and curriculum-aligned classroom resource that features four short-animated videos with accompanying educator notes. It also includes downloadable posters and a family tech agreement to help parents continue the conversation at home.

Bring the Mighty Heroes into your classroom:

- **Wanda the echidna:** I am responsible – I protect my personal information.
- **River the sugar glider:** I show respect – I am kind and caring to others.
- **Dusty the frilled neck lizard:** I trust my feelings – I ask for help when something doesn't feel right.
- **Billie the bilby:** I investigate – I question what I see, hear and do online.

Go to esafety.gov.au to get your class started on this online safety adventure.

Get this classroom resource

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Join our free webinar: Digital technologies and mental health

[eSafety research](#) shows that a third of children have looked for emotional support online from friends or mental health support services.

Learn more about how games, apps and social media can influence young people's wellbeing with eSafety's [Digital technologies and mental health webinar](#).

The webinar is designed for parents and carers of children aged 10-18 and covers a range of topics including:

- the latest research on young people and time online
- steps to take if your child is exposed to distressing or harmful content
- the strategies young people can use to support friends online.

[Register now](#) for your free session and visit esafety.gov.au/parents for more eSafety resources for parents and carers.

[Register Now](#)



Talking to young people about their experiences online

Young people may be exposed to upsetting or harmful content online. They also may not understand the best way to get support.

eSafety's advice on '[hard-to-have conversations](#)' can help you navigate sensitive topics and build an open dialogue with your child about what they are experiencing online.

Take a few minutes to read the advice and let the young people in your care know they can come to you with anything.

[Read more](#)



What's that app?

If your child wants to play [Among Us](#), chat on [Omegle](#) or message friends on [Snapchat](#), the eSafety Guide can help.

The Guide helps you stay up-to-date with the latest games, apps and social media and includes advice on protecting your personal information and reporting harmful content.

[Explore the eSafety Guide](#)



World Mental Health Day 10 October 2022

This World Mental Health Day, take a moment to consider how you can have safer, more positive experiences online.

While the online world helps us learn, work and share, it also poses risks to our physical and mental wellbeing. This can be particularly true for young people.

Explore the [Look after your mental health Australia](#) site with your family for ways to get involved and simple tips for protecting and improving mental wellbeing – online and offline.

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How bad should it be
before I tell someone?



New research: Online experiences of adults with intellectual disability

Research by Australia's eSafety Commissioner explores how people with intellectual disability use the internet, and how they experience and deal with online abuse.

The research - *[How bad should it be before I tell someone?: Online Abuse Experiences of Adult Australians with Intellectual Disability](#)* - was commissioned by eSafety to better understand the online experiences of people with intellectual disability and to identify how to support them to have safe, empowering experiences online.

Key findings include:

- Experiences of online abuse are widespread among people with intellectual disability that participated in the research. Abusive behaviour includes online bullying, trolling, doxing and sexual extortion.
- Many adults with intellectual disability don't recognise online abuse while it is happening.
- Online interactions may be riskier for people with intellectual disability because of their reduced impulse control and varied ability to understand and assess online communication, including the tone of written messages.
- Resources for people with intellectual disability, their carers and service providers need to be in Easy Read format and include real-life online safety examples. They should also present information using both

audio-visual formats to encourage better engagement.

The report is based on in-depth interviews and focus groups conducted with adults with intellectual disability, carers and service providers between September and December 2021.

The findings from this research will inform eSafety's online safety programs, including future interventions to assist people with intellectual disability, their carers and service providers to better identify and look for help for online harms.

We encourage you to [read the full research report](#), [our blog post](#) and share this information with your contacts.

[Read the full report](#)




 eSafety Commissioner

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The banner for Safer Internet Day 2023 features a light blue background with a stylized wave at the bottom. On the left, there is an icon of a smartphone with a globe above it. The text "Safer Internet Day 2023" is in a bold, blue font, with "2023" in orange. To the right of this text is a small logo for "Families Online". Below the main text, it says "Save the date" in a large, bold, blue font, followed by "7 February 2023" in a smaller, black font.

The Safer Internet Day campaign continues to grow each year, with Australians leading the charge to make the online world safer.

We hope you can join us again in 2023. Safer Internet Day will fall on 7 February and will mark 20 years of celebrating the initiative.

[Sign up to support Safer Internet Day 2023](#) at your school, community, and workplace. We will keep you updated and let you know when resources become available to download.

[Sign up to support](#)

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Save these important eSafety dates in 2023

Starting to plan for 2023? Mark your calendars with these three online safety events next year.

- 7 February 2023, Safer Internet Day. [Sign up now!](#)
- 23 March 2023, National Day of Action
- 5 – 11 September 2023, National Child Protection Week

Make a date with eSafety events and resources in 2023. Sign your class up for one of eSafety's [virtual classrooms](#) (primary), access educator [professional learning](#) and share [parent and carer webinars](#) with school families.

[Sign up now for Safer Internet Day](#)



**Upcoming professional learning:
Responding and reporting critical
incidents online**

All schools want to support students and their parent community if something goes wrong online.

eSafety's professional learning course [Responding and reporting: Critical online incidents in school settings](#) equips schools with the tools and strategies to address different online harms. Participants also learn about [eSafety's reporting options – how to collect evidence and how to make a report](#).

[Register now](#) for the last session of the year, Wednesday, 23 November.

The webinar is linked to F-10 Health and Physical Education (HPE) curriculum and wellbeing activities and is suitable for all teachers, wellbeing coordinators and school leaders.

[Register Now](#)



Supporting staff wellbeing

Learn how to support staff to create and maintain healthy relationships with technology by downloading [this handy factsheet](#). Useful tips for educators include:

- Become familiar with your school or sector social media policies.
- Know [how to report online abuse to eSafety](#) if needed. It's crucial for schools to promptly and seriously respond to all allegations of cyber abuse directed at staff by members of the school community.
- Encourage staff to maintain their privacy online. [See our advice on protecting personal information](#).

[Learn more](#)



***The Lost Summer* video game to be retired in December 2022**

eSafety's first-ever online game, *The Lost Summer*, was created for 11 to 14-year-olds to practice online safety scenarios in a fun and safe space.

Thanks to everyone that played and got their schools involved. Your support helped us reach 34,000 downloads and gave us valuable learnings to apply to new and innovative resources.

From January 2023, lesson plans and the app will no longer be available from the eSafety website and app stores. As the game will not be supported, we advise all schools to delete the app from their devices.

Looking for ways to engage your class on online safety? Check out our education resources at esafety.gov.au.

[Explore classroom resources](#)



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[Safer Internet Day](#) on Tuesday 7 February 2023 marks 20 years of celebrating the event worldwide. The internet has evolved dramatically in 20 years and today, online safety awareness is more important than ever.

This Safer Internet Day, we're calling on schools and the community to get involved by doing three simple things - **Connect. Reflect. Protect.** By doing this, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

If you haven't already, [sign up to get your school involved](#). We're working on the education kits now and will let you know as soon as they are available. [Visit our website](#) to download social media supporter tiles and start spreading the word to your community about Safer Internet Day.

[Register now](#)



Tell us how you're using eSafety's Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education

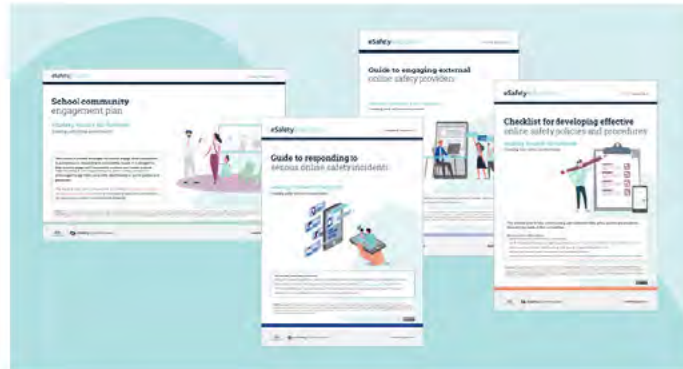
Launched in 2021, the [Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education](#) creates a consistent national

approach to online safety education.

How has the Framework been used at your school? Let us know in this [quick survey](#).

You'll also be able to nominate your school to be featured as a case study on our website showcasing best practice in online safety education.

[Complete the survey](#)



Updated Toolkit for Schools now available

eSafety has just updated our [Toolkit for Schools](#), a suite of resources to support schools in creating safer online environments.

The updated Toolkit features new content, including advice and research, updates on our reporting processes and links to new eSafety resources. We encourage all educators to download and refer to this latest version.

[Download Toolkit](#)



New professional learning: Online modules for lower primary teachers

Looking for short on-demand professional learning for the last weeks of school term? We've got you covered.

eSafety has released [short self-paced modules for lower primary school educators](#) that cover four areas:

- Using technology safely and responsibly
- Being respectful online
- Building resilience and help seeking skills, and
- Fostering early critical thinking.

The online training is free and aligned to the Australian Curriculum and Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Each module is 25 mins of online learning with 35 mins reading in your own time and you can download a certificate of completion.

[Get started](#)



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eSafety is proud to announce the re-endorsement of 21 online safety education providers who are now available to support schools and community groups.

Since its establishment in 2020, Trusted eSafety Providers have reached nearly 2 million students and 40,000 educators with online safety programs.

Under the program, eSafety endorses providers with appropriate expertise, experience and best-practice approach to delivering online safety education.

We assess providers against robust requirements – including alignment to eSafety's Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education – giving you confidence that they will deliver high-quality online safety education for your school or community organisation.

Learn more about the program at esafety.gov.au. You can see the full list of providers and search for a program aligned to the topics, audience and delivery method you need. You can also contact the Trusted eSafety Provider program team at trustedproviders@esafety.gov.au.

[Learn more](#)



esafety.gov.au

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Your guide to the latest tech gifts this holiday season

Every year, eSafety publishes a [Gift Guide](#) to support parents and carers with insights and advice on the latest trends and technology. The guide helps you make smart, safe and secure tech gift choices for children and young people.

This year's Gift Guide focuses on new [immersive technology](#) and the practical things we can do to minimise harm for the excited young recipients of tech gifts.

Technology can impact family dynamics, personal safety and wellbeing. So gift thoughtfully and safely these holidays and introduce any new device alongside healthy and safe online habits.

[Read the Gift Guide](#)



Buckle up! Immersive technology has landed

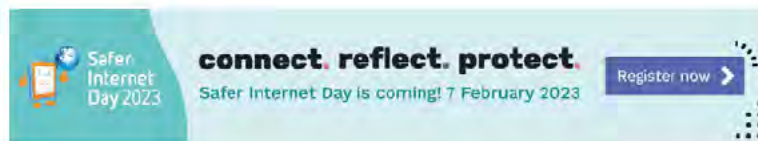
Virtual reality headsets that immerse children in 360-degree worlds where they swim with sharks, whales and

mermaids. Technology that transports them to the sights, sounds and sensations of ancient Rome. Multi-player gaming where they touch and feel their opponents.

This isn't future tech, it's today's tech – and it's all waiting at a retail store near you this holiday season.

[Get up to speed on immersive tech](#) in the latest blog from the eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant.

[Read more](#)



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Global Online Safety Regulators Network



The global digital landscape is rapidly evolving, with the pendulum swinging towards a greater focus on online harms by governments and industry.

In response, we have joined forces with regulators from Fiji, Ireland and the United Kingdom to encourage and coordinate global efforts to make the online world safer.

Today, we're pleased to officially launch the [Global Online Safety Regulators' Network](#) at the Family Online Safety Institute Conference (14 November 2022, Washington DC EST).

The Network is a collaboration between the first movers in online safety regulation – Australia's eSafety Commissioner, Fiji's Online Safety Commission, and Ofcom in the UK – with support from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

The Network is intended to pave the way for a coherent international approach to online safety regulation, by enabling members to share information, experience and best practices.

A key aim of the Network will be to encourage new international members and create a safer and more positive global digital environment. Members will share a commitment to act independently of commercial and political influence, as well as to human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

[Visit our website](#) to see the Network's Terms of Reference, Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Action.

While we were the first online safety regulator, we're no longer alone in this endeavour. The time is right to link up, learn from each other and look at new ways of working together to make the online world safer for everyone.

Julie Inman Grant
eSafety Commissioner

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New resource to help you speak with your kids about online safety

eSafety's [Mighty heroes](#) is a new resource for kids aged 5 - 8 years old. It features four short-animated videos and conversation starters for parents to talk to kids and reflect on the online safety messages in each chapter.

There are four heroes - **Wanda the echidna**, **River the sugar glider**, **Dusty the frilled neck lizard**, and **Billie the bilby** - and each has an online safety superpower to share with your family.

You can also hear the eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, talk about the Mighty heroes on the latest [Squiz Kids podcast](#).

[Meet the Mighty heroes](#)



Make smart and safe tech gift choices this holiday season

The latest technology can make great gifts for children and young people, but it's important to be aware of the

risks that come along with these gadgets.

The [eSafety Gift Guide](#) offers advice on what to consider when giving kids gifts like drones, gaming headsets and wearable devices, as well as whether a device is age appropriate and what parental controls are available.

You can also learn more about [immersive technologies](#) and how to help young people interact in virtual environments safely.

[Read the Gift Guide](#)

Our devices are put away in the kitchen cupboard


Cam	Lucas	Yasmin	Mum	Dad
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Time 6pm	Time 6pm	Time 8pm	Time 10pm	Time 10pm

Kick off the new year with a family tech agreement

A family tech agreement is a set of rules about how devices, like smartphones, tablets, computers, TVs and gaming consoles, are used in your home.

[Download a tech agreement template](#) and get working on a set of rules that will work for your family.

[Download a tech agreement](#)

 **connect. reflect. protect.** Safer Internet Day is coming! 7 February 2023 [Register now](#)

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Create a whole-school approach to online safety in 2023

eSafety's [Best Practice Framework](#) supports a whole-school approach to online safety education, focusing on fostering student wellbeing and preventing harm.

The Framework takes a strengths-based approach to online safety teaching and learning and is supported by F-12 curriculum-aligned resources. It creates a supportive environment for educators that includes policies and procedures, professional learning, parent and carer education and reporting pathways for online safety.

Access the [Best Practice Framework](#) and [Implementation Guide](#) to support your planning for 2023.

[Learn more](#)



Share eSafety's Gift Guide with your parent community

The annual [eSafety Gift Guide](#) provides information on smart toys, tablets and drones, as well as a spotlight on new [immersive technologies](#) such as virtual and augmented reality.

Families can find advice on what to consider with tech gifts, including whether a device is age appropriate and what parental controls are available.

Share the [Gift Guide](#) with your school community and help parents and carers stay informed this holiday season.

[See the Gift Guide](#)



Share with your school community: eSafety's 2023 Parent and Carer webinar series

Our [Parent and Carer webinar series](#) returns in 2023 and includes new, bite-sized 30-minute sessions, offering busy parents another way to engage with online safety.

The series will cover topics for primary and secondary-aged parents, including:

- eSafety 101
- Setting your child up for success online
- Navigating online friendships
- Getting started with social media
- Sending nudes and sexting

Please [share the 2023 calendar](#) in your school newsletter and social media channels.

Download the 2023 Parent and Carer Webinar
Calendar



What is image-based abuse?

[Image-based abuse](#) (IBA) occurs when an intimate image or video is shared or threatened to be shared without the

consent of the person pictured. eSafety and law enforcement have seen an increase in [sexual extortion](#) reports – a form of blackmail where someone threatens to share intimate images of you unless you give in to their demands.

The [Young People](#) section of our website offers advice and support you can share with your secondary students, so they know what to do if this happens to them, or someone they know.

Educators can also access [curriculum-aligned resources](#) on respectful online relationships.

[Learn More](#)



Safer Internet Day is coming!

[Safer Internet Day](#) is on 7 February 2023 – keep an eye out for the education kits coming in January.

In 2023, remember to join one of eSafety's [virtual classrooms](#) (primary), access [educator professional learning](#) and share [parent and carer webinars](#) with school families.

See all of eSafety's curriculum-aligned classroom resources, suitable for wellbeing teaching and learning activities, at esafety.gov.au/educators.

[Sign up now for Safer Internet Day](#)

Find out how eSafety handles, manages and protects your personal information, see our [privacy policy](#).

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Dear Colleague,

Today I have published a [transparency report](#) summarising the information we obtained from some of the world's biggest tech companies, through new powers under Australia's Online Safety Act.

This information details what these tech companies are doing to detect, remove and prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) material on their platforms and services.

The aim of this report is to improve the transparency and accountability of companies by compelling them to provide better information about what they are doing to keep Australians safe on their services and making sure platforms are accountable for their actions, and incentivised to lift their standards.

What did we discover?

This report shows significant variation in the steps being taken to protect users by the seven companies we issued notices to – Apple, Meta, WhatsApp, Microsoft, Skype, Snap and Omegle.

There is no common baseline, either between companies or even across a company's own services. For example, eSafety found that:

- some companies use well established “digital fingerprinting” technology tools to identify images or videos previously identified as being CSEA material across all the services eSafety asked about, and other companies use these tools on some of their services, but not others.
- some companies are checking for new or “unseen” CSEA material, or using technology to detect potential grooming conversations, while other companies argued that there is no technology good enough to do either of these things.
- most companies who we asked about did not identify specific steps being taken to identify the abuse of children through live video calls, conferences or streams.

- there are significant differences in the variety of steps being taken to prevent users who are banned for previous abuse re-registering with new accounts (recidivism) and in the speed with which companies are responding to user reports of child sexual exploitation – responses vary from 4 minutes to 2 days (and up to 19 days where cases needed “re-review”).
- some companies have no reporting options at all within the app or service, instead requiring users to contact the company via email to complain about illegal or harmful activity on the service.

Why are we publishing this report?

In August this year I issued legal notices under the Online Safety Act 2021. These notices relate to the Basic Online Safety Expectations (‘the Expectations’). The Expectations give eSafety powers to ask specific questions about what companies are doing to protect Australians.

Financial penalties can apply for those who do not respond. I was pleased that all seven companies responded within the legal timeframe.

Some of the most harmful material online today involves the sexual exploitation of children, an activity no longer confined to hidden corners of the dark web but prevalent on the mainstream platforms we and our children use every day.

We know there are proven tools available to stop this horrific material being identified and recirculated, but many tech companies publish insufficient information about where or how these tools operate, and too often claim that certain safety measures are not technically feasible.

My interest in issuing the notices – and in publishing summaries of the information we obtained through the notices - is to better understand the true scale of this issue, and in so doing shine a light on online safety standards, practices, and procedures.

Where to next?

The responses to these notices have helped us build an understanding of what these companies are doing – or not doing – to protect children from abuse. And they reveal there is still much work to do.

eSafety will continue to work with industry to make sure it is meeting all of the Expectations. This includes by providing advice and issuing further regulatory guidance.

We will continue to lift the veil of secrecy that has surrounded this issue for so long and we will continue to use our legal powers to require transparency and accountability from more companies, and also to broaden our questions to encompass a wider range of online harms.

We will also consider issuing statements of compliance and non-compliance where we identify clear signs that companies are meeting or failing to meet the expectations.

Our broader powers mean compliance with minimum standards is no longer optional. On 18 November 2022 I received mandatory industry codes covering eight sections of the online ecosystem. I am considering whether these mandatory codes, drafted by industry, meet certain statutory tests, including whether each code provides adequate community safeguards in matters of substantial relevance to the community. If they do not, I can determine an industry standard.

While there is still much work to do, one thing is clear – the era of opaque industry self-regulation is over, and we must work together as a global community to push the tech sector to do more and to do better.

For more information on the Expectations, [see our website and regulatory guidance](#), or contact s 22

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

Julie Inman Grant
eSafety Commissioner

[Read the report](#)

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Get your school involved this Safer Internet Day

[Download the educator kit](#) for ways to get your school involved. You'll find resources like a poster, social tiles, chatterbox activity and more.

Register middle and upper primary classes for a [virtual classroom](#). The live webinar will help students explore what it means to **connect.** safely and mindfully, **reflect.** before they act and how to **protect.** themselves and others when they are online.

[Get involved](#)



Free K-12 teacher professional learning

eSafety offers [free professional learning](#) for educators and others working with children and young people. It includes:

- [Live webinars](#) on topics such as *Responding and reporting: Critical online incidents in school settings*

and *Digital rights and responsibilities of students and educators*.

- Short, [self-paced online learning](#) for lower primary school educators.
- [Webinar-based training for school chaplains](#) as part of the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP).

[Register now](#)



Share with your school community: eSafety's 2023 parent and carer webinar schedule

A whole-school approach to online safety education includes support for parents. [eSafety parent webinars](#) help by giving them the knowledge, skills and tools to support their kids to have safe experiences online.

This year, we're offering bite-sized [30-minute webinars](#) for primary and secondary school parents. [Download the 2023 parent webinar schedule](#) and share it in your school newsletter and social media channels.

[Download the webinar schedule](#)



Roll out the Best Practice Framework at your school

eSafety's [Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education](#) establishes a consistent national approach. It supports schools across Australia to deliver high-quality programs with clearly defined elements and effective practices.

An [Implementation Guide](#) supports the Framework and will help school leaders, educators and providers design, deliver and review online safety education programs.

Read the [frequently asked questions](#) to learn more about rolling out the Framework in your school.

[Read more](#)

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With [Safer Internet Day](#) just around the corner, we're pleased to share our [back-to-school campaign kit for educators](#). Download and use these resources to plan your Safer Internet Day activities and to prioritise online safety at your school for the year.

In the kit, you'll find content for your school newsletter, poster, social tiles, chatterbox activity and much more.

Thank you for all your work keeping young people safer online. Together, we can make every day a Safer Internet Day.

[Download educator kit](#)



Here are some quick links to ways you can get your school community involved this Safer Internet Day:

- Join our [Virtual Classroom webinar](#)
- Download the [eSafety Toolkit for Schools](#)
- Join our [webinars for parents and carers](#)
- Download our [digital signage](#)
- Join our [eSafety Champions Network](#)
- View our [resources for primary schools](#)
- View our [resources for secondary schools](#)

[Get involved](#)

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Marking its 20th year, Safer Internet Day is here and we are calling on everyone to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.** whenever they are online.

Connect safely by keeping apps and devices secure and regularly review your privacy settings.

Reflect on how your actions may affect others or jeopardise your safety.

And **protect yourself and loved ones** by visiting esafety.gov.au for advice and support, or to report serious online abuse.

Thank you for all your support in helping us start a national conversation about online safety. We encourage you to keep the momentum going today by posting and sharing on social media using **#SID2023**, **#ConnectReflectProtect** and tagging **@eSafetyOffice**.

It's not too late to get involved! Go to our [campaign page](#) for a range of ideas and resources to help you celebrate Safer Internet Day.

[I want to get involved!](#)



Australian Prime Minister supports Safer Internet Day

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese invites all Australians to "connect, reflect, protect" on the 20th annual [Safer Internet Day](#).

[Watch video](#)



New research: Adults' negative online experiences jump by 30%

To coincide with Safer Internet Day, today we released new findings that provide a glimpse into the [online experiences of Australian adults](#).

eSafety found that 3 in 4 adults aged 18 to 65 years have had at least one negative online experience in the past 12 months, an increase of 30% compared to 2019. Concerningly, one in six Australians admitted to having treated someone else badly online in the last 12 months.

[These findings](#) show that there has never been a more important time to advocate for a more respectful, kinder online world.

[Learn more](#)



Hear from the eSafety Youth Council in their letter to Big Tech

Our [eSafety Youth Council](#) comprises 24 bright and diverse young people across Australia who provide invaluable advice to eSafety and government on how to help them have safer, more positive experiences online.

In light of Safer Internet Day, the eSafety Youth Council have penned an open letter to Big Tech, urging them to put their safety and wellbeing ahead of profits.

[Learn more](#)

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Join eSafety's free professional learning for teachers

We provide [free live webinars](#) on various online safety topics, including *Responding and reporting: Critical online incidents in school settings* and *Online harmful sexual behaviours, misinformation, and emerging technologies*.

For lower primary school educators, we also offer [self-paced online modules](#) covering technology safety, respect, and critical thinking.

Register now



Improve your school's online safety practices

Assess your school's readiness to manage online safety issues and create a safe and supportive environment using eSafety's [Prepare suite of resources](#).

Use the online self-assessment tool, *Prepare 1*, to identify areas of strength and improvement.

[Go to eSafety's Prepare resource](#)



Posters and digital messages for schools

Encourage online safety at your school by displaying eSafety posters and digital messages. Educators can download:

- [Posters for lower primary students](#)
- [Posters and conversation starters](#) for primary and secondary schools
- [Digital messages](#) for primary and secondary schools

[Go to classroom resources](#)



Support your school and become an eSafety Champion

eSafety Champions prioritise online safety in schools and have access to the latest resources and opportunities.

We're aiming to have one Champion in every primary and secondary school in Australia, ensuring all schools are supported to deal with online safety issues.

Join the eSafety Champions Network

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Use these eSafety resources or share with your community to help us all stay safer online.

Explore our **LGBTIQ+ learning lounge**



The [LGBTIQ+ learning lounge](#) explores a range of topics to help the LGBTIQ+ community stay safe online. The resource includes practical tips and guidance on dealing with online trolls, staying safe when meeting people online, and what to do if things go wrong.

[Go to the learning lounge](#)



Join our social media self-defence webinar

eSafety's [social media self-defence workshop](#) aims to help women use social media platforms more safely and effectively.

The webinars cover how to set up your social media accounts and profiles with safety in mind, and how to deal with online abuse through muting, blocking and reporting.

[Register now](#) for the next webinar on Wednesday 22 March.

[Find out more](#)



Make a report if something goes wrong online

If you or someone you know experiences online abuse, you can do something about it. Depending on the social media service or online platform, you can report, block or mute the abuse.

If it meets our thresholds, eSafety can also remove harmful online content.

[Learn how to report online abuse](#)



Tell us how we can make Safer Internet Day even better

Thank you to everyone who got behind [Safer Internet Day](#) on 7 February.

If you got involved, [we'd love to hear your feedback](#) by filling out our quick survey.

Missed Safer Internet Day this year? No probs. You can still [download the resource kits](#) for ideas to get your workplace or school involved in making every day a Safer Internet Day.

[Complete the survey](#)



 eSafety Commissioner

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Free webinar: Helping young people manage their online friendships

Join us at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29 March for our [Navigating online friendships](#) webinar.

This 30-minute webinar will provide you with tips and advice on how to support young people in having safe and respectful online relationships. You'll learn what to do if something happens at school and ends up online, as well as how to report it to social media providers and eSafety.

[Register now](#)



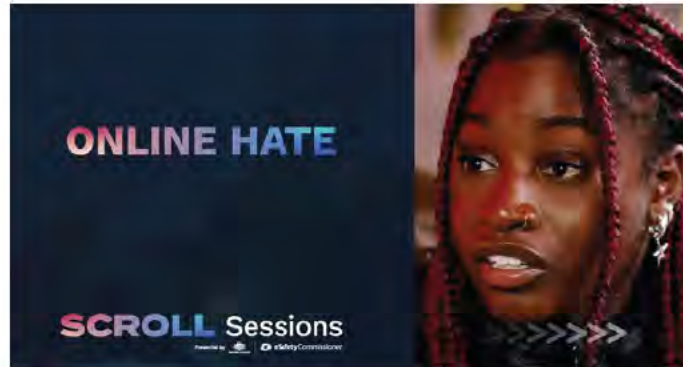
Every online safety conversation counts

Regularly talking about online safety is important to keep children and young people safe online. Even simple conversations while in the car, via text message or while playing video games can make a big difference.

Use eSafety's [online safety resources](#) to help you feel more confident having these conversations with your family. There are four short videos you can watch and

easy-to-read advice sheets available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Tamil and Vietnamese.

[Go to online safety family resources](#)



What do young people think about: online hate

In this episode of our 'Scroll sessions', young people share their experiences with online hate and negative online culture. While most online interactions are fun and positive, these young people highlight the impact of experiencing online hate. [Watch the video](#) to learn about the diverse ways young people cope with this issue.

Start a conversation about online hate in your family.

- Talk about safe online spaces and sites where online hate is more common.
- Be attentive to your child's perspective.
- Encourage them to see diversity as a positive and valuable part of society.

[Watch video](#)

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“There’s nothing simple about this, but we can make tomorrow better than today”

- Jess Hill

Dear educators,

SBS Learn, the eSafety Commissioner and Body Safety Australia are proud to share this teacher resource, [*Creating Consent Culture*](#). This project was developed collaboratively by our organisations and is inspired by [*Asking For It*](#), a new SBS documentary presented by investigative journalist Jess Hill.

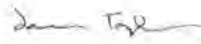
Asking For It compels us to have a national conversation about the epidemic of sexual violence impacting millions of Australians. Every day in Australia around 85 sexual assaults are reported on average ^[1] with an estimated 90 percent of sexual assaults going unreported.^[2]

The [resource content](#) is differentiated for Year 5 through to Year 10 and features short age-appropriate clips (for secondary students) from *Asking For It* as well as scaffolded discussion questions, activities and opportunities for additional learning.

SBS Learn, the eSafety Commissioner and Body Safety Australia recognise the challenges in broaching the topic of consent with young people. Carefully designed, quality educational experiences are essential to young people’s ability to thrive and reach their full potential in a society that is safe, accepting, and holds itself to account. This resource helps build capacity for teachers for the 2024 introduction of the mandatory consent education curriculum.

Thank you for using these materials with your learners,
who are the future leaders and changemakers for
Australian society.

Yours sincerely,



James Taylor
SBS Managing Director
Australia CEO



Julie Inman-Grant
eSafety Commissioner



Deanne Carlson
Body Safety



[1] Based on ABS statistics from July 2022, there were 31,118 sexual assaults reported in 2021 – on average there were almost 600 (31,118 divided by 52 weeks = 596 per week) sexual assaults reported every week or on average there were 85 sexual assaults reported every day (31,118 divided by 365 days = approx. 85 per day). Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. "Sexual assaults increase for tenth year in a row." ABS, 28 July 2022, accessed Jan 2023.

[2] In almost 9 in 10 incidents (87%, or 554,000), women who experienced their most recent aggravated sexual assault by a male in the last 10 years did not contact the police. Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2020. Sexual assault in Australia. Cat. no. FDV 5. Canberra: AIHW, accessed Jan 2023.

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New resources to support First Nations people be deadly online

Latest [eSafety research](#) shows that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are turning to technology for cultural expression and engagement. They are almost twice as likely as young people in Australia overall to post original video or music online, and more than twice as likely to post their own story or blog.

Unfortunately, they are also almost three times more likely to experience hate speech.

[New resources](#) to encourage better experiences for communities and support First Nations people navigate the online world safely are now available. These include stories from mob and new video and audio content in multiple First Nations languages.

[Go to First Nations resources](#)



Upcoming webinar: Getting started with social media

Learn how to navigate your child's social media use with eSafety's upcoming webinar, [Getting started with social media: TikTok, YouTube, Instagram](#).

Parents and carers can introduce their children to social media whilst maintaining healthy boundaries around technology use. This webinar helps parents build their children's digital skills and confidence, allowing them to have more positive experiences and better deal with risks online.

Join us for practical tips and advice on topics that include creating a positive digital identity, privacy and online sharing, and what to do if something goes wrong online.

[Register now for webinar](#)



Express learning: Watch bite size videos on ways to keep your family safe online

eSafety's [Express learning series](#) provides parents and carers with practical tips and advice on common online safety concerns. The videos are 5 to 10 minutes long and cover four important topics, including:

- Setting up parental controls
- Digital technologies and mental health
- Cyberbullying and online drama
- Online sexual harassment and image-based abuse.

[Watch the express learning series](#)

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Engage your school community about online safety

Encourage your school community to create and maintain safe online environments using our [Engage, School Community Engagement Plan](#). This valuable resource helps you align your school plans and policies and identify strategies for engaging with your community.

This resource is part of eSafety's [Toolkit for Schools](#), a comprehensive resource designed to support online safety within your school community.

[Go to the Engage resource](#)



New respectful relationship resources for secondary school students

We have collaborated with SBS Learn to develop four new resources for teachers to share with their secondary school students:

- [Being in respectful relationships](#)

- [Creating positive change](#)
- [Giving and seeking help in relationships](#)
- [Power and gender](#)

The webpages for young people also link to an [SBS Learn classroom resource](#). See all eSafety resources for young people at esafety.gov.au/young-people.

[Go to young people resources](#)



Attention all young filmmakers!

The [U.K.'s Childnet Film Competition: International](#) is calling on young people from around the world to create a short film centred on this year's online safety theme - *"Time to talk – How can people support each other online?"*.

Primary and secondary school students in Australia are encouraged to create a two minute film on this year's theme for a chance to win £500 (approx. AUD\$900) to use towards film equipment for their school. Teachers have until Wednesday 21 June to submit their students' entries.

eSafety is also proud to have two members of the [eSafety Youth Council](#) serve as judges in two categories of this year's international competition.

[Find out more](#)



Share this learning resource with your parent community

eSafety's [express learning](#) series provides parents and carers with practical tips and advice on common online safety concerns. The videos are 5 to 10 minutes long and cover four important topics, including:

- Setting up parental controls
- Digital technologies and mental health
- Cyberbullying and online drama
- Online sexual harassment and image-based abuse

Share this [learning resource](#) in your school newsletter and other school channels.

[Go to express learning parent resource](#)

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National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

Australia's leading bullying prevention initiative, [National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence](#), is on **Friday 18th August 2023**.

eSafety is supporting this important day with a virtual classroom for middle to upper primary students.

Register your class for the [virtual classroom](#) and help your students learn the impact their words and actions online can have on other people.

[Register your class now](#)



Help improve resources for lower and middle primary students

Join us in updating the ever popular [Hectors World™](#), the animated video series supported by lesson plans and worksheets designed for lower and middle primary students.

We're interested to know what you think should be covered in a new series, what resources you find most useful and anything else we need to consider.

Please take a moment to complete the survey. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes.

[Go to the survey](#)



SBS *Asking For It*: New teaching resources

Based on SBS documentary [Asking For It](#), the new teacher resource *Creating Consent Culture* has been a collaborative effort between eSafety, SBS Learn and Body Safety Australia.

The resource supports teachers in empowering young people to develop and maintain safe and respectful relationships. It explores consent, unpacks language and gender stereotypes, and highlights safe online practices.

[Go to Creating Consent Culture resource](#)



Explore the latest lower primary classroom resources

eSafety has five new curriculum-aligned [classroom activities for lower primary](#).

Topics covered by the new activities include: protecting your personal information, respectful relationships, understanding the connected world, developing critical thinking skills and help-seeking strategies.

These resources can be used in conjunction with eSafety's [professional learning modules for teachers](#).

[Go to lower primary resources](#)



Navigating consent and staying safe online for secondary schools

Teaching what's okay and what isn't when it comes to consent online is vital to supporting young people as they navigate life online.

Our [Young People resource hub](#) includes resources you can use in the classroom and share with your students to help spark meaningful discussions about staying safe online. It has resources like [Unsafe or Unwanted Contact](#), where students can learn about consent and setting boundaries online. You can also find short videos created by young people for young people.

[Go to young people resources](#)

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Online safety advice for every family, now available in more languages

eSafety's [*Online Safety for Every Family suite of resources*](#) helps parents and carers from all backgrounds protect their families online.

To help more families start conversations with their children about online safety it is [now available in additional languages](#): Uyghur, Hindi, Nepalese, Swahili, Burmese, Tigrinya, Punjabi and Singhalese.

[Learn more](#)



Upcoming webinar: Online boundaries and consent for parents of primary-aged children

As parents and caregivers, it's essential to support young people in developing skills that protect their privacy and boundaries online. Learn how you can help build these skills at our upcoming [Online Boundaries and Consent webinar](#) for parents and carers of primary-aged children.

The webinar covers practical strategies to start conversations about respectful relationships, consent and setting boundaries online.

[Sign-up now](#)



Celebrating NAIDOC week

[NAIDOC Week](#) celebrations will be held across Australia from 2 to 9 July 2023, marking a special time to celebrate and recognise the history, achievements and cultures of First Nations peoples.

This year's theme – For Our Elders – highlights the contributions Elders have made and continue to make in our communities and families. Activities and [events are happening nation-wide](#), providing you and your family with opportunities to engage and immerse yourselves in the spirit of NAIDOC week.

eSafety is committed to providing [online safety resources](#) tailored to the needs of First Nations individuals and communities, ensuring a safer and more inclusive online experience for all.

[Learn more](#)



Start the chat: Talking to young people about sending nudes

[eSafety research](#) shows 47% of young people aged 14–17 have received intimate messages online. You can help prepare your child by having open conversations about their online experiences from an early age. That way, they're more likely to come to you for advice if they see anything that makes them uncomfortable or upset.

[Our advice about this issue](#) covers:

- How to start the conversation about nudes
- Resources to share with your child
- Links to more advice on spotting sextortion and blackmail scams
- Understanding image-based abuse and how to help
- How to help your child get intimate images taken down

[Learn more](#)



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Protecting our (increasingly younger) children from cyberbullying

The internet has given children and young people new opportunities to learn, play and socialise. However, this increased online presence, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic, also exposes them to new harms and risks.

Concerningly, reports to eSafety's cyberbullying complaints team show younger children are increasingly experiencing negative online behaviour. Reports of serious cyberbullying of children between the ages of eight and 13 years has more than tripled compared to pre-pandemic 2019 – jumping from a little over 200 complaints in 2019 to almost 740 in 2022.

With Term 3 just around the corner, take a few minutes to [learn more about cyberbullying](#) – what it is, ways to protect your child, and how to get help if your child experiences it.

[Read more](#)

Tools and resources to safeguard children from cyberbullying

eSafety is here to help with advice and resources to help you support your family's online safety.

- Set up a [family tech agreement](#) and [parental controls](#)
- Explore ways to stay safe online for [parents](#), [kids](#) and [young people](#)
- Learn digital skills for staying safe in games and apps using [The eSafety Guide](#)

- Get help for online issues by [reporting to eSafety](#)
- Join an [eSafety webinar](#) to help your children have positive online experiences
- Download [online safety resources](#), including this [guide to reporting cyberbullying](#)



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Upcoming parent webinar: Online boundaries and consent

As parents and carers, it's essential to support young people in developing skills that protect their privacy and boundaries online. Learn how you can help build these skills at our upcoming [Online boundaries and consent webinar](#).

The 30-minute webinar is for parents and carers of young people in primary school and covers a range of topics, including:

- why talking about consent with primary school-aged children is so important
- easy ways to explain online boundaries and consent
- opportunities to discuss and model consent through discussions, scenarios, and practising helpful phrases for saying 'no'.

[Register now](#) for the webinar and visit esafety.gov.au/parents for more eSafety resources for parents and carers.

[Register now](#)



Helping your child build respectful relationships

Parents and carers play an important role in helping young people build self-respect and understand how to respect others.

Using our respectful relationship resources, you can help prepare your child by having open conversations about what a respectful relationship is, how to be respectful, and exploring identity and inclusivity.

Our respectful relationship resources, developed in collaboration with SBS Learn, are for high school students and include:

- [Being in a respectful relationship](#)
- [Creating positive change](#)
- [Giving and seeking help in relationships](#)
- [Power and gender in relationships](#)

See all eSafety resources for young people at esafety.gov.au/young-people.

[Go to young people resources](#)



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National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence virtual classroom

Australia's leading bullying prevention initiative, [National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence](#), is on Friday 18 August 2023.

To support this event, eSafety is holding a virtual classroom for students in Years 3 to 6.

Register your class for [Be an eSafe kid: Take action against online bullying](#), and help your students to identify cyberbullying and know what to do if they're bullied online.

[Register your class now](#)



National Child Protection Week - virtual classrooms, resources and more

[National Child Protection Week](#) is happening across Australia from Sunday 3 to Saturday 9 September 2023. It's an opportunity to recognise and promote the safety

and wellbeing of Australian children with the message that *'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go'*.

To support National Child Protection Week 2023, eSafety has learning activities for students in Years 3 to 6, including:

- A [virtual classroom](#) that explores how students can identify boundaries and support each other to be safe online.
- An [Online Boundaries and Consent resource](#) that supports students in learning about online consent and permission.

[Register your class](#)



Educate your school community about online safety

Encourage your school community to create and maintain a safe online environment using our [Educate resource](#).

This valuable resource assists schools in developing the knowledge and capabilities of students, staff and parents/carers so they know how to keep themselves safe and can use effective help-seeking and conflict-resolution skills if something goes wrong.

This resource is part of eSafety's [Toolkit for Schools](#), a comprehensive resource designed to support online safety within your school community.

[Go to the Educate resource](#)



Become an eSafety Champion at your school

[eSafety Champions](#) are teachers, wellbeing professionals or staff representatives who make online safety a priority at their school.

Our Champions have exclusive access to online training and events with eSafety specialists, and they have access to our expert education and training team.

We're committed to supporting all schools to prevent and manage online safety issues. We encourage all primary and secondary schools across Australia to nominate a staff member to sign up as an eSafety Champion.

[Sign-up now](#)



Wear It Purple Day

Friday 25 August is Wear It Purple Day, an international day to raise awareness of the experiences of LGBTIQ+ young people and to show them that there is hope, support, and acceptance for those with diverse sexuality, sex, and/or gender and that they have the right to be proud of who they are.

Our [research](#) tells us that LGBTQI+ people are more likely to experience online abuse. Help create a safe and inclusive online environment with our [online safety advice and support for LGBTQI+ people and communities](#).

[Being out, trans or gender diverse online](#) is also a great resource you can share with upper secondary students that provides them with tips on connecting safely with others online and what to do if things go wrong.

[Go to LGBTQI+ resources](#)

[Go to eSafety resources](#)

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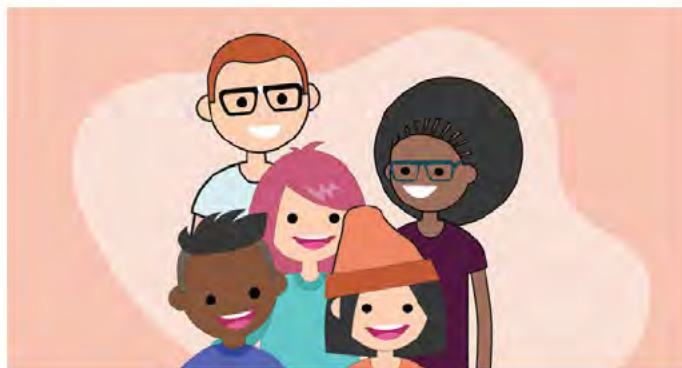
Upcoming parent webinar: Getting the most out of gaming

Our research shows that 56% of children aged 8 to 17 have played an online game with others. As parents and carers, how can we ensure they have fun and stay safe? Join our free 45-minute webinar, Getting the most out of gaming. Tailored for parents or carers of children aged 7 to 14, the webinar will cover:

- Benefits of gaming and boosting in-game experiences
- Essential safety and privacy settings
- Promoting balanced gaming
- Addressing online risks and dealing with in-game bullying.

Let's empower young people for safe online gaming experiences!

[Register now](#)



Support children online this National Child Protection Week

[National Child Protection Week](#) is happening across Australia from Sunday 3 to Saturday 9 September 2023. It's an opportunity to recognise and promote the safety and wellbeing of Australian children with the message that *'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go'*.

To support National Child Protection Week, we have [resources tailored for parents and carers](#) to help your child feel safe, supported, and connected online.

[Discover our parent resources](#)



Protecting teens from rising sexual extortion scams

eSafety is seeing an increase in reports of sexual extortion, particularly for boys aged 15-17. [Sexual extortion or 'sextortion'](#) is a form of blackmail where someone threatens to share a nude or sexual image or video of you unless you give in to their demands.

As parents and carers, open conversations can help prevent sexual extortion and help your child recover if it happens to them. Talk to your teens to help equip them with knowledge, let them know they aren't alone, and remind them there's always help available.

Every conversation counts. Talk to young people about sexual extortion.

[Learn more about sextortion](#)



An interactive exhibition in Australia's capital


eSafety is proud to be part of the Spirit of Service exhibition, a project by the Australian Public Service (APS) that recognises the efforts of 48 agencies important to our government's operations.

The interactive APS exhibition, featuring a large photographic mural with 200 employees, reveals the passionate individuals behind our public service and illuminates a world of potential careers. It's an engaging way for young minds to envision a future shaping our nation.

The Exhibition opens on 31 August 2023 and runs for seven years at Senate Undercroft at the [Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House](#).

[Learn more](#)



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New Privacy and Security classroom resource

Explore our new [Privacy and security](#) resource tailored for Years 3-6 students. This resource aligns with the school curriculum and teaches students the importance of privacy, how to secure online accounts and what to do if things go wrong.

[Go to the new resource](#)



Professional learning for lower primary educators

eSafety's self-paced [professional learning modules](#), developed with Early Childhood Australia, empower lower primary educators with practical and evidence-based strategies for online safety education.

There are four modules:

- Using technology safely and responsibly.

- Being respectful online.
- Building resilience and help-seeking skills.
- Fostering early critical thinking.

[eSafety's lower primary resources](#) can be used in the classroom to complement these modules.

[Get started](#)



Empower students to be online upstanders

An upstander is someone who chooses to support a person who is being abused or harmed. Use our [How to be an upstander](#) resource to encourage classroom conversations that foster this proactive stance, so students can navigate the online world safely and respectfully.

eSafety has additional resources to support Years 7-10 students in learning about respectful online relationships, including:

- [Respect Matters](#) – a classroom resource that promotes respect for people with diverse perspectives and experiences.
- [Online Hate](#) – a classroom resource where students can learn about online hate and how to act respectfully online.

[Learn more](#)



Generative AI: eSafety's position

'Generative AI' is a term used to describe the process of using machine learning to create digital content such as new text, images, audio, video and multimodal simulations of experiences.

eSafety released a [new position statement](#) that examines the evolving landscape of generative AI, providing an overview of the generative AI lifecycle, examples of its use and misuse, and online safety risks and opportunities – including considerations for students, educators and families.

[Go to position statement](#)



Join us in New Zealand for the eSafety and Netsafe online safety conference

eSafety and Netsafe are proud to co-host another trans-Tasman online safety conference. For the first time since 2018, the conference will return to New Zealand on 24 & 25 October 2023 (in Te Pae, Christchurch).

The conference will be in-person and has a global perspective on online harm, with 14 international speakers. It's designed for academics, educators,

corporates, regulators, and industry reps working to create safer spaces online.

See the programme now at netsafe.org.nz

[Learn more](#)

[eSafety Centre](#)

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Online safety advice in First Nations languages

Our online safety advice animations are now available [in additional First Nations languages](#).

Find animated videos exploring how to be safe online and what to do if things go wrong in Aboriginal English, Torres Strait Islander Creole, NT Kriol, Kimberley Kriol, Arrente, Yolngu and more.

[Watch the in-language videos](#)



Hands-on online safety training for mob

eSafety offers a new [Strong People, Safe Spaces online safety training](#), tailored to First Nations organisations and communities with an active presence online.

The free training steps participants through ways to use and engage with social media safely, report online abuse, and support their own wellbeing. It has been developed to help you feel comfortable yarning about being deadly online with your community.

To learn more about the training and register your interest, please [complete this form](#).

[Contact us](#)



Download the First Nations toolkit and share our resources

Our [updated stakeholder toolkit](#) has all you need to share our First Nations resources including social media images, suggested copy, a poster promoting eSafety's new training and more.

Encourage your networks to explore eSafety's website to hear stories from mob, read the latest First Nations research and find tips and tricks to help them stay safe online.

We also encourage all Australians who witness online abuse, regardless of who the target may be, to be an upstander, rather than a bystander. This means supporting the person who is being abused or harmed and letting them know help is available. Find out more at eSafety.gov.au.


[Download the First Nations toolkit](#)

eSafety acknowledges all First Nations people for their continuing care of everything Country encompasses — land, waters and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, and to Elders past, present and future.

For culturally safe First Nations crisis support, you can call [13YARN](#) on 13 92 76.

They offer a free, confidential one-on-one yarning opportunity with an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 75 of 148

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People usually know how to keep themselves safe offline, but it's not always the case when we go online. In our latest initiative, we compare online safety to everyday objects that keep you safe – just like eSafety does when you go online.

When it comes to online safety, we can help. We educate Australians about online safety risks and help to remove harmful content such as [cyberbullying](#) of children and young people, [adult cyber abuse](#), [image-based abuse](#) and [illegal and restricted content](#).

Help get the word out about online safety! Forward this email to friends and family to let them know there's support available if they experience online abuse.

The eSafety Commissioner can support with:

- Advice for [parents](#), [kids](#) and [young people](#) on staying safe online
- Digital skills needed for staying safe in games and apps using the [eSafety Guide](#)
- [Webinars for parents and carers](#) to help children have positive online experiences
- Investigating [reports of serious online abuse](#) and help with the removal of this content.

Learn more at [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

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Celebrating Children's Week

Children's Week is happening across Australia from 21 to 29 October 2023. It's an opportunity to recognise that all children have the right to relax, play, and participate in activities they enjoy.

Celebrate Children's Week by saying YES to safe online play. When you join in children's online play, it supports family wellbeing and results in better outcomes for children now and in the future.

Want some resources to help bring play to online safety conversations? Here's where you can start:

- Read – [Online safety picture book and song](#).
- Do – [Story puzzles with Swoosh and Glide](#).
- Play – [Activities to introduce basic online safety concepts](#).

Encourage your child to share their online experiences with you.

[Explore parent resources](#)



Join our free webinar: Wellbeing and Digital Technologies

[eSafety research](#) shows that a third of children have sought emotional support online from friends or mental health support services.

Learn more about how games, apps and social media can influence young people's wellbeing with eSafety's [Wellbeing and Digital technologies webinar](#).

The webinar is designed for parents and carers of secondary school students and covers a range of topics including:

- the latest research on young people and time online
- steps to take if your child is exposed to distressing or harmful content
- the strategies young people can use to support friends online.

[Register now](#)



Grandparents in the digital world

Grandparents across Australia provide hours of care to young people every week. During this time, they often watch, share and play with them on devices.

Engaging in the digital world allows grandparents and children to learn from each other, building children's confidence and self-efficacy as they teach their grandparents about their online activities.

While it's educational, it's also important to be safe. Our [Online safety guide for grandparents](#) provides advice about online safety issues affecting young people. It includes a range of practical tips to help them talk about issues and manage them.

[Learn more](#)



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Applications open for the eSafety Youth Council

Do you know a young person aged 13-24 who is passionate about making a difference?

Applications are open for the [eSafety Youth Council](#). This is great opportunity for young people to share their voices with industry leaders and government to help us understand what a safer online world could look like, ensuring it resonates with and protects younger generations.

By joining the eSafety Youth Council, young people have the opportunity to:

- Co-design programs, policies and develop content that promotes a safer online environment for their generation.
- Work with government and leaders in the industry.
- Develop their professional skillset through learning opportunities.

We're looking for young people aged 13 to 24 from all over Australia with a range of personalities and backgrounds. Application responses can be submitted in written or other creative form, such as video, audio, poster, song - a great way to engage young people on online safety issues. **Applications close 1 December 2023.**

[Learn more](#)

Want a sneak peek at what's involved?

Check out the [open letter to Big Tech](#). This was written by our current Council asking Big Tech to do better and impose consequences on users who abuse and harass others, breaching platforms' own terms and service.

Watch now



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New professional learning for 2024

In 2024, eSafety will be offering our regular accredited training program as well as professional learning sessions that are designed to be incorporated into staff development days or a staff meeting.

The **Staff Meeting Series** kicks off in Term 1 with a few different sessions on offer:

- [Online safety considerations for generative AI in education \(Primary and Secondary\)](#) – 30 minute session on 29 and 30 January at 2pm (AEDT)
- [Supporting online gaming experiences \(Primary\)](#) – 45 minute session on 15 February at 3.45pm (AEDT)
- [Wellbeing and digital technologies \(Secondary\)](#) – 30 minute session 6 March at 3.45pm (AEDT).

We're also taking expressions of interest for a new **Social media self-defence for school leaders** webinar.

The 1-hour webinar empowers school leaders to navigate students social media use and will include:

- Online abuse in a school context
- eSafety's powers to assist adults
- Tech tools to manage social media accounts
- Response strategies to online abuse
- Resources to support staff and school leader wellbeing online.

Be the first to know when this course is released - [register your interest](#) today!



Sign up to support Safer Internet Day 2024

The Safer Internet Day 2024 campaign has officially kicked off! If you haven't already, [sign up to get your school involved](#). We're working on the education kits and will let you know as soon as they are available.

This Safer Internet Day, Tuesday 6 February 2024, we're encouraging you to take three simple actions when approaching online safety: Connect. Reflect. Protect.

By doing these things and sharing the Connect. Reflect. Protect message, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

[Register now](#)



New resources for sporting groups: Play it safe and fair on and offline

eSafety has launched new online safety resources to help recognise and respond to online abuse in sport from the

community to the elite level.

The [eSafety Sport resources](#) have been co-created with sporting organisations across Australia and include practical information on how to [recognise](#) and [deal with](#) online abuse in sport, as well as [top tips](#) to stay safe online.

The number one rule of respect in sport is just as important online as it is offline. Let's play by the same rules on and offline.

[Learn more](#)



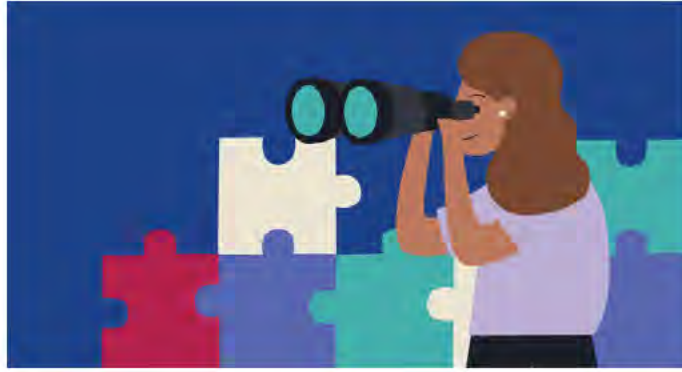
Childnet 2024 International Film competition

Do you have primary and secondary students who are passionate about film? Can they tell a good story, create animation, or inspire positive change?

[Childnet](#) is inviting young people worldwide to make a short film about online safety. This year's theme is 'How would you make the internet a better place?'

Spread the word and encourage students to apply before the competition closes at 5pm on 22 April 2024. Students can win a cash prize for their school by entering!

[Learn more](#)



Calling for young Australians to join eSafety's Youth Council

We're looking for young Australians, aged 13 to 24, to join the [eSafety Youth Council](#).

It's an opportunity for young people to share their voice with industry leaders and the government to help us understand what a safer online world could look like, ensuring it resonates with and protects younger generations.

Application responses can be submitted in written or other creative form, such as video, audio, poster, song - a great way to engage your class on online safety issues.

Applications close 1 December 2023.

[Learn more](#)

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Your guide for
tech gifts

Looking for safe tech gifts? Explore the eSafety Gift Guide

How do you choose tech gifts that are both fun and safe for your kids? The [eSafety Gift Guide](#) is here to help. We've gone through the latest tech trends to bring you straightforward advice to help make smart and safe tech gift choices for children and young people.

This year, the digital playground has evolved, especially in the world of [online gaming](#). Read our guide for the latest updates and find practical tips on a range of tech gifts - from [gaming memberships and virtual currencies](#), [drones](#), [smartphones](#), [wearable tech](#) and more.

Remember, the gadgets we choose do more than entertain; they can influence personal safety and the wellbeing of our families. That's why healthy online habits are important right from the start.

Choose tech gifts wisely this holiday season, ensuring they're fun, safe, and age-appropriate for your child. Gift smart, gift safe, and be online safety conscious when giving gifts this holiday season.

[Learn more](#)



eSafety Youth Council applications close next week

We're looking for young Australians aged 13 to 24, to join the [eSafety Youth Council](#).

It's an opportunity for young people to have their say on online safety issues that matter most to them. They will help us understand what young people experience online and how their experiences and safety can be improved.

Applications close **4pm (AEDT) 1 December 2023**. If you know someone who might be interested, encourage them to apply today!

[Learn more](#)



Meet Wizz: The new app teens are talking about

Discover [Wizz](#), the latest app gaining popularity among teenagers and young adults. It's a social media platform designed for real-time global chat, similar to dating apps.

Users can swipe through profiles that show a person's photo, first name, age, location and interests.

Wizz uses an external age-verification tool to estimate age with AI technology when a selfie is uploaded so that people are matched with people of a similar age. However, it's important to know that the app can match adults with children, and some content is for mature audiences.

Stay informed about the apps your children use with [The eSafety Guide](#).

[Learn more](#)



Raising children in a digital world

Help safeguard children's digital and physical wellbeing

[Australian Children of the Digital Age \(ACODA\)](#) is calling on parents/carers to participate in a study exploring digital technology use by children aged between six months and five years so that they can understand the impact of technology on the wellbeing of young children.

- **What's the commitment?** 30-minute survey once a year for four years.
- **What's in it for me?** \$50 eGift card upon survey completion. The results will also help inform practices to safeguard children's wellbeing.
- **How to get involved?** Visit acoda.org.au.

[Learn more](#)



Celebrate International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD)

[International Day of People with Disability](#) is on 3 December 2023. The day is dedicated to promoting awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities worldwide.

You can get involved by [holding or attending a IDPwD event](#) in your workplace or community, or by raising awareness of the day and promoting inclusion.

Did you know we're supporting some projects for this audience through our Online Safety Grants Program?

- [Online Safety Training by Interaction Disability Services](#) - Free online safety training for people with disability and their parents or carers.
- [Healthy video gaming resources supporting autistic young people by Amaze](#) - These guides have been developed to support parents and carers with practical strategies to support young people to have a balanced, positive and fun relationship with gaming.

We also have [resources in Easy Read format](#) for people with low literacy, or with intellectual or cognitive disability.

Join us in celebrating IDPwD and promoting online safety and inclusion for all.



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Research shows building students' digital literacy and understanding of online safety risks are critical in reducing cyberbullying, non-consensual image sharing and other online harms.

eSafety endorsed [Trusted eSafety Providers](#) can help to build these skills through education and helping your school create a culture of online safety.

In 2022–23, Trusted eSafety Providers delivered online safety education programs in over 5,000 Australian schools, reaching over 1.1 million students, 145,000 parents and 31,000 educators.

Trusted eSafety Providers can work with you to tailor an online safety education program that meets your students' needs across a wide range of topics.

They can also deliver parent and family programs, help build the capability and confidence of teachers and support staff, and work with you to develop and implement whole-school policies and procedures.

Under the Trusted eSafety Provider program, eSafety assesses providers against robust requirements – including alignment to eSafety's [Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education](#) – giving you confidence that they will deliver high-quality online safety education for your school.

Get started with a Trusted eSafety Provider

You can see the [full list of providers](#) and search for a program aligned to the topics, audience and delivery method you need.

If you have recently used a Trusted eSafety Provider, [tell us about your experience](#).

For more information email us at trustedproviders@esafety.gov.au.

[Learn more about Trusted eSafety Providers](#)



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Julie Inman Grant
eSafety Commissioner

Season greetings from the eSafety Commissioner

As the year draws to an end, eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant reflects on the progress we've achieved together keeping Australians, including young people, safe online.

We look forward to your continued support in 2024, as we help to build the skills and confidence of parents and carers and educators through our resources, advice, and as a place to turn to when things go wrong online.

[Watch the Commissioner's message](#)

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Keeping children safe online during summer holidays

During the summer break, children often spend more time online. Help them to have fun and keep them safe from online risks like inappropriate contact, online grooming and sexual extortion. Here's how:

1. **Stay involved** – regularly check their online activities and connect with them by playing online games together.
2. **Set family rules together** – decide which devices and apps are okay and when to use them.
3. **Teach consent** – Use holiday photos to discuss why asking people before taking or sharing their picture is important. These everyday opportunities to talk about consent can make it easier to say no to an online request that makes them feel uncomfortable.
4. **Stay informed** – A [new joint resource](#) with Crime Stoppers NSW and the ACCE includes tips on signs to look out for and ways to protect your child online. eSafety also has several [resources for parents](#) on how to keep your child safe online.
5. **Know where to get help** – If your child is under 18, the best way to get help on inappropriate contact is to report it to the [Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation](#). For reporting to eSafety, [learn what you can report and how to report](#).

Keep your child safe online and enjoy the holidays!

Your guide for tech gifts



Looking for safe tech gifts? Explore the eSafety Gift Guide

The latest technology can make great gifts for children and young people, but it's important to be aware of the risks that come along with these gadgets.

The [eSafety Gift Guide](#) offers advice on what to consider when giving children gifts like [gaming consoles](#), [wearables](#) and [drones](#), as well as whether a device is age appropriate and what parental controls are available.

Remember, the gadgets we choose do more than entertain; they can influence personal safety and the wellbeing of our families.

[Learn more](#)

**connect.
reflect.
protect.**



 **Safer Internet Day 2024** | Tuesday
6 February

Safer Internet Day is coming!

Mark your calendars for **Safer Internet Day** on **Tuesday 6 February 2024**! It's a global initiative that brings together the community, families, schools and organisations from more than 160 countries so that, united, we can create safer online spaces.

This Safer Internet Day, we're encouraging all Australians to take three simple actions when approaching online

safety: Connect. Reflect. Protect.

- **Connect** safely by keeping apps and devices secure and reviewing your privacy settings regularly.
- **Reflect** on how your actions online may affect others or your safety.
- **Protect** yourself and others by visiting [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au) to find out how to stay safe online and report online abuse.

We have [downloadable resources](#) available that you can share with your community, workplace or school to help raise awareness about online safety.

[Learn more](#)

Our devices are put away in the kitchen cupboard

Cam	Lucas	Yasmin	Mum	Dad
				
Time 6pm	Time 6pm	Time 8pm	Time 10pm	Time 10pm

Kick off the new year with a family tech agreement

A family tech agreement is a set of rules about how devices, like smartphones, tablets, computers, TVs and gaming consoles, are used in your home.

[Download a tech agreement template](#) and get working on a set of rules that will work for your family.

[Download a tech agreement](#)



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How will your school be celebrating Safer Internet Day?

The start of a new school year is a great time to focus on building safe online habits. And what better way to do this than with **Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6 February**? It's a great opportunity to start conversations about online safety. Here are some quick links to ways you can get your school community involved:

- Visit our [campaign page](#) for activities and resources.
- Download the [educator campaign kit](#).
- Join our [virtual classroom webinars](#) for middle to upper primary students. Read more about these in our story below.
- Share our [parent and carer webinar](#) schedule with your school community.

Get involved



Play it safe with our virtual classrooms

Do you teach middle and upper primary classes? Sign them up for our [virtual classroom webinars](#), focusing on how they can stay safe while gaming online. We've got two for Safer Internet Day:

- **For Year 3 and 4 students** – Be an eSafe kid: Gaming with others
- **For Year 5 and 6 students** – Level up: Creating a positive gaming culture.

You can catch both virtual classrooms on Safer Internet Day, Tuesday 6 February. There are also several dates later in February.

[Register your class](#)



Join our term one professional learning series

As you settle into the school year, improve your teaching toolkit by attending our [Staff Meeting Series](#). These webinars are designed to be incorporated into a staff meeting and include the latest insights and strategies in online safety and digital wellbeing. Here's what's on offer:

- **Online safety considerations for generative AI in education (Primary and Secondary)** – 30-minute session on 29 and 30 January at 2pm (AEDT).
- **Supporting online gaming experiences (Primary)** – 45-minute session on 15 February at 3.45pm (AEDT)
- **Wellbeing and digital technologies (Secondary)** – 30-minute session 6 March at 3.45pm (AEDT).

They can be used toward elective professional learning hours, but are not NESATQI accredited.

[Learn more](#)

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Get ready for 2024: Free online webinars for parents and carers

As we welcome 2024, we also open the door to new online risks and opportunities which may raise some parenting challenges:

- When is the right time for them to use social media?
- How do I have better conversations with them about gaming?
- How can I support them if they experience online abuse?

Our [free parent webinars](#) can help. Each webinar is designed to improve your understanding and response to online challenges your child may face. The webinar topics include:

- eSafety 101: How eSafety can help
- Understanding how to support your child with online gaming
- Understanding parental controls to safeguard your child
- Online safety and social media: TikTok, YouTube and Instagram

Join us for our first webinar on 7 February, and continue to support your child in having a safe online experience in 2024.

[Register now](#)



Let's chat about how you can help young people make a report if something goes wrong online

The quickest way to have cyberbullying messages, violent or sexual material, illegal activity, or unwanted contact removed from the internet is to report directly to the social media service or platform where the incident occurred.

Young people may need the support of an adult to make a report to a platform, so here are the steps you can take:

1. [Collect evidence](#) before reporting to the social media service or taking other action. Take screenshots showing what has been happening and for how long.
2. Report to the social media service, game, app, or website where the incident occurred. Use our [eSafety Guide](#) to help find the appropriate links for each service.
3. After you report abusive content to a service or platform, they may immediately remove the content. They may also block the person who posted it or delete their account. In the case of illegal content, the service may also refer the matter to the police.

If the above process doesn't get you the support you need, [eSafety can help](#). For more information on cyberbullying, read our [Bullying online resource](#).

[Learn more about making a report to eSafety](#)

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Online safety resources for your classroom and school community

It is increasingly important to find new ways to help young people navigate the evolving online world safely. That's why eSafety's [Online Safety Grants Program](#) has supported a range of online safety training and resources for young people, and educators like you.

Over three rounds, the program has funded 32 non-government organisations to deliver innovative education projects, for diverse audiences across schools and communities.

Resources developed through [round 1](#) and [round 2](#) projects are now available to use:

- **For schools and educators** – access a suite of resources to enhance your online safety education, ensuring that students receive the most current and practical guidance.
- **For parents and young people** – extend the reach of online safety education beyond the classroom with resources you can share with your school community.

Interested in learning more about a specific project? Our eSafety Grants team is here to help. For enquiries or to connect with a grant recipient, please contact onlinesafetygrants@esafety.gov.au.

Thank you for your commitment to online safety education.



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Safer Internet Day is here! We're asking you to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.**

Watch a message from the eSafety Commissioner who shares why this day is so important.

How are you celebrating Safer Internet Day?

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **For everyone:** Visit our [campaign page](#) for activities and resources. Create your own content, or download and share our [supporter tiles](#) or [campaign video](#). Tag #SID2024 #ConnectReflectProtect @eSafetyOffice.
- **For schools and families:** Download our [educator campaign kit](#) and sign middle to upper primary classes up to our [virtual classroom webinars](#). If you're a parent or carer, you can also join one of our [webinars for parents and carers](#).
- **For workplaces and communities:** Download our [campaign kit](#) or [individual resources](#) and spread the word.

We understand that the start of the year can be a busy time for everyone. The great news is that our resources can be used all year long.

Thank you for your support in helping us start a national conversation about online safety. Together, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

[I want to get involved](#)



Level up your online gaming knowledge with our latest resources

Today we've launched new [research](#) that shows young gamers are calling for their parents, carers and other adults to understand what online gaming is like for them.

To help, we've created handy resources for schools and families:


- **For schools:** The [eSafety toolkit for schools: Guidelines for setting up a digital gaming club](#) includes guidelines that are designed to help schools set up and facilitate organised digital gaming activities for students.
- **For families:** The [Better conversations about gaming resource](#) includes conversations starters and tips aimed at helping parents and carers connect with their children about online gaming.

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 **Thank you for being a part of Safer Internet Day 2024**

Your support played a pivotal role in spreading online safety messages to millions of Australians.

Got 5 minutes? We would love for you to share your thoughts in our survey, to help us understand your experience, the resources and activities you loved (or wished for), and any improvements you'd like to see.

We acknowledge the timing of Safer Internet Day is not ideal for many of our supporters, especially schools. While we can't change the global event date, the good news is we are running Safer Internet Day activities for the rest of the month and our resources can be used all year round.

Your honest feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of Safer Internet Day. Once again, we really appreciate your support and advocating for a safer, online world

[Complete the survey](#)

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New webinar: Social Media Self-Defence for school leaders

Are you looking at improving strategies for managing social media challenges for you and your staff? Our upcoming hour-long webinar is designed to support school leaders like you. Topics include:

- Latest research and data about the types of online abuse experienced in school environments
- The professional and personal impacts for teachers, including the correlation with teacher retention challenges
- Strategies and guidance for setting up social media for increased safety
- eSafety's role and reporting schemes explained
- Case studies that demonstrate the practicalities of responding to online attacks, including the reporting process

If you're a school leader and part of a professional network and are interested in organising a webinar, please contact outreach@esafety.gov.au.

Register your interest



Does your school want to start an online gaming club?

Explore the latest resource from our [Toolkit for Schools: Guidelines for setting up a gaming club](#). The new resource offers advice and guidance to help your school set up and facilitate organised online gaming activities for students.

Get started



Start conversations about being respectful online

How can you guide your students about being respectful online? Our [resource](#) equips you with the right tools to spark meaningful conversations about what respect looks like in the digital space and how students can practice it daily.

Learn more



Final call for the Childnet 2024 International Film competition

Do you have primary and secondary students who are passionate about film? Can they tell a good story, create animation, or inspire positive change?

[Childnet](#) is inviting young people worldwide to make a short film about online safety. This year's theme is 'How would you make the internet a better place?'

Spread the word and encourage students to apply before the competition closes at 5pm on 22 April 2024. Students can win a cash prize for their school by entering!

[Learn more](#)



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Online safety and social media webinar

Join our free [webinar](#) on Tuesday 26 March at 12.30 pm, to learn how to keep young people safe on popular social media platforms they might be using, like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram. This webinar is suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and early secondary school.

[Register now](#)



New social media safety features keep young people safe

Popular social media platforms have introduced new safety features to help keep young people safe. These updates include:

- [Meta](#) – Teens joining Facebook & Instagram will be in the most restrictive content settings. Instagram search will hide results about self-harm, suicide and eating disorders.

- [Snap](#) – New parental controls within Snapchat will offer parents an extended view of their teens' Snapchat activity.
- [Discord](#) – There are tips to make their chats safer for teens, including safety alerts and sensitive content filters.

To learn more about the latest games, apps and social media, including how to protect your information and report harmful content, check out [The eSafety Guide](#).

[Go to The eSafety Guide](#)



Do you work with children, youth or families?

We've got just the thing to help you stay on top of online safety issues. Our new newsletter is designed for professionals and organisations dedicated to the wellbeing of young people. Sign up to receive regular updates on emerging risks and the latest strategies for protecting young people online.

[Sign up now](#)



Celebrating Harmony Week

As we celebrate [Harmony Week](#), it's a great reminder to talk with your children about online respect and safety.

Our [research](#) shows that over 50% of young people have seen or heard hateful comments about a cultural or religious group online. So, it's important to help improve young people's understanding of this issue and how they can help. To start the chat, we have a [resource](#) aimed at teaching young people about online hate.

[Learn more](#)



 eSafety Commissioner

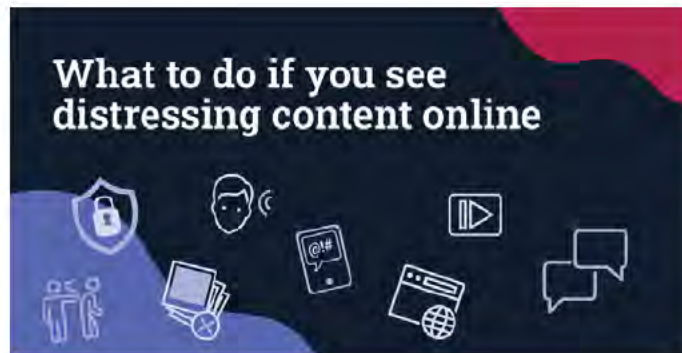
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Support for Australian families

Following the distressing events of the last several days, young people might be struggling to come to terms with what they have read and seen online.

Online spaces should be safe for everyone. If your child sees violent or distressing material, it is important to check in and talk to them about the content they have seen. We also recommend that children use devices in open areas of the home, rather than in their bedroom, so you can be attuned to how they are coping and what they are reading or watching.

Tips on how to deal with violent and distressing content

- Don't share it further – even if your intention is to help or raise awareness, you may cause distress to others.
- Report it to the platform to help get the material removed quickly.
- If the material is not removed, you can [report it to eSafety](#). eSafety can notify the platform to either remove the content or block access from within Australia. Your actions could protect you and others from seeing that content again.

You can find more guidance and information about distressing online content below.

[Dealing with distressing content](#)

Relevant resources

We understand as a parent or carer you may want to take extra precautions against your children seeing disturbing content online. eSafety has a range of helpful resources including:

For kids and young people

- [I saw something online I didn't like](#) (for primary-school aged children)
- [Dealing with disturbing content](#) (for teenagers)

For parents and carers

- [How to get started with parental controls](#)
- [General online safety advice for parents](#)

Support services

If your child, or someone you know, has come across disturbing content online, there are a range of counselling services you can reach out to for help and support.

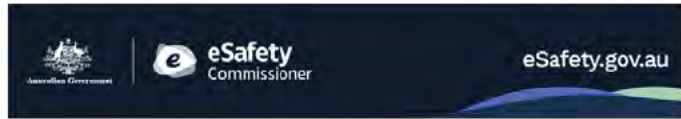
If a life is in danger call Triple Zero (000) right now.

- **Kids Helpline**, for 5–25-year-olds: 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au (webchat is also available).
- **headspace**: support for young people, professionals, educators and families
- **Lifeline**: 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au
- **Beyond Blue**: 1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au

More support services, including state-based services aimed at parents and carers, are listed [here](#).

While we understand schools are currently on holidays, we know that at challenging times, schools become hubs of support for their communities, with students, staff and families often seeking advice. We have reached out to educators with information that schools can circulate to their educators, wellbeing staff, and parents and carers, to provide them with strategies to reduce the risk of children and young people being exposed to this content, and to support those who are.

We hope the information above has been useful, and that it provides some practical support for Australian families as we collectively process these tragic events.



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Join our May virtual classrooms on safe gaming online

Gaming online is incredibly popular with young people. To empower them with the knowledge and skills to play safely, this May, we're running two virtual classrooms.

[Be an eSafe Kid: Gaming with others](#)

What: Helps students identify ways to protect themselves when gaming online and what to do if things go wrong.

Who: Year 3/4 students

When: 2pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time) Tuesday 28 May

[Level up: Creating a positive gaming culture](#)

What: Helps students learn how to protect themselves and contribute to a positive culture when gaming online.

Who: Year 5/6 students

When: 2pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time) Thursday 30 May

[Register your class](#)



Know how to RESPOND: Handling online incidents at your school

How ready are you to handle an online incident impacting your school community? Having a process is important so that students, staff, parents, and carers receive the support they need. That's where our [RESPOND Element resources](#) from the [Toolkit for Schools](#) comes in.

The RESPOND resources help you assess the severity of online incidents and provide guidance on issues like sharing explicit material and online abuse that targets staff.

[Go to the RESPOND resource](#)



Save the date: National Week of Action against Bullying and Violence

Participate in Australia's leading bullying prevention initiative, [National Week of Action Against Bullying and Violence](#), from 12 to 16 August.

We're hosting [virtual classrooms](#) for Years 3/4 and for Years 5/6 to help students learn how their words and actions online can impact others. There will also be [webinars for parents and carers](#).

Stay tuned for more details over the coming months.

[Learn more about our virtual classrooms](#)



Professional learning for lower primary educators

Have you considered focusing some of your professional learning hours on online safety? We have just the thing.

eSafety's [professional learning modules for lower primary](#) were developed with Early Childhood Australia. These modules equip you with practical, evidence-based strategies to help your students navigate the online world responsibly and respectfully. They're also self-paced and complemented by classroom resources.

[Learn more](#)

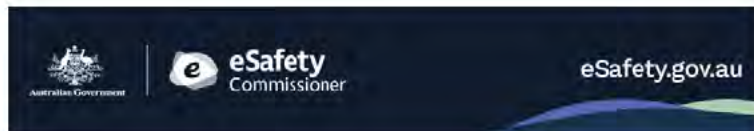


Resources tailored to young people's online experiences

[eSafety's Online Safety Grants Program](#) supports the development of a range of online safety programs and resources for young people. Here's a glimpse into some of the resources educators can draw on:

- [Crushed but Okay by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation](#) – A resource to help young men communicate respectfully online and be more accepting and understanding of rejection.
- [In Real Life by Project Rokit](#) – A library of 36 youth-designed videos to help teachers initiate conversations, peer-to-peer learning in the online world.
- [Online Safety for Young People Living with a Disability by Interaction Disability Services](#) – A series of training modules for young people with intellectual disability and accompanying modules for their parents, carers, and educators.

[Learn more](#)



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Sexual extortion is a serious online concern, especially for young people. But what exactly is it, and how can you support your child if they're targeted?

What is sextortion? Sexual extortion or 'sextortion' is a form of blackmail that usually originates via a dating app or social networking site. It involves criminals using fake profiles to pose as someone charming and flirtatious to manipulate their targets into sharing nude images or videos of themselves. Then, they threaten to share the compromising material unless the person complies with their demands. These criminals are increasingly targeting people, especially young men.

What can I do? As parents and carers, we encourage you to play an active role in your child's online life. Having conversations, being curious and getting involved can help anticipate when they might need support and advice. If you're unsure how to start conversations about these topics, read our [advice on how to chat with them about sending nudes and sexting](#).

If your child has been targeted, reassure them that it is not their fault, there is help available, and you can help them make a report. These criminals are practised in the art of manipulation and know how to isolate, shame and corner children.

Here's what you and your child can do:

1. **Cease all communication with the blackmailer** – Stop all contact and do not pay the blackmailer or provide any more intimate content.
2. **Seek additional support** – If your child needs further support, they can contact [Lifeline](#) or [Kids Helpline](#) 24/7 for immediate assistance.
3. **Report the incident** – If they're under 18, report it to the [Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation](#). If

they're over 18, report it to the platforms where the blackmailer contacted them. If their intimate image or video is shared, or the platform doesn't help, [report it to eSafety](#).

[Learn more](#)



Help your child be an upstander

We are seeing an increase in the posting of fight videos and the creation of fight-specific accounts on social media. These videos typically show a victim being assaulted by one person or a group of individuals.

You can help by having conversations with your child about being respectful online. If they see anything distressing online you can help them report it **anonymously**. Use our [How to be an upstander resource](#) as a conversation starter and equip them with the skills and confidence to make a difference.

If your child sees fight videos or distressing content online, you can report it to the platform. [The eSafety Guide](#) explains how to report complaints to common services and platforms. If the platform does not help, you can [report it to eSafety](#).

[Go to the Be an Upstander resource](#)



Where will we see gen AI next? Meet Meta AI

Have you noticed an AI prompt appearing at the top of your social media chats and search bars? Meta has launched its new virtual assistant '[Meta AI](#)', across Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger. It prompts the user with topics and generates a chat when a query is sent.

As generative artificial intelligence (gen AI) seamlessly integrates into our world and becomes a regular part of our children's lives, staying informed is important. Read our position statement on gen AI to learn how to create a safer digital environment for your family.

[Go to our gen AI position statement](#)



Power up your privacy

This week is [Privacy Awareness Week](#) which is a great opportunity to consider what you're doing to 'power up' your privacy. Wondering how can you get involved? Here are some ideas:

- [eSafety's privacy and your child resource](#) – includes guidance to help you support your child to stay in

control of their personal information, online photos and social media identity.

- [OAIC's privacy quiz](#) – a tool to help you learn more about your privacy rights, data breaches, and what you can expect from organisations holding or handling your personal information.

[Go to our Privacy and your child resource](#)

CELEBRATING FAMILY DIVERSITY & CONNECTIONS

 National Families Week 13-19 MAY

Celebrate National Families Week

This [National Families Week](#), eSafety are celebrating the wonderful diversity that shapes our families, embracing the unique cultures, identities, languages and dynamics that make each one special.

We encourage you to go online and connect with your family this week. During the activities, take a moment to discuss and explore being safe online. Use our [Online safety for every family suite of resources](#) to help have those important conversations.

[Go to our Online Safety for every family resource](#)



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Is your school ready to handle online incidents?

If you are a school leader responsible for managing online incidents, or want to ensure your team is prepared, our upcoming professional learning is designed just for you. This webinar will help you:

- respond to online incidents with tools and strategies to deal with cyberbullying, image-based abuse, fight videos, self-harm and suicide content
- identify eSafety reporting options
- determine key steps to collect evidence when making a report to eSafety.

[Register now](#)



Helping students navigate distressing online content

As educators, you play an important role in guiding your students through the complexities of online spaces. Sometimes, they might encounter distressing content that depicts harm or violence.

eSafety has resources to share with your school community to help deal with distressing content, including guidance for [educators](#), [parents and carers](#) and [young people](#). Our fact sheets are available in English, Arabic, Assyrian, Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese.

[Dealing with distressing content](#)



Meet eSafety's new Youth Council

We're excited to announce eSafety's second Youth Council, a group of passionate young Australians aged 13 to 24, on a mission to make online spaces safer for young people. [Meet the members](#) and [learn more about the Council's initiatives](#).

[Learn more](#)

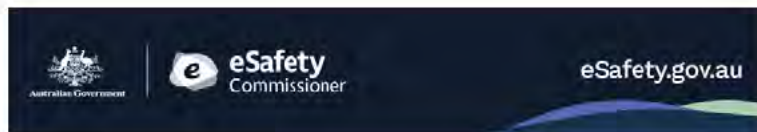


Join the National Week of Action against bullying!

Mark your calendars: Australia's leading bullying prevention initiative, [Bullying No Way: National Week of Action](#), is 12-16 August 2024. This year's theme, 'everyone belongs', highlights our shared responsibility to prevent bullying and create safe, inclusive spaces.

Want to get involved? We're hosting virtual classrooms for Years 3/4 and for Years 5/6 to help students learn how their words and actions online can impact others. There will also be [webinars for parents and carers](#) and [teachers](#).

Stay tuned for more details next month.



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Online safety support for your school community

We all play an important role in helping children and young people stay safer online. eSafety is here to help, with resources and advice to equip parents, carers and educators to support young people to navigate the online world.

Let your school community know eSafety is here to help. Forward this email to friends, family or share in your school newsletter. Together, we can ensure everyone knows online safety support is available and help keep young people safe online.

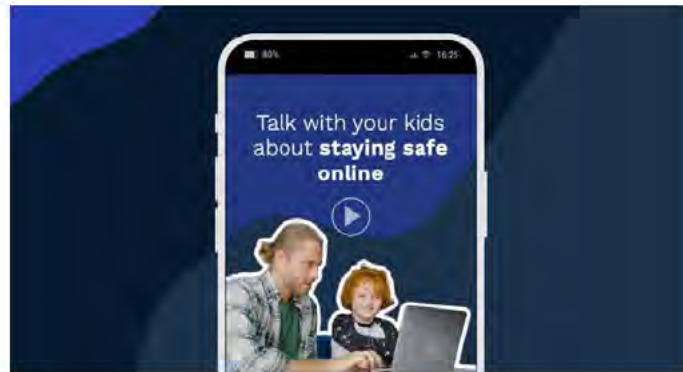


Support for educators

Teachers and educators, we have evidence-based resources and online safety education support tailored to your needs. With a variety of options, you can choose what works best for you. Visit [eSafety](#) to learn about:

- [Classroom resources](#) for primary and secondary schools
- [Free webinars](#) to upskill on online safety issues
- [Trusted eSafety Providers](#), who offer tailored expert online safety education
- The [eSafety Champions Network](#) which is a community of school leaders prioritising online safety at schools.

[Learn more](#)



Support for families

Parents and carers, technology can impact your child's wellbeing and safety. eSafety is here to help your family thrive online. At [eSafety](#), you can find:

- Guidance on [parental controls](#) for your family. Learn how to block, filter, monitor and limit your child's online activity
- Advice on keeping [kids](#) and [young people](#) safe online
- [Free webinars](#) for expert tips on supporting your family's online safety
- Assistance in investigating [reports of serious online harm](#) and removal of this content.

[Learn more](#)

About eSafety

The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) educates Australians about online safety risks and help available to remove harmful content such as [cyberbullying](#) of children and young people, [adult cyber abuse](#), [image-based abuse](#) and [illegal and restricted content](#). Learn more about how eSafety helps Australians be safer online at [eSafety.gov.au](#).

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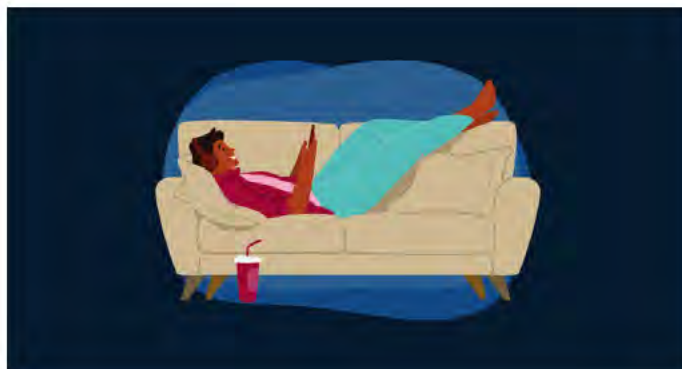
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Young men share their online experiences

Like you, we want to understand how the online world is shaping and moulding young people and their experiences.

That's why we commissioned in-depth interviews and focus groups with over 100 young men aged 16 to 21 to understand the online world from their perspective.

Unsurprisingly, the picture young men painted was varied and complex. As one of the first generations growing up entirely in the digital age, their online experiences are marked by tensions and possibilities.

These are some of the things we discovered about the young men involved in this study:

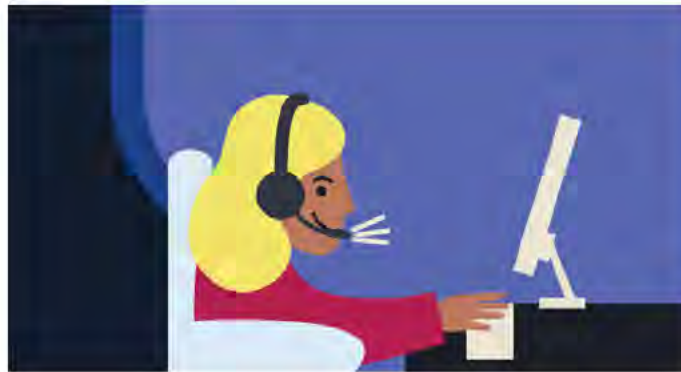
- **They shape and express their identities online** – They use the internet to express themselves but can feel pressure and anxiety when representing themselves online. Engaging with influencers is a way that some of the men shape their identities online. However, there is a lack of diverse online role models for them to look to for inspiration and guidance.
- **They explore their sexuality online** – Some are cautious about sharing intimate images and are critical of online pornography.
- **They access and navigate social connections online** – Being online allows them to connect with friends and community. But these spaces can also be potentially harmful. In particular, some of the young men involved in gaming communities found them to be places of important connection as well as harm.

So, as a parent, carer or educator – what does this mean for you?

Keep talking, listening, and asking questions about their online experiences. The path from childhood to early adulthood has always been a bumpy ride and the online world is making that transition both easier – and more complicated – for boys and young men.

Below, we have outlined some great resources you can share with boys and young men to navigate some of these issues and the online world more safely.

[Read the report](#)

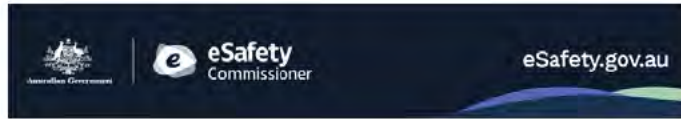


Resources to support young people online

Share these resources with young people or use them to help start important conversations:

- **Online gaming** – Guidance on enjoying games safely and dealing with potential harms.
- **Being out, transgender and gender diverse** – Support with exploring gender identity online.
- **Trolling** – How to handle and protect yourself from online harassment.
- **Someone is threatening to share my nudes** – What to do if someone threatens to share a nude image or video of you.

[Explore more resources for young people](#)



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New conversation starter resources for families

Open and honest conversations can empower your family to tackle potential online harms. To help you get started, we're excited to share new resources from the [Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation \(ACCCE\)](#) and eSafety.

Available in English, Punjabi, Chinese and Arabic, these resources have been tested with culturally and linguistically diverse communities. They include an advice sheet for parents and carers, and conversation cards to help you talk with your family about online safety.

[Learn more](#)



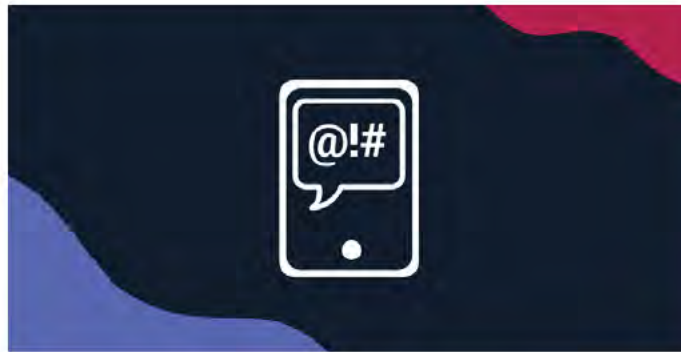
Join our July webinars

Are you interested in short webinars on topics top of mind for parents, like gaming online safely and the opportunities and risks of generative AI? Our July

webinars have you covered and include a Q&A with our experts. Here's what we've got lined up:

- [Understanding how to support your child with online gaming](#) – Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and early secondary school.
- [An introduction to online safety and emerging technologies](#) – Suitable for parents and carers of children and parents in primary and secondary school.

[Register now](#)



What to do if your child sees distressing content

We all want the internet to be a safe place for young people, but sometimes they might find something distressing. To help deal with these situations, we have developed fact sheets available in English, Arabic, Assyrian, Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese.

[Learn more](#)

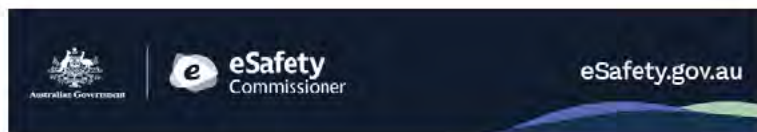


Check out Google's new tool to protect your personal information

Have you ever Googled yourself to see what information is out there? Google's new '[Results about you](#)' tool allows you to see what personal information is available online and request its removal from Google search results. You can access this tool on Google's mobile app or browser.

When your child shares information like their phone number, personal email address, the name of their school, or home address online, there is a risk it could be used in ways they may not have thought about. For tips on protecting your child's privacy, check out our [Privacy and your child resource](#).

[Learn more](#)



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Dear Stakeholder,

Today, two industry standards developed by the eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) have been registered for:

- **Relevant Electronic Services (RES)**, including services which enable end-users to communicate with one another such as email, instant messaging and chat services, certain gaming services, and dating services.
- **Designated Internet Services (DIS)**, including apps, websites, file and photo storage services, and some services which deploy or distribute generative AI models.

The two industry standards registered today – and the six other industry codes which are already in effect – can be found at the eSafety website. For an overview of each Standard, download the fact sheets.

The Standards are designed to minimise and prevent harms associated with access and exposure to the most harmful forms of online material on these services, referred to as 'class 1A' and 'class 1B' material.

- Class 1A includes child sexual exploitation material, pro-terror material, and extreme crime and violence material.
- Class 1B includes crime and violence material, and drug-related material.

The Standards apply to this material whether it is genuine or synthetic. There are also requirements for some generative AI services where they have not incorporated controls to reduce the risk of generating high impact material like synthetic child sexual exploitation material.

Background

The Standards are the culmination of three years of collaboration and consultation with cross-sector stakeholders. In September 2021, eSafety published an initial position paper to assist industry in developing industry codes. The industry-developed codes for five industry sections were registered in June 2023 and came into effect in December 2023. A sixth industry code was registered in September 2023 and came into effect in

March 2024. The two remaining codes for RES and DIS were found to have several deficiencies, including:

- the absence of commitments on some services to use any of the commonly used, privacy-preserving methods to detect known child sexual abuse material and known pro-terror material,
- an inadequate commitment to invest in future detection technologies, and
- a lack of requirements on certain services to enforce their own policies relating to illegal and harmful online material.

Accordingly, these codes were refused registration for failing to provide appropriate community safeguards, and eSafety moved to the development of industry Standards.

In November 2023, eSafety invited submissions from industry, other stakeholders and the public on draft Standards. eSafety has carefully considered all the feedback in finalising the Standards. Amendments were made in light of stakeholders' views, as outlined in the [post consultation fact sheets](#).

This includes giving greater clarity to operators of end-to-end encrypted services, by expressly stating in the Standards that they are not required to break or weaken encryption.

eSafety also recognises these Standards will apply to broad industry categories covering a range of services, and that they will require differing approaches to detecting and removing illegal content such as child sexual abuse material. To that end, no specific technologies or methods are prescribed in the Standards. The Standards also include carefully calibrated exceptions where measures are not technically feasible or reasonably practicable.

Where exceptions are applied, the Standards will still require providers to take appropriate alternative action. eSafety can require service providers to provide information about cases where these exceptions are relied upon and describe and justify the alternative action taken.

The Standards will come into force six months after registration once a 15-day parliamentary disallowance period has expired. eSafety will develop and release regulatory guidance in the coming months to support compliance. In the event of non-compliance with a Standard, eSafety can issue a formal warning, issue an infringement notice, accept an enforceable undertaking, or seek an injunction or civil penalty in court.

Related developments

Online service providers should also be implementing the [Basic Online Safety Expectations](#), which were recently amended to better address new and emerging online safety issues. In addition, a new voluntary industry code for online dating services with a focus on user safety is expected to be released soon.

Alongside these developments, the Government has brought forward the independent statutory review of the *Online Safety Act* – led by Ms Delia Rickard PSM. The review will consider whether any changes are needed to make sure Australia's online safety laws remain fit for purpose. This work complements the Government's broader work to ensure AI is developed and used safely and responsibly in Australia, as well as ongoing reform following the *Privacy Act Review*.

A second phase of industry codes development – focused on addressing children's access to class 2 material, such as online pornography – will commence shortly.

[Learn more](#)



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Mark your calendars: Australia's leading bullying prevention initiative, [Bullying No Way: National Week of Action](#), is 12-16 August 2024. This year's theme, 'everyone belongs', highlights our shared responsibility to prevent bullying and create safe, inclusive spaces.

Want to get involved? Register your class for one of our virtual classrooms:

[Be an eSafe kid: Better together – connecting with others and being positive online](#)

For Years 3 and 4 students, the key outcomes are:

- understand what an online community looks like
- identify the qualities of a good digital citizen
- explain how to be a good friend online
- understand the importance of security and privacy.

[Register now](#)

[Be an eSafe kid: We are connected – using tech safely, responsibly and with respect](#)

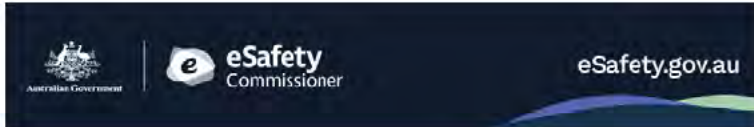
For Years 5 and 6 students, the key outcomes are:

- gain insights into online communities, group chats and echo chambers
- identify the qualities of a good digital citizen

- use strategies to safeguard themselves and others online.

[Register now](#)

We're also offering a new webinar for educators, [Navigating online friendships](#), as well as [webinars for parents and carers](#).



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Dear Stakeholder,

The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) has issued Notices to industry associations representing eight sections of online industry requesting they develop enforceable Industry Codes. This marks the formal commencement of Phase 2 of the Industry Codes and Standards process, following the registration of the Phase 1 Standards on 21 June 2024.

eSafety has also published a position paper, to assist industry in developing the Codes. As outlined in the position paper, the Codes are intended to protect children from encountering harmful high-impact material online, and to empower all Australian internet users with options to manage their exposure to certain online material.

The Notices request that the industry associations provide eSafety with draft Codes as an indication of progress by no later than 3 October 2024, and provide final Codes by 19 December 2024 for eSafety to consider in early 2025, so these important measures can be in place as soon as possible.

As part of the process, industry associations will be required to consult with industry participants and the public. Given Phase 2 Codes will include a focus on pornography, eSafety strongly encourages engagement with online pornography providers. eSafety also recognises that online risks are higher for some sections of the Australian community than others, and that both harms and measures introduced to address those harms can have differential impacts. With this in mind, public consultation conducted by the industry associations should aim to be inclusive in seeking feedback reflective of multiple disciplines and diverse lived experiences.

eSafety also encourages industry to continue to build on its experience in developing the Phase 1 Codes, to expedite the Phase 2 code development process and create aligned obligations to reduce regulatory burden.

Background

eSafety issued the Notices under section 141 of the Online Safety Act 2021 (the Act) to five industry associations:

- Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association
- Communications Alliance LTD
- Consumer Electronic Suppliers Association
- Digital Industry Group Inc.
- Interactive Games and Entertainment Association.

These associations represent eight industry sections identified in the Act and the Notices:

- App Distribution Services: services distributing apps that can be downloaded and accessed by Australian end-users.
- Equipment Services: equipment manufacturers, suppliers, maintainers and installers and providers of operating systems.
- Hosting Services: services hosting stored material in Australia.
- Internet Carriage Services: carriage services that enable end-users to access the internet.
- Internet Search Engine Services: services designed to collect, organise and/or rank information in response to end-user search queries.
- Social Media Services: services enabling online social interaction.
- Relevant Electronic Services: services which enable end-users to communicate with one another such as email, SMS, MMS, instant messaging, chat services, certain gaming services, and dating services.
- Designated internet services: services allowing end-users in Australia to access material using an internet carriage service, where the service is not a social media or relevant electronic service, such as websites, apps, and file storage services managed by end-users in Australia.

The Notices request the industry associations develop codes to:

- Protect and prevent children in Australia from accessing or being exposed to class 1C and class 2 material and
- Provide end-users in Australia with effective information, tools and options to limit access and exposure to class 1C and class 2 material.

Class 1C and class 2 material is defined by reference to the National Classification Scheme. It includes online pornography, and high-impact violence, drug use, and 'themes' such as serious illness and suicide.

The [position paper](#) explains eSafety's approach to the different types of content which fall within these categories, based on eight months of initial discussions

with industry. It highlights the content we believe warrants stronger measures and content likely to be more context-dependent, for which scalable measures may be more challenging. It also suggests the Codes should take a risk-based, graduated approach to dealing with different kinds of material, accounting for the existing and emerging tools available to industry, and seeking to promote alignment with relevant international regulatory frameworks where possible.

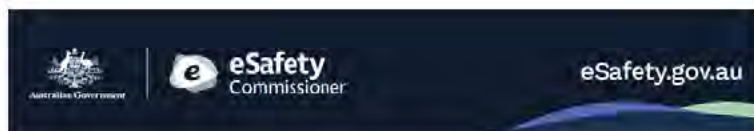
Related developments

eSafety suggests that the Codes should draw upon protections and measures already in place under the Act, including the [Restricted Access System Declaration](#), the [Basic Online Safety Expectations Determination](#), and the first phase of [Industry Codes and Standards](#) which require industry to take meaningful steps to tackle illegal content like online child sexual abuse, pro-terror, and crime and violence material.

eSafety has also published an [Age Assurance Tech Trends Issues Paper](#) which considers recent developments in age assurance technology and provides additional context for the position paper.

eSafety considers that the Codes will complement and work alongside significant efforts underway to bolster the online safety toolkit, including the Government's Age Assurance Trial, ongoing Privacy Act reforms, the statutory review of the Online Safety Act and cross-governmental initiatives to foster respectful relationships under the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

[Learn more](#)



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Spotlight on cyberbullying: National Week of Action Against Bullying and Violence

[Bullying No Way: National Week of Action](#) starts today! We're proud to support this year's theme, *Everyone Belongs*, by providing resources to prevent and respond to cyberbullying. We all have a shared responsibility to prevent bullying and create safe, inclusive spaces online and offline.

[Our research](#) shows that a significant number of children have negative online experiences, with one in five young Australians aged 8 to 17 years reporting being socially excluded, threatened or abused online. It takes a whole-school approach to prevent cyberbullying. Here's how you can get involved:

- [Explore our new Spotlight on cyberbullying resource](#) – Developed in consultation with NSW education sectors and representatives from eSafety's [National Online Safety Education Council](#), it includes a range of resources and downloadable material created to help you develop a whole-school approach to cyberbullying.
- **Sign your class up for one of our Virtual Classrooms** – Help your students learn the impact their words and actions online can have on others. There's a Virtual Classroom for [Years 3 and 4 students](#) and for [Years 5 and 6 students](#).
- **Join our new webinar for educators** – For secondary school teachers and wellbeing leaders,

[Navigating online friendships](#) is a 30-minute webinar designed to equip you with the skills to help young people manage their online friendships.

- Share our [parent and carer webinars](#) with your school community.

By embracing a whole-school approach, we can more effectively tackle cyberbullying from all angles.



Join us for National Child Protection Week

National Child Protection Week is approaching. Taking place from 1 to 7 September 2024, it is an opportunity to recognise and promote the safety and wellbeing of Australian children with the message that *'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go'*.

Want to get involved? Register your class for one of our Virtual Classrooms to help students recognise online red flags, identify safe and unsafe behaviours and learn strategies to handle harmful situations online:

- For Years 3 and 4 students – [Be an eSafe kid: Let's talk about the red flags online](#)
- For Years 5 and 6 – [Be an eSafe kid: Recognising red flags online](#)

But that's not all – we have also prepared a [Consent and online boundaries webinar](#) for parents and carers of primary-school-aged children. Please share this with your school community to help empower families to feel confident about keeping their children safe online.



Discover the eSafety schools' hub

Our new eSafety schools' hub is your one-stop shop for key online safety resources. Whether you need support with classroom learning, are looking for professional development opportunities, or need some guidance on how to respond to online incidents, the hub has everything you need to develop a whole-school approach to online safety.

[Learn more](#)



Meet the Mighty Heroes and their online safety superpowers

Looking for lower primary resources? [Mighty Heroes](#) is a lower primary and curriculum-aligned classroom resource with four short, animated videos and accompanying educator notes. It also includes downloadable posters and a family tech agreement to help parents continue the conversation at home.

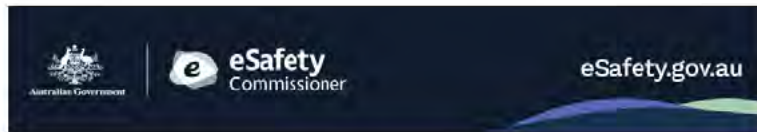
Bring the Mighty Heroes into your classroom:

- **Wanda the echidna:** I am responsible – I protect my personal information.
- **River the sugar glider:** I show respect – I am kind and caring to others.

- **Dusty the frilled neck lizard:** I trust my feelings – I ask for help when something doesn't feel right.
- **Billie the bilby:** I investigate – I question what I see, hear and do online.

As we're saying goodbye to our other lower primary resource, Hector's World, this month, now is a great time to start your primary class on an online safety adventure with Mighty Heroes.

Get this classroom resource




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**EVERY CHILD
IN EVERY COMMUNITY
NEEDS A FAIR GO**

**NATIONAL
CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK**

STARTING FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

NAPCAN 
www.napcan.org.au

Join our Virtual Classroom webinars next week!

[National Child Protection Week](#) is next week, 1 to 7 September 2024. This is an opportunity to recognise and promote the safety and wellbeing of Australian children because *'every child in every community needs a fair go'*.

To spread this message and help Australian kids stay safe online, eSafety is running Virtual Classroom webinars designed for primary-school aged children. Register your class for one of our virtual classrooms:

[Be an eSafe kid: Let's talk about the red flags online](#)

For **Years 3 and 4** students, the key outcomes are:

- recognise and understand what warning signs or 'red flags' look like online
- identify safe and unsafe behaviours and the differences between secrets that are safe and unsafe to keep
- use strategies to address harmful or dangerous situations online
- identify the qualities of a safe adult and how to access support pathways.

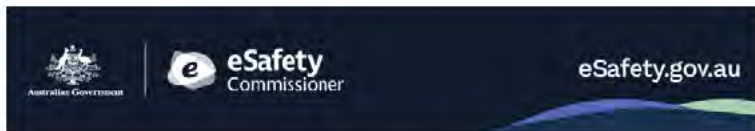
[Register now](#)

Be an eSafe kid: Recognising red flags online

For Years 5 and 6 students, the key outcomes are:

- understand what red flags in online spaces look like
- identify safe and unsafe behaviours and the difference between safe and unsafe secrets
- understand why some people deceive others online
- use strategies to address harmful or dangerous situations online
- understand the importance of [empathy](#) online.

[Register now](#)



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Gold online safety advice

During the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, we bear witness to the global profile and reach of sport. We're treated to performances of skill and excellence, along with displays of friendship and respect.

Sporting events place athletes, coaches, officials and administrators in the international spotlight – which can also increase the risk of online abuse.

And online abuse is not limited to those competing for gold. Respect needs to be the number one rule at all levels of sport. Just as we don't tolerate abuse in the stadium, in the change rooms or from the sidelines, we don't accept it online.

eSafety has [online safety advice and resources](#) to help everyone in sport - sport parents, athletes and competitors, administrators, coaches and officials - have more positive experiences online.

[Explore eSafety Sport](#)

Need support to build online safety into your sport resources? Get in touch with the [eSafety Sport team](#) or subscribe to [eSafety Sport News](#).

No excuse
for abuse this
finals season



Keep your cool on and offline during the winter sport finals

It's almost finals time for many winter sports. We know that passion and emotions can run high, and poor behaviour can rear its ugly head, on the field, on the sideline, from the couch at home and even online.

Remember that what you say online matters too – we play by the same rules on and offline.

Use our eSafety Sport [social media tiles and posters](#) to help spread the message that there's no place for online abuse in sport. [Play by the Rules](#) also has a great range of resources to help encourage positive conduct in sport.



Make eSafety Sport part of your resources

If you're part of a sporting group, help us give online abuse a red card by embedding eSafety advice into:

- athlete education
- coach and officiating training
- club development programs.

Go to the [eSafety sports hub](#) for resources and advice and help ensure everyone knows how to prevent and deal with online abuse.

Visit eSafety sports hub



What is doxing?

Doxing is when someone's personally identifiable information is intentionally shared by another person without consent, causing privacy and safety concerns.

For example in sport: someone finds out a popular player's personal phone number and shares it on a fan website.

Learn more about doxing and other types of [online abuse in sport](#).

About online abuse in sport

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LGBTIQ+ teens share their online experiences

Our [new research](#) shows that LGBTIQ+ teens are more likely to make friends, seek health advice and find it easier to be themselves online than their peers, even though they're at greater risk of being treated in a nasty or hateful manner. Almost one in three have experienced hate speech and one in four have been threatened with physical harm.

So, as a parent or carer – what can you do?

Keep talking, listening, and asking questions about your child's online experiences. We have several resources that are a good place to start the conversation, like [Being out, trans or gender diverse online](#), and our [LGBTIQ+ learning lounge](#) is an excellent space for young adult community members.

[Read the research](#)



New safety features on popular apps

Here's a quick rundown of the latest updates on popular apps your child might be using:

- **Snap** has introduced [new safety features](#) to stop strangers from reaching out to users. According to the platform, these changes aim to prevent [sexortion](#). While this is a positive move, it's still crucial to talk to your child about the importance of knowing who they connect with online.
- **YouTube** has updated its [firearms policy](#) so any content featuring firearms and their accessories is now age restricted. As a parent, you can help by enabling age-appropriate settings and [reporting illegal or restricted content to the platform and eSafety](#).
- **TikTok** now [labels AI-generated content](#) when it's uploaded from some platforms. This update can help your kids navigate what's real and what's not. You can also encourage them to think critically about the media they consume – for tips on this, check out the eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant on the [Squiz Kids podcast](#), where she talks about the importance of teaching kids to be media literate.
- **Apple Australia App Store** has introduced [new regional age ratings](#) for games. Games with loot boxes available for purchase are rated 15+, and those with intense simulated gambling are 18+. Keep an eye on the age ratings of the games your child downloads to ensure they're engaging with age-appropriate content.

To learn more about the latest games, apps and social media, including how to protect your information and report harmful content, check out [The eSafety Guide](#).

[Go to The eSafety Guide](#)



What can I do if my child has found pornography online?

For many children, exposure to online pornography happens before any formal education on the topic. What they see often lacks the fundamental elements of a healthy sexual relationship, such as love and respect. This is why timely and appropriate advice is essential.

As a parent or carer, here's how you can help your child if they've seen porn online:

- **Stay calm** – They likely feel shocked and confused by what they've seen. If you're upset or angry, your child may feel like they cannot come to you about other concerns in the future.
- **Listen, assess, pause** – If your child has accidentally viewed explicit content, ask for some details so you can best frame your words to help manage the situation.
- **Reassure your child that they're not in trouble** – Try to understand rather than shame, criticise or punish.
- **Be sensitive to how they feel** – It's important to talk with your child about how the content made them feel. This makes the conversation less confronting and allows them to talk more openly about their experience.
- **Take action** – Review content controls and restrictions on all devices your child has access to.

[Learn more](#)



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It's [National Child Protection Week](#), and this year's theme, "Every Conversation Matters", is a timely reminder of how powerful everyday chats with children can be – especially when it comes to their online lives.

The online world offers incredible opportunities but also has its share of risks we need to educate children about. Think of it like teaching a child to ride a bike. You wouldn't send them off without practice or a helmet. The same goes for the online world – we need to ensure children are prepared and protected before they start navigating it on their own.

A growing concern in Australia and around the world is [child sexual abuse online](#). It's a tough topic, but it's one we need to address head-on. This issue is affecting children of all ages, showing up in different ways like non-consensual sharing of intimate images, tech-facilitated child sexual abuse, sexual extortion and the grooming of a child with the intention to abuse them online or in person.

With 11% of teens aged 14-17 reporting they've been solicited sexually online, it's more important than ever to create environments where children feel safe to speak up – whether they're at home or school.

So, what can you do? The good news is that as parents, carers and educators, you can take practical steps to make a real difference. Our research shows that when we strengthen the support systems around children, we give them the best chance to stay safe online.

To help you get started, in this edition you'll find:

- [New resources](#) for parents and carers to help protect children from sexual abuse online

- [Virtual classroom webinars](#) for students
- Our new parent campaign
- [How we're holding social media giants accountable](#) to protect children online.

Together, we can ensure children have the support they need to explore the online world safely. Let's make every conversation count this National Child Protection week – and beyond



Feeling overwhelmed by the online world your child is growing up in? You're not alone. Whether your child is starting to explore the internet or is already a tech-savvy teen, it's natural to worry about who they're connecting with online and whether they're safe. Just like you wouldn't let your child dive into a pool without first teaching them how to swim, it's important to teach them about online safety before they're in too deep.

Today, we're highlighting our new resources specifically designed to help address the growing concern of child sexual abuse online. Here's some steps you can take to protect your child:

- **Understand the risks** – Start by getting informed. Learn about the potential dangers and how to talk to your child about them in a way that's age-appropriate.
- **Use our new resources** – We know this topic can be difficult to navigate, so we've developed new resources to help. Our tools guide you through key actions, like discussing who your child connects with online and staying aware of how they use their devices. You'll find practical tips, videos and conversation starters to make these conversations easier.

[Go to the new resources](#)



You know the “no hat, no play” rule about sun safety in the playground? The same applies to the digital playground – let’s make sure children are protected before they connect and play online.

This National Child Protection Week, you can help your students stay safe online by registering for one of our [Virtual Classroom webinars](#). These sessions will help your students recognise online red flags, identify safe and unsafe behaviours and learn strategies to handle harmful situations online:

- **For Years 3 and 4 – [Be an eSafe kid: Let's talk about the red flags online](#)**
- **For Years 5 and 6 – [Be an eSafe kid: Recognising red flags online](#)**

[Register now](#)



Our new initiative for parents is focused on empowering families to feel confident about keeping their children safe online by using our [parent resources](#). Starting today, you might spot some ads on social media promoting this initiative. We encourage you to join the conversation by

sharing it with your family, friends, or school community and checking out our parent resources.

[Go to eSafety Parents resources](#)



As you've probably noticed from what we've shared in this newsletter, keeping kids safe online is one of our top priorities. That's why we're asking social media platforms and messaging services YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Snap, TikTok, Reddit, Discord and Twitch to tell us how many Australian children are using their services and how they're enforcing age limits.

These requests are part of the Government's recently updated [Basic Online Safety Expectations Determination](#), which expands the areas eSafety can ask industry to report on, increasing transparency and accountability of tech companies when it comes to safety.

"We are having a really important conversation in this country right now about the potential damaging effects social media might be having on our children." says eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant. Understanding how many children are on these platforms, how they're being protected, and ensuring underage children don't gain access is crucial in these discussions.

These companies have 30 days to respond, and we'll be sharing what we find out.

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While technology has created immense benefits, it has also allowed abuse and violence to flourish in ways we couldn't have imagined a few years ago.

And if we take a close look, it becomes clear too many of industry's design choices are failing to consider the safety of women, girls and diverse communities.

That's why eSafety has published [this world-first Safety by Design guide](#) for the tech industry that includes actionable measures and best-practice approaches to mitigate tech-facilitated gender-based violence.

eSafety has advocated for [Safety by Design](#) since 2018. And while it's gaining traction at home and abroad, the voices of victim-survivors continue to reinforce that [much more needs to be done](#). And the clock is ticking.

This form of violence not only harms the individual, their families and children, but fuels discrimination, amplifies harmful norms around gender and sexuality, and stifles women's voices.

To help us build a global online safety movement, please [download](#) the guide, share it with your networks, and support eSafety's call for greater online safety guardrails.

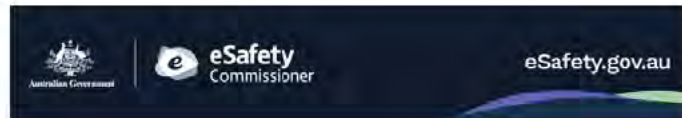
The burden of safety should never fall solely on the person targeted. Our research shows 82% of Australian adults believe tech companies have a responsibility for their online safety.

[Download the guide](#)

As well as practical steps for companies to prevent technology-facilitated gender-based violence, it includes industry case studies that demonstrate how prioritising safety can lead to better outcomes and stronger participation from women, girls and diverse communities.

Together, we can create a safer and more inclusive online space for everyone.

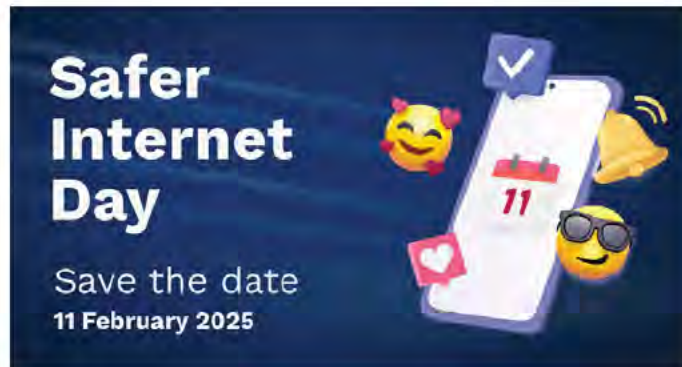
If you want to talk to us more about Safety by Design, email industry@esafety.gov.au.



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Ready to make the internet a place? Mark your calendars for [Safer Internet Day](#) on Tuesday 11 February 2025!

Whether your students are learning, playing or connecting online, the internet is a huge part of their lives. While it opens a world of opportunities, it also comes with risks, especially for young people. That's why Safer Internet Day is the perfect way to kick off the school year with a focus on online safety.

Whether it's starting a conversation with your class about online safety or teaching them to recognise online risks, report harmful content, and practice respect and kindness online — every step contributes to a safer, more positive internet.

Sign up now for early access to resources designed to support your Safer Internet Day activities in the classroom or school community — resources you can use all year long!

[Sign up to support](#)



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Dear ,

The past five years has seen massive developments in online safety regulation, with more governments legislating to promote the online safety of their citizens.

However, no one country can set the global online safety 'rules of the road' on its own. International collaboration, where regulators work side by side, coordinating and sharing the regulatory challenge, is more important than ever.

Launched in 2022, the [Global Online Safety Regulators Network](#) is the only global forum dedicated to supporting collaboration between online safety regulators. Its goal is to encourage coordinated and coherent online safety approaches.

New Resource: The Online Safety Regulatory Index

To help us achieve this mission, the Network has today published the [Online Safety Regulatory Index](#), collating members' approaches to online safety regulation.

The regulatory index supports online safety regulators to compare and contrast approaches - so we can dig deep on areas of convergence and learn from one another's different experiences where our approaches deviate.

[DOWNLOAD THE INDEX](#)

Neither the risks people face online, nor the online services they use, are confined to national or continental borders.

By understanding the areas of consistency and divergence in regulations, regulators can aim to ensure that the online safety of internet users in our respective countries does not stop 'at the border' and that companies can benefit from economies of scale.

Without coordinated efforts, there is a risk of incoherent frameworks and fragmented understanding of good practice, which adds to regulatory burden and compliance issues.

We hope this will be a handy resource for you to better understand the global online safety regulatory environment.

The Index will be reviewed and updated periodically and as more regulators join the Network.

Want to know more?

The Network encourages wider international membership and cooperation, with the aim of making the approach to online safety between countries as consistent and coherent as possible.

If you would like to know more, visit [eSafety's website](#) or email the current Network chair, Ofcom, at Ofcom.International@ofcom.org.uk.

Kind regards,

Ella Serry
Manager, International Engagement

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

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Safer Internet Day is coming!

Start the new school year with an online safety focus. Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to set the tone for the year, with activities and conversations that aim to keep students safer and more empowered online.

The resources we're creating are designed to fit into your schedule and can be used throughout the year. [Sign up](#) and we'll let you know as soon as they're ready!

Whether it's starting a conversation with your class about online safety or teaching students to recognise online risks, report harmful content, and practice respect and kindness online — every step contributes to a safer, more positive internet.

Sign up to support



New professional learning videos

Need fresh ideas to engage your school community in online safety? Check out our latest [professional learning videos](#) – each just 5-6 minutes long and packed with actionable tips!

These new videos cover every element of our [Best Practice Framework](#) and are designed for teachers, wellbeing leaders, school counsellors, psychologists, principals and deputy principals – helping everyone take a proactive role in online safety.

[Learn more](#)



One-stop hub for early-childhood educators

A new online [hub](#), bringing together evidence-based resources and information for early-childhood educators, is now live, providing access to best-practice resources in one free-to-access location.

eSafety was proud to contribute to this landmark four-year research project, Young Children in Digital Society, which looked at how to engage, educate and entertain children safely in the digital world.

The project has also helped guide eSafety's [Early Years Professional Learning](#) modules, now updated based on findings from this project.

[Learn more](#)



New resources to help protect children from online risks

As educators, you play a crucial role in guiding young people and supporting families on online safety. We know that some online safety topics can be challenging to discuss, especially around sensitive issues like child sexual abuse online. But these conversations are essential. eSafety has released new resources to support families and professionals working with families to address these critical issues. We encourage you to share these with your network.

For parents and carers:

- **Read** – Tips for talking to [0 to 12 year olds](#) and [13 to 18 year olds](#) about child sexual abuse online.
- **Watch** – [Videos](#) on protecting children from child sexual abuse online.
- **Listen** – eSafety staff speak to the [Fathering Project podcast](#) about online safety.

For schools:

- **Explore and share** – [Keeping children safe online in communities hub](#), a central resource to help safeguard children from online harm in their communities.

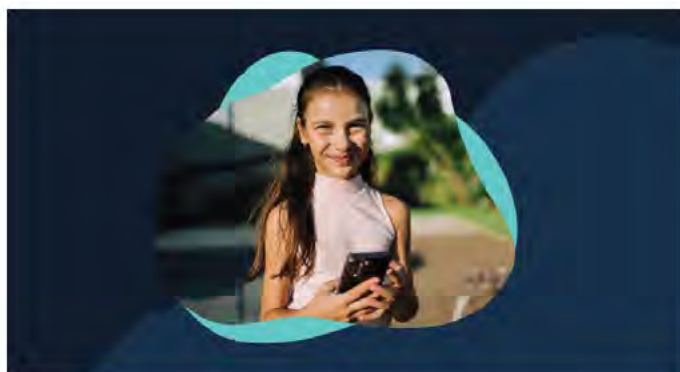


Unwrap the secrets to smart, safe tech gifts!

Tis' the season to find tech gifts that don't come with hidden surprises! But how do you choose tech gifts that are both fun and safe for children? [eSafety's Gift Guide](#) is here to help unwrap age-appropriate options in tech. From gaming consoles to drones, we've done the homework so parents and carers can make safe, informed decisions.

It's a great resource to share with your school community! Remember, gadgets can influence personal safety and the wellbeing of families. That's why healthy online habits are important right from the start.

[Learn more](#)



Instagram introduces teen accounts

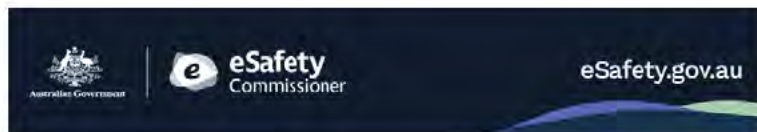
Instagram has introduced new rules for teenagers meaning children under 17 now automatically have their accounts set to private and can't be messaged or tagged by people they don't follow.

Some of the other changes include:

- parents and carers can set daily time limits on Instagram use
- teens get notified to leave the app after 60 minutes each day
- parents and carers can see the accounts their children message and the content categories they view
- [hidden words](#) settings automatically hide unwanted comments and messages

The new Teen Accounts are a step in the right direction, but they still put the onus on parents and carers to understand [parental supervision settings](#). Share [The eSafety Guide](#) with your school community, which shares how to protect personal information and report harmful content on common social media, games, apps and sites, including [Instagram](#).

[Learn more](#)



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Social media age restrictions

What does it mean for my family?

eSafety [welcomes the introduction](#) of the Australian Government's Social Media Minimum Age Bill setting a minimum age of 16 for access to certain age-restricted social media platforms. While the contents and passage of the legislation remains a matter for the Parliament, eSafety looks forward to working closely with government, industry and the Australian community to ensure the implementation of any future legislation is effective, enforceable and fair.

Even with minimum age restrictions in place, it is crucial that we continue supporting parents to play an active role in their children's online lives. Nothing can replace those vital conversations that help parents stay informed, set boundaries and help when something goes wrong. By modelling good digital practices, parents can lay the foundations for safer and more positive online experiences.

- [Watch](#): Short videos in In English, Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Tamil and Vietnamese.
- [Read](#): Online safety guides for parents and carers.
- [Listen](#): Audio files about online safety issues.

Parent resources

“

Thank you very much
for your swift response and
for getting the video removed.

”

Cyberbullying support for parents

“Thank you very much for your swift response and for getting the video removed.”

This was the feedback we received from a parent whose child had experienced bullying and humiliation due to a TikTok video. eSafety worked with the family and the social media platform to have the video removed.

Our research shows that more than half of children have been treated in a hurtful or nasty way online. Importantly, more than two-thirds told us they **sought help from their parents** when it happened.

Watch this video to learn more about how eSafety can help if your child is experiencing cyberbullying, including advice in languages other than English.

Watch video

Tech updates
to keep
children safe



Apple makes changes to improve child safety

Apple has introduced a new feature that allows Australian children to easily report unwanted nude images. This is a positive step that will help protect children from receiving unsolicited nudes using Apple devices. eSafety first highlighted the lack of basic safety measures on Apple

products nearly two years ago, so it is no coincidence Apple is introducing this feature in Australia before rolling it out worldwide. The [new in-app reporting feature](#) is available by default to children in Australia, with Australian adults able to opt-in.

[Learn more](#)

Instagram campaign to prevent sextortion

Instagram has launched a new education campaign to raise awareness among teens and parents about how to spot sextortion scams, and what to do if you're targeted. The [educational video](#) helps teens recognise red flags, including if someone is coming on too strong, asking to trade photos, or suggesting to move the conversation to a different app.

If someone shares or threatens to share an intimate image or video of you or your child, you can turn to [eSafety for help](#).

[Learn more](#)



Unwrap the secrets to smart, safe tech gifts!

Tis' the season to find tech gifts that don't come with hidden surprises! But how do you choose tech gifts that are both fun and safe for your kids? eSafety's Gift Guide is here to help you unwrap age-appropriate options in tech. From gaming consoles to drones, we've done the homework so you can make safe, informed decisions.

[Learn more](#)

**Free
webinars**
for parents
and carers



Free webinars for parents

Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into high school

This webinar explores the social pressures, peer influences, and technological challenges young people face as they transition into high school, and provides practical strategies for navigating online friendships.

Thursday, 28 November, 12.30 pm AEDT

eSafety 101: How eSafety can help

This webinar provides an overview of the work of the eSafety Commissioner and the programs and resources available for parents, carers, children, and young people.

Wednesday, 4 December, 12.30pm AEDT

[Learn more](#)



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

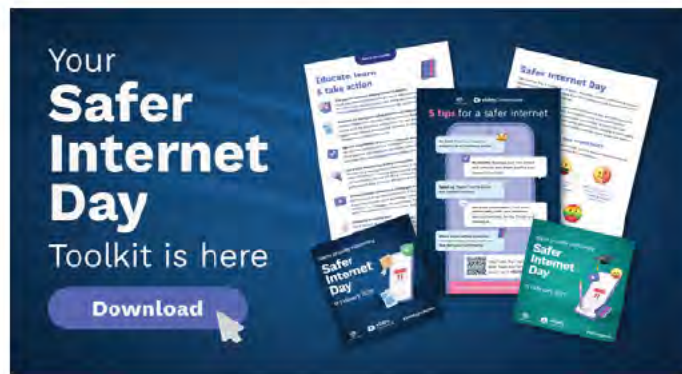
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Add Safer Internet Day to your Term 1 planner

Tuesday 11 February is Safer Internet Day! Kick off Term 1 with activities that get your students thinking critically about how to stay safe online and promote positive online interactions.

Here's how you can get involved:

- [Sign your class up to a NEW Safer Internet Day Primary Virtual Classroom webinar](#) – there are sessions for Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6.
- [Download the Safer Internet Day Back to School Toolkit for Educators](#) – it includes messages for your school newsletter, poster, social media images, chatterbox activity and more!
- [Download the Safer Internet Day Toolkit for Tertiary](#) – it includes messages for your social media channels, posters, a presentation for staff and students, and more!
- [Explore our hub](#) – for more ideas and inspiration on how to get involved and promote online safety on the day and throughout the year.

Join us in helping make the internet a safer, more positive place.

[Download the toolkit](#)



New webinar series: Hot topics in online safety

Our [Hot topics webinar series](#) is part of eSafety's professional learning program for primary and secondary educators. These 30-minute sessions are designed to tackle the latest challenges young people face online by providing actionable insights and strategies to support your students.

Here's what's coming up in Term 1:

Understanding AI Companions: What educators need to know

- When: 3.45 – 4.15pm AEDT, Wednesday 5 February
- Learning outcomes: Unpack the rise of AI companions, their risks, and strategies to guide young people in managing these interactions.

Young people and tech-based abuse – Cybermarvel (led by NSW Education)

- When: 3.45 – 4.15pm AEDT, Thursday 27 February
- Learning outcomes: Explore how technology is misused in domestic and family violence situations, its impact on young people, and practical ways to support those at risk.

Algorithms and adolescents: The rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people

- When: 3.45 – 4.15pm AEDT, Thursday 27 March
- Learning outcomes: Explore how algorithms shape young people's online experiences and discover practical strategies to have better conversations with students about social media use, managing content and reporting negative experiences.

Register now



Calling all lower primary educators: Is your online safety toolkit up to date?

Teaching online safety to younger students just got easier! Our [self-paced modules](#) for lower primary educators have been updated with the latest research and resources to help you teach online safety with confidence.

Each module takes about 25 minutes to complete with around 35 minutes of additional reading you can do in your own time.

Learn more



Meet our trusted eSafety Providers

Did you know there are [Trusted eSafety Providers](#) who can help your school strengthen its approach to online

safety and add to your existing whole-school approach.

These providers are specially assessed by eSafety to deliver high-quality programs for schools, from professional learning for school staff to sessions for parents/carers and students.

Whether you're looking to add to your school's existing online safety initiatives or need guidance, these providers offer support to meet your needs. Take a look and see which providers could be a great fit for your school in 2025!

[Learn more](#)



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Your guide for **tech gifts**

'Tis the season... for unwrapping smart, safe tech gifts!

Looking for tech gifts that are both fun and safe for your kids? With the holiday season upon us, choosing the right tech gifts for kids can be tricky. [eSafety's Gift Guide](#) is here to help you unwrap age-appropriate options in tech. From gaming consoles to drones, we've done the homework so you can make safe, informed decisions.

[Learn more](#)



Tips for keeping kids safe online over the holidays

5 tips to keep your family safe and sane over the holidays

Will you be juggling screens and routines with the kids these holidays? We know it can be a challenge, so we've got 5 tips to help:

1. Adjust [tech settings](#) and use [parental controls](#) to keep kids safe while they play.
2. Talk to your child about what they are doing online and identify trusted people to go to if something worries them. Our [Mighty Heroes](#) can help.

3. Take care when [taking and sharing photos and videos](#) of children. Practice asking for permission and respecting people's choices around being in photos and videos.
4. Set up a [family tech agreement](#) to suit the age and needs of your children.
5. Have fun! By watching and playing online together, you can learn about what your kids enjoy doing, as well as noticing any risks.



Keeping your family safe from tech-based coercive control

To mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 November to 10 December), eSafety partnered with the Telco Together Foundation to put the spotlight on tech-based coercive control. The '[Love Is](#)' campaign aims to reinforce what love is - and what love isn't - to help more Australians [identify red flags](#) or warning signs that a partner might be using technology as part of a broader pattern of coercive control.

Tech-based domestic, family and sexual violence can impact the whole family, including children and young people. eSafety has a number of resources to support parents and children experiencing tech-based abuse.

[Learn more](#)



Online gaming platform Roblox [recently announced](#) updates to its parental controls and protections for young people, allowing parents and carers to supervise child accounts from their own devices.

According to Roblox, this enables parents and carers to remotely:

- View their child's friends list
- Monitor screen time and set daily limits
- Manage chat settings
- Set content maturity limits.

Even with improved safety settings in place, it's important to have conversations with your child about what they are doing online and where they can turn for help. eSafety has a number of resources to parents to play an active role in their children's online lives. Check out the eSafety Guide for information about the benefits and risks of using online games and apps like Roblox.

[eSafety Guide](#)

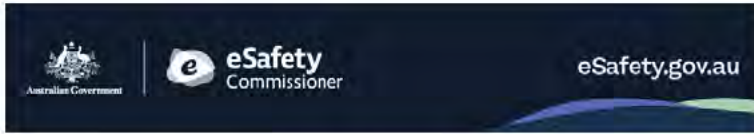


On [International Day of People with Disability](#) (3 December) - and all year round - we celebrate the progress and innovation driving inclusivity and empowerment for people with disabilities.

This year, we are proud to highlight the Be Safe Online resources developed by [Scope](#), a project funded through eSafety's Online Safety Grants Program. The project is designed to support and empower young people with communication disabilities, cognitive impairments and low literacy skills who may face higher risks of online abuse, cyberbullying and scams.

The Be Safe Online resources include 12 Easy English guides that use clear language, simple visuals and practical advice to navigate the online world more safely and with confidence.

Explore the Easy English guides



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Mark your calendars for Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11 February 2025!

Whether you're a teacher, school leader, administrator, or tertiary education staff member, Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to start 2025 with an online safety focus.

Explore our new Safer Internet Day hub, packed with resources to support schools and tertiary institutions:

- [Safer Internet Day Back to School Toolkit for Educators](#) – includes messages for your school newsletter, poster, social media images, chatterbox activity and more!
- [Safer Internet Day Toolkit for Tertiary](#) – includes messages for your social media channels, poster and more!
- [Additional resources](#) – Looking for more ideas? Visit our resources for educators on the Safer Internet Day hub for inspiration and tools to get involved.
- [✓ Sign up to become a supporter](#) – If you haven't already, sign up as an official supporter and be the first to know about Safer Internet Day updates.

[Download your toolkit](#)



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As we near the end of 2024, I wanted to update you on a couple of our key pieces of regulatory responsibilities.

It is fair to say, there is a lot going on.

Age restricted social media

You will have seen that the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 was passed by the Australian Parliament and received Royal Assent this month. These are groundbreaking measures which will put in place age restrictions for under 16's access to certain age-restricted social media platforms.

eSafety has long stated that age assurance is an important part of a holistic approach in keeping children and young people safe online. eSafety will work with government, industry, youth and the broader community to implement the Act.

The provisions relating to age restrictions will come into effect no later than 12 months after the Act's commencement, on December 11, 2025.

Over that time, the Minister for Communications may make legislative rules determining which services are in scope of the definition of an 'age restricted social media service' and which are exempted. These rules will be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny, and the Act requires the Minister to have regard to the advice of eSafety in making these rules, and we will be making independent assessments of these services to assist the Minister in her decision-making.

eSafety will also be responsible for providing guidance on the appropriate measures that age restricted social media

services can take to limit under 16s access to their services, what are referred to as, “reasonable steps.” Once implemented, we will then monitor, assess and enforce the measures.

While there will be much work to do in this short period of time, eSafety is ready to hit the ground running, building upon our considerable work to date on these issues.

This includes eSafety’s development of the [Restricted Access System Declaration](#) under the Online Safety Act 2021 and our extensive work developing the [Age Verification Roadmap](#) – provided to Government in March 2023 – together with our subsequent [Age Assurance issues paper](#), released in July 2024.

Additionally, eSafety continues to work with industry and other stakeholders on elements of the Online Safety Act 2021 which are still being implemented, including requesting that [industry develop codes](#) that apply reasonable and appropriate age assurance measures to protect children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate material.

Throughout this process, eSafety’s approach has been informed by research, evidence, deep consultation and careful consideration of the best interests of children.

eSafety is mindful of the need to balance the imperatives of safety with privacy, children’s rights to expression online and a range of other fundamental human rights. This also includes having young people help inform the implementation process, just as eSafety convened and supported its [eSafety Youth Council](#) to provide youth input into the policy process.

eSafety has a track record of translating complex and novel online safety legislation into effective regulation as demonstrated through the range of our systemic powers, including industry codes, standards and transparency powers under the [Basic Online Safety Expectations](#).

The Online Safety Act’s other systemic schemes

eSafety continues to work with industry and other stakeholders to implement the Online Safety Act 2021, with the [first phase of industry codes and standards](#) fully in force, as of this Sunday 22nd December. These codes and standards focus on illegal content, including child sexual abuse material and pro-terror content.

The two industry standards commencing this weekend will require the online industry to tackle the worst-of-the-worst online content, including on end-to-end encrypted messaging services, with appropriate protections for security and privacy, and through consumer-facing AI applications, like some nudifying apps targeting children. The Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 includes significantly increased civil penalties for breaches of these codes and standards, of up to almost \$50m for each contravention.

eSafety looks forward to continuing to work with industry and other stakeholders on the implementation and enforcement of these requirements. Certain codes require annual reports to be provided to eSafety in February 2025, which will assist us in understanding the measures to implement, with templates available for industry on the [eSafety website](#). Complaints about both codes and standards compliance can be made to eSafety to flag potential issues via this [eSafety webpage](#).

Completion of this first phase of [industry codes and standards](#) not only marks a significant stride forward in the online protection of children but may also have global impact on how some of the largest and wealthiest companies in human history tackle the most harmful material online.

This first phase, will be joined by a second set of codes that will protect children from encountering harmful and age-inappropriate material, such as pornography and other high-impact content including themes of suicide, self-harm and serious illness, including eating disorders. They will also empower adults to choose whether they want to interact with this content online. Public consultation on the industry draft codes has now been closed.

At the request of the industry associations drafting the codes, I have granted a short extension to the current deadline of December until 28 February 2025. This short extension was granted in recognition of industry's request to process the implications of the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 and the appropriate age assurance measures proposed under the Codes.

I will then consider whether the codes provide appropriate community safeguards and are fit to be registered. If the codes do not provide appropriate community safeguards, I may decide to move to mandatory industry standards. My office has encouraged industry to develop codes

which adopt a safety approach which goes across all sections of the technology industry, to help avoid a single point of failure in protective measures. I look forward to receiving codes in February for my consideration.

Complementing these advances in online safety regulation are our prevention and education efforts, which have always been foundational pillars of eSafety's work and remain so. This work is critical in keeping young Australians safer on the platforms they are using today, encouraging help-seeking behaviour, and preparing them for the technology challenges they will face in the future.

These efforts will include further interventions to enable and empower parents and carers as ongoing conversations and engagement in children's online lives will continue to be a longer-term need, even with further social media restrictions in place.

eSafety will continue to use its world-leading regulatory powers under the Online Safety Act 2021 to compel greater transparency and encourage meaningful accountability from online services, particularly when it comes to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

For example, under the new [Basic Online Safety Expectations](#) determination reinforcing the platforms' responsibilities to act in the best interests of the child, eSafety recently requested vital information from the providers of eight online services used by young Australians to understand the steps they are currently taking to assess the age of users and keep younger users safe. This information will provide valuable insights into the state of play at that point in time, illustrating the methods platforms already use to enforce their own terms of service on minimum age. After further consultation, key findings from this work will be made public in early 2025.

In February 2025, 8 providers will also report against eSafety's first set of periodic notices issued under the [Basic Online Safety Expectations](#). These notices focus on child sexual exploitation and abuse material and activity and sexual extortion.

Bringing it all together

The proposed introduction of a duty of care, as recommended in the statutory review of the Online Safety Act 2021 and announced by the Australian Government, would also further strengthen online safety.

These are all inter-locking measures designed to arm our citizens with the educational guidance and the tools they

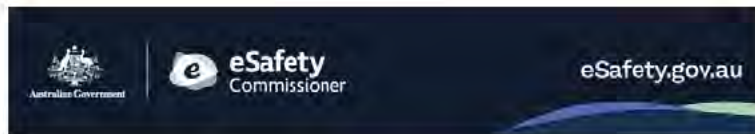
need to keep their families safer online whilst putting the burden for safety back on the platforms themselves to ensure the digital platforms Australians are using today – and tomorrow – are safer by design.

In the coming months, we will be establishing the fundamental building blocks needed to effectively implement and enforce the legislation. Importantly, this process will complement eSafety's existing holistic strategy to ensure platforms and services are more effectively deploying Safety by Design, whilst lifting safety practices and processes for all Australians. We look forward to working with you in 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Inman Grant
eSafety Commissioner

[Read more](#)



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Safer Internet Day is just two weeks away — Tuesday 11 February 2025! Got your plans locked in? Fantastic! Still figuring it out? No worries — here are four easy ways to get involved:

1. Download your toolkit – The [Back-to-School Toolkit for Educators](#) includes a poster, newsletter content, social media tiles and activities. There is also a [Tertiary Toolkit](#) with social media content, poster, and activity ideas.
2. Visit the Safer Internet Day hub – Looking for more ideas? Visit [our resources for educators and tertiary institutions](#) on the Safer Internet Day hub for inspiration on how to get involved.
3. [Sign your class up to a virtual classroom webinar](#) – Live sessions for Year 3-4 and Years 5-6 students to build practical online safety skills.

We can't wait to see how your school takes action to create a safer, more positive internet this Safer Internet Day!

[More ways to get involved](#)

Register for professional learning



eSafety's Term 1 webinar schedule for teachers is now out, covering a range of hot topics to help educators navigate online complexities.

Understanding AI Companions: What educators need to know

- Unpack the rise of AI companions, their risks, and strategies to guide young people in managing these interactions.
- Wednesday 5 February, 3.45 – 4.15pm AEDT

Young people and tech-based abuse

- Explore how technology can be misused in domestic and family violence situations, its impact on young people, and practical ways to support those at risk.
- Thursday 27 February, 3.45 – 4.15pm AEDT

Algorithms and adolescents: The rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people

- Explore how algorithms shape young people's online experiences and discover practical strategies to have better conversations with students about social media use, managing content and reporting negative experiences.
- Thursday 27 March, 3.45 – 4.15pm AEDT

[Register now](#)

Explore the eSafety schools' hub



No matter what stage your school is at in its online safety journey, the eSafety schools' hub can support your whole-school approach to online safety education.

The hub brings together key online safety resources for students, teachers, parents and carers, meaning everyone works together to address online safety issues.

[Explore the schools' hub](#)

Toolkit for Schools



As you know, preparation and planning are key for effective teaching, and when it comes to online safety, eSafety has you covered.

The eSafety Toolkit for Schools is made up of four elements: Prepare, Engage, Educate and Respond.

Start the school year with our 'Prepare' resources to ensure your school is ready to deal with online safety issues, identify areas of strength, and design or improve your online safety policies and procedures. Included is an online safety assessment tool, guidelines for social media use and tips for responding to incidents that happen outside of school hours.

[Download the 'Prepare' resources](#)

Explore classroom resources



Lay the foundation for safer and more positive experiences online with these resources to help your students understand online privacy and security:

- **Lower primary:** Our [Mighty Heroes](#) will help students understand the concept of personal information and why protecting it is so important.
- **Middle and upper primary:** Explore critical thinking, device safety, and spending money online with [Be Secure](#), or guide your students in the [Cybersmart Challenge](#) to learn about online safety issues like cyberbullying, protecting personal information and sharing images.
- **Secondary:** Almost [1 in 5 teenagers](#) have shared the password to their social media accounts with a friend, family member, boyfriend or girlfriend. Our resources provide helpful tips for teenagers on [Protecting your Personal Identifying Information](#) and your [Digital Footprint](#).

[Learn more](#)

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Free webinars

for parents
and carers

eSafety's Term 1 webinar schedule is out! Join our expert education team to become equipped with the knowledge and tools to support your kids through tricky times.

Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into high school

Explore the social pressures, peer influences, and technological challenges young people face as they transition into high school.

Algorithms and adolescents: the rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people

Learn about algorithms and AI and how you can support safer and more positive interactions in the digital world

[Learn more](#)



Reporting to eSafety

How to help a child experiencing online abuse

Our research shows more than two thirds of children tell a parent or carer if they have a negative experience online.

eSafety has compiled some helpful information to ensure you can recognise the signs of online abuse and provide support to your child.

[Find out more](#)



What you need to know about social media age restrictions

Social media age restrictions for children under the age of 16 will come into effect from December 2025. You can help the young person in your life understand these changes by talking openly with them, understanding their current social media use and discussing how this might be impacted.

Even with minimum age restrictions in place, it is crucial that parents continue to play an active role in their children's online lives. The [eSafety website](#) includes tips to support conversations with your child, as well as advice and resources co-designed with young people - eSafety will continue to develop and update this guidance to ensure that when young Australians reach 16 they will be prepared for safer social media use.

[Learn more](#)

How to keep your kids safe online

with eSafety Commissioner
Julie Inman Grant



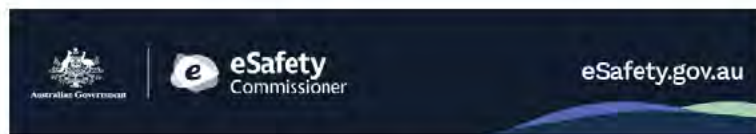
For our Canberra readers, eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant will be in the nation's capital later this month discussing online safety issues with Senator for the ACT Katy Gallagher. They'll unpack practical tips to help you navigate your child's online usage, what to do if you think your child is being bullied online, and how to talk to about internet safety with your kids.

Keeping Your Kids Safe Online Forum

Wednesday 29 January, 6.00 - 7.30pm AEDT

Canberra College Performing Arts Centre Theatre
(CCPAC)

[Find out more](#)



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Together, we can create a safer internet

The internet is a space for learning, connection and playing – but for many, it can also be a space where harm occurs.

This Safer Internet Day we invite you to pause and reflect: ***what role can you play in making the internet safer and more positive?*** Even small actions from each of us can make a big difference.

It's not too late to get involved! Keep scrolling for ideas to help you celebrate Safer Internet Day.

Celebrate Safer Internet Day



Visit the hub

The Safer Internet Day hub is your one-stop shop for resources, toolkits and activities. Whether you're an educator, parent, employer, or community leader, you'll find everything you need to promote online safety.



Download your kit

There's resources for schools, tertiary institutions, workplaces, and industry. Plus, explore resources for parents, carers, and organisations working with families to support safer online spaces in your community.



Share on social

Download and post our supporter tile (it's on the hub) or create your own post. Remember to tag #SID2025 and @eSafetyOffice and show your commitment to online safety. Together, we can inspire action and raise awareness.



A safer internet starts with you

Online safety doesn't have to be complicated. Watch the video to discover 5 practical tips everyone can follow to create a safer, more positive internet.

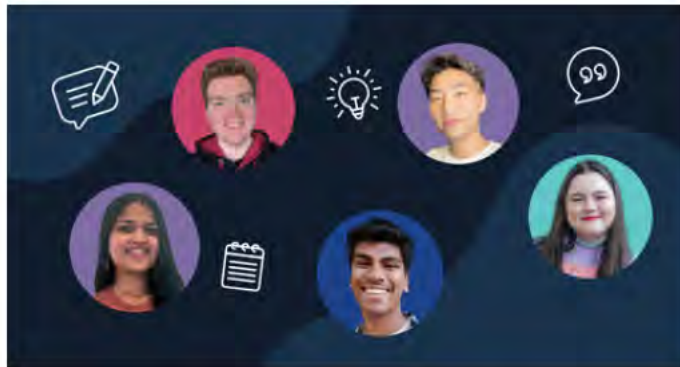
[Watch now](#)



A message from eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant

Hear her reflections on why today is so important.

[Watch now](#)



Hear from the eSafety Youth Council

They share what a safer internet means to them.

[Read more](#)



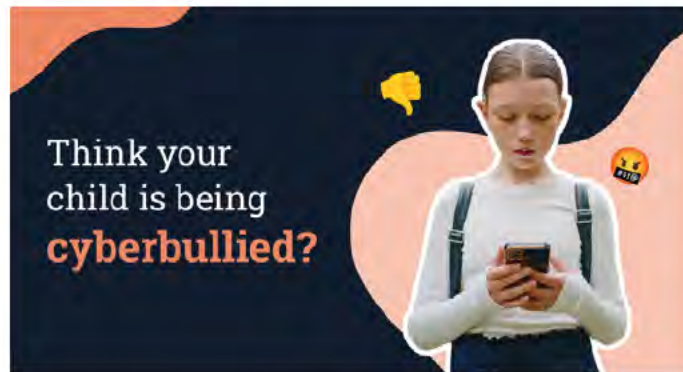
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Cyberbullying and the back-to-school surge: How we can protect our kids

As Australian students return to school, many are not just navigating new classrooms and teachers — but also a digital world with increasingly complex challenges.

New data from eSafety shows a staggering [450 per cent rise](#) in cyberbullying reports over the past five years, with children transitioning into secondary school accounting for more than a third of all cases.

If [parents](#) can take away one message as you start the school year, it's don't wait for an incident to occur to have a conversation with your child about cyberbullying. Early conversations about online safety will provide your child with the social and emotional skills needed to reduce the risks and make our communities safer for all.

[Learn more](#)



Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into high school

This 30-minute webinar explores the social pressures, peer influences, and technological challenges young people face as they transition into high school. It also offers practical strategies for navigating online friendships and connections to help minimise negative experiences.

It's suitable for parents and carers of children in upper primary school (ages 11 to 12) and Year 7.

25 February, 3.30pm AEDT

[Register for webinars](#)



“I couldn’t believe it – someone was pretending to be me online.”

When Carla found out someone was using an imitation account on Instagram to send nasty messages to her friends, it was distressing and humiliating. She reported the account to the platform, but more accounts started popping up on other apps.

Carla made a report to eSafety. We contacted the social media services and were able to get the fake accounts removed. We also helped Carla reach out to Kids Helpline to chat through how the experience made her feel.

[Read more real stories from young Australians](#)



Tech tips for keeping kids safe online

How to report online harm to Snapchat

If your child experiences cyberbullying, knowing how to collect evidence and quickly report harm to the platform is a helpful way you can support your child.

Snapchat is a messaging app that lets you send images, videos or instant messages (known as Snaps) to friends. These then disappear a short time after opening. This is referred to as 'disappearing' or 'ephemeral' content.

To report harmful content on Snapchat, press and hold on the Snap or Story you want to report and tap 'Report Snap'. The content will be attached to the report for review and won't disappear in the usual 24-hour timeframe. The person won't know who made the report and you can cancel a report if you reported in error. If you can't report something using the Snapchat app, you can [report on the website instead](#).

For more information on Snapchat and how users be safer on the platform, [read the eSafety Guide](#).

[Read the eSafety guide](#)



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Thank you for being a part of Safer Internet Day 2025!
Your support helped spread online safety messages to millions of Australians — we couldn't have done it without you.

Got 5 minutes? We would love for you to share your thoughts in our survey, to help us understand your experience, the resources and activities you loved (or wished for), and any improvements you'd like to see.

Safer Internet Day is at the beginning of the year but remember — our resources are available all year round to support your work.

Your feedback matters. It'll help make Safer Internet Day 2026 even bigger, better, and more impactful.

[Complete the survey](#)



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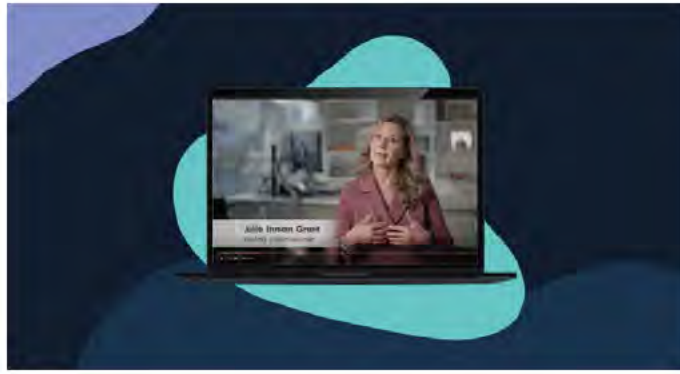
Building respectful relationships



Taking a whole-school approach to building respectful relationships

As teachers and school staff, you play a vital role in developing students' knowledge and skills about healthy and respectful relationships. The most effective way for respectful relationships to thrive is via a whole-school approach. That's why eSafety has created curriculum-aligned teaching and learning resources tailored for different class levels:

- **Lower primary:** Watch [River the sugar glider](#) and refer to the [educator notes](#) to help students identify respectful and fair online communication.
- **Lower secondary:** Explore our [Young and eSafe videos](#), real-life stories and expert advice and [follow the lesson plans](#).
- **Secondary:** Watch Rewrite your story and follow our lesson plans to discuss the impact of cyberbullying on the characters and how they could get help.
- **Senior secondary:** Watch [Being in a respectful relationship](#) and discuss what a respectful relationship looks and feels like.



The role of a lifetime

Have you been watching the new ABC series '[The Role of a Lifetime](#)'? The first episode featured eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant explaining what to do if a child you know is being cyberbullied. End-to-end encrypted messages, gaming chatrooms, and ephemeral media (messages that disappear) means cyberbullying is often hidden from parents and teachers. The best course of action is to report the content to the platform, and if it isn't removed, report to eSafety.

[How to respond to cyberbullying](#)



Celebrating Safer Internet Day

Thank you to all those who participated in Safer Internet Day 2025, a global day of action dedicated to raising awareness of online safety! Thousands of workplaces, schools and individuals supported Safer Internet Day by joining the global conversation about online safety.

Don't worry if you missed it. [The Safer Internet Day hub](#) which includes [resources for educators](#) will be available until the end of Term 1 to help you set up your classes for safer, more positive online interactions.

Explore the Safer Internet Day school
resources



Coming up!

Algorithms and adolescents: The rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people

Explore how algorithms shape young people's online experiences, including their relationships! Discover practical strategies to have better conversations with students about social media use, managing content and reporting negative experiences.

Thursday 27 March, 3.45–4.15pm AEDT

[Register for professional learning](#)

Save the date!

Details of our Term 2 professional learning webinars are now online

- Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives – **Thursday 1 May 3.45pm**
- Understanding AI Companions: What educators need to know – **Wednesday 28 May 3.45pm**
- Responding and reporting: critical online incidents in school settings – **Wednesday 4 June 3.45pm**
- Sexual extortion: What educators need to know – **Thursday 19 June 3.45pm**

[Find out more](#)

We also run webinars for parents and carers.

[Download and share](#) the Term 2 flyer with your school



Supporting young men to have safe, positive online experiences

eSafety has published the latest in a two-part research project investigating online experiences of young men and boys.

In part one of the project, 117 young men were interviewed about their experiences, beliefs, behaviours and influences in online spaces. In part two, in-depth interviews and a research workshop were conducted with 16 expert practitioners.

eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant unpacks the findings in our [latest blog](#), charting a path forward to disrupt harmful online narratives.

[Download the report](#)

Behind the screen: social media use among Australia children

Most 8 to 12-year-olds have used social media or messaging services despite being under the age limit of 13+, according to eSafety's recent national survey.

This is backed up by information provided directly to eSafety by social media platforms about how they enforce their own age restrictions (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Reddit, Discord and Twitch).

The results show Australian children are easily circumventing inadequate and poorly enforced minimum age rules employed by social media services. eSafety remains committed to working with teachers, parents and young people to provide meaningful, co-designed

educational content and resources that build digital literacy and resilience.

[Find out more](#)



Tertiary Sector news

***NEW* Tertiary sector news**

We're excited to announce we have launched a quarterly eSafety tertiary sector newsletter! If you or an educator you know is looking for tertiary-specific resources and advice, join our [tertiary mailing list](#). You'll get access to the latest eSafety resources, research and advice specifically targeted for TAFE, university and other tertiary provider educators.

[Sign up today](#)



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Supporting young men to have safe, positive online experiences

eSafety has published the latest in a two-part body of research investigating young men and boys' online experiences, drawing on insights from 16 expert practitioners and psychologists who work with young men.

Practitioners observed that:

- Being online can be positive for young men, allowing them to express themselves, connect socially and develop their critical thinking skills.
- Young men are interested in learning how to become good, kind men, and can be empathetic and think critically.
- Young men are feeling defensive, disenfranchised, uncertain, rebellious and lonely.
- Harmful online content, creators and communities can appeal to young men by meeting their needs for validation, guidance, edginess and belonging.
- Algorithms and recommender systems push harmful content onto young men.

eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant unpacks the findings in [our latest blog](#) and charts a path forward to disrupt harmful online narratives. She states that the onus shouldn't fall entirely to young men to prevent harms themselves. Progress requires a whole-society approach which must include action from the tech sector, support from communities, families, educators and government, and global regulation.

[Find out more](#)

Join our webinar

Algorithms and adolescents:

the rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people



Algorithms and adolescents: the rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people

Curious about how digital platforms are influencing your children's online experiences? This 30-minute webinar explores how algorithms and AI can determine what young people consume online and help you to support your children to have safer interactions.

Tuesday 19 March, 12.30pm AEDT. Suitable for parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school

[Register today](#)

Save the date! Details of our Term 2 webinars are now online:

- Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online – **14 May 12.30pm & 3 June 3.30pm**
- Sexual extortion: What parents and carers need to know (30 minutes) – **28 May 12.30pm & 18 June 12.30pm**
- eSafety 101: How eSafety can help you (30 minutes) – **21 May 12.30pm**

[Learn more](#)



Behind the screen:

social media use among
Australian children

Behind the screen: social media use among Australian children

The latest research from eSafety shows Australian children are easily circumventing inadequate and poorly enforced minimum age rules employed by social media services. According to our recent national survey, most 8 to 12-year-olds have used social media or messaging services despite being under the age limit of 13+.

This is backed up by information requested by eSafety to social media platforms about how they enforce their own age restrictions (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Reddit, Discord and Twitch).

If you're wondering if your child is ready for social media or a smart device, and not sure what the next steps are, eSafety has some helpful advice: [Are they old enough?](#) You can also refer to eSafety's advice on [setting up parental controls](#) to help manage what your kids see and who they can connect with when using social media.

[Find out more](#)



The Role of a Lifetime

Have you been watching the new ABC series ['The Role of a Lifetime'](#)? The first episode featured eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant explaining what to do if your child is being cyberbullied. eSafety has civil powers

to compel social media platforms to remove harmful content. The best course of action is to first report the content to the social media platform, and if it isn't removed, report to eSafety. If you're worried your child might be bullying others, you can help your child build empathy and develop digital intelligence.

I am worried my child may be bullying others

Tech tips

for keeping kids
safe online



Helping your family stay safe on devices and apps

New classifications for gambling-like content in video games

The Australian Government has introduced [new classifications](#) to help parents and carers identify video games with gambling-like content. These video games will now be classified M (not recommended for children under 15) or R18+ (restricted to adults 18 years and over). Use classification advice to help choose games that are right for your family.

Google introduces new digital protections

Google is rolling out new [sensitive content warnings](#) that blur images that may contain nudity, and provides a 'speed bump' of resources and options before viewing. The feature is opt-out for users under 18 years, with parental controls for supervised accounts, and opt-in for adults. You can manage this feature via Android settings.

They are also expanding some of the tools in [Google Family Link](#) including introducing School Time to phones and tablets for parents to automatically limit or adjust phone functionality and restrict app access during school hours.

For more tech tips to keep you and your family safe across social media, games, apps and sites, visit the

[eSafety guide.](#)

[Read the eSafety Guide](#)



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eSafety News

Adolescence edition



Image courtesy of Netflix

For any parent who has watched the Netflix drama *Adolescence* and was left highly disturbed by the harmful impact that social media is having on young men and boys, you are not alone.

It's hard to think of a show that has captured the world's attention so fully and shone a much-needed light on the dangerous impact of misogynistic content, algorithms and influencers on the minds of young men and boys.

Shockingly, despite our best efforts as parents to raise great kids, it is not a fair fight when tech companies and algorithms can influence our teenagers within a matter of seconds.

As Australia's national online safety educator, nothing is more important to us than ensuring young people are safe to create, connect and explore the wonders of technology and the internet. It's what motivates us in every aspect of our work, whether we're connecting with educators, parents and young people to develop digital literacy and resilience resources, encouraging the tech industry to take a Safety by Design approach by putting safety at the forefront of the design, or developing guidance to prevent under 16-year-olds from having accounts on certain social media services.

Resources to help you and your community navigate the risks facing young people online:

- **[Register](#)** for our free 45-minute parent webinar, *Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men*, to understand the impact of social media, gaming, and influencers on attitudes, behaviours and sense of identity.
- **[Listen](#)** to ABC Fran Kelly and eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant unpack the themes of *Adolescence* including toxic masculinity and the online manosphere.
- **[Listen](#)** to ABC Big Ideas! to hear eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant and other experts in their fields discuss how parents can better support young people to navigate the risks and threats online.
- **[Read](#)** our blog about how eSafety is shining a light on the dark forces manipulating our teenagers.
- **[Read](#)** eSafety's young men online research series which explores young men's experiences and how they can be supported to develop healthy and positive masculinities.
- For the young person in your life: explore our [resources for young people](#).

Tech tips

for keeping kids
safe online



Helping your family stay safe on devices and apps

New built-in restrictions for Instagram Teen Accounts

Teens under 16 won't be able to go Live or turn off protections from unwanted images in DMs without a parent's permission under additional Instagram Teen Account protections. Meta, who own Instagram and Facebook, are also planning to make Teen Accounts available on Facebook and Messenger. [Find out more](#)

Apple adds child safety measures

Apple is introducing new measures to the App Store to better protect young people online. It's part of a broader effort to minimise data collection and give parents more control over what's shared with app developers. Parents will be able to update their child's account age if they previously set it incorrectly, and will be able to consent to their child's age range being shared with app developers so they'll be shown more age-appropriate content in the App Store. Read more in [Apple's Helping Protect Kids Online White Paper](#).

TikTok introduces new family features

TikTok has introduced new family pairing features giving parents additional tools to set boundaries and customise limits. A new in-app meditation feature is designed to help teens wind down after they use TikTok after 10pm. Find out more about TikTok and how to report online abuse or block someone by referring to the [eSafety Guide](#).



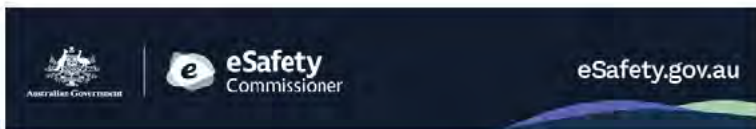
The eSafety Youth Council got together in Canberra recently to meet with decision makers and ensure the voices of young people are heard when it comes to online safety.

The eSafety Youth Council is made up of young people aged 13 to 24 with a range of lived experiences and perspectives on online safety education. Some of the highlights included:

- Touring Parliament House and learning about the parliamentary process
- Brainstorming about how to engage and support young Australians with emerging online safety issue

For more information about the Youth Council and upcoming opportunities for young people to be get involved, visit [eSafety Youth Council](#).

Find out about the Youth Council



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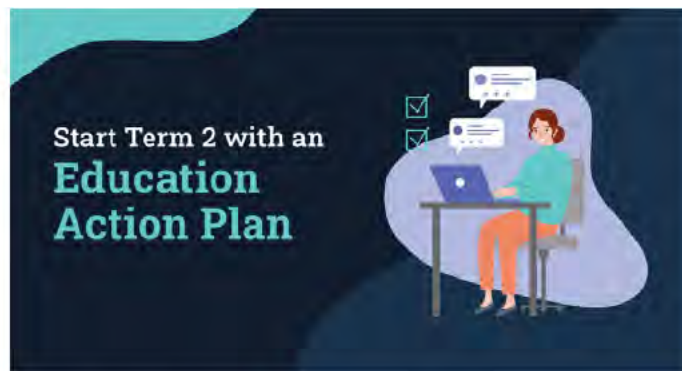
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Education Sector News

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Start Term 2 with an Education Action Plan

Start Term 2 by looking at your school's current approach to online safety education and creating an education action plan.

The 'Educate' resources in eSafety's [Toolkit for Schools](#) offer best practice guidance for online safety education and sit alongside eSafety's suite of curriculum-aligned [classroom resources](#).

Download the [education action plan](#) to get started and register for one of eSafety's upcoming free webinars to learn the latest online safety research, case studies and teaching strategies – details below!

[Find out more](#)



Netflix' Adolescence and how to support students against online harm

For any adult who has watched the Netflix drama Adolescence and was left disturbed by the harmful impact that social media is having on young men and boys, you are not alone.

The program (Rated M) has shone a light on the dangerous impact of [misogynistic content, algorithms and influencers](#) on the minds of young men and boys. As Australia's national online safety educator, ensuring young people are safe to create, connect and explore the online world is at the heart of eSafety's work. It's why connecting with [educators](#), [parents](#) and [young people](#) to improve digital literacy and resilience is so important.

eSafety resources for educators:

- [Webinar for teachers](#): Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men
- [Online Safety Advisory](#): An unfair fight - how algorithms are shaping our adolescents
- [eSafety blog](#): Shining a light on the dark forces manipulating our teenagers
- [eSafety research series](#): Young men's experiences online

eSafety resources for senior secondary students:

- [Being in a respectful relationship](#)
- [Giving and seeking help in relationships](#)
- [Power and gender in relationships](#)

[Register for the boys and young men webinar](#)

Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives



Adolescence is a unique and important stage of development in which respectful relationships can make all the difference. What makes relationships respectful and not respectful? And what does it look like when student relationships become controlling?

To help you feel equipped to talk to young people about respect, consent and healthy relationships, eSafety has developed a new webinar for educators and anyone working with young people.

Webinar: Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives

This 45-minute webinar explores how technology-facilitated coercive control impacts young people, the common red flags to watch for and practical ways to support those experiencing it.

- Thursday 1 May, 3.45-4.30pm AEST
- Thursday 20 May, 3.45-4.30pm AEST

[Register now](#)

Term 2 Professional learning webinars



Professional learning webinars for upper primary and secondary educators

Understanding AI Companions: What educators need to know

How are AI companions shaping the online experiences of young people? This 30-minute introductory webinar explores the basics of AI companions, their role in online interactions, and the potential risks they pose.

Wednesday 28 May, 3.45-4.15pm AEST

Responding and reporting: critical online incidents in school settings

Designed for school leaders, teachers, and non-teaching staff who play a role in supporting or leading the response and reporting associated with critical online incidents that occur within school communities. This 60-minute webinar shares case studies and explores reporting processes and incident assessment tools.

Wednesday 4 June, 3.45-4.45pm AEST

Sexual extortion: What educators need to know

Sexual extortion or 'sextortion' is a form of blackmail where someone threatens to share a nude or sexual image or video of a person unless their demands are met. Join this webinar to understand its impacts, potential harms and how to respond and access support.

Thursday 19 June, 3.45-4.15pm AEST

[Register now](#)



Virtual Classroom webinars for Year 3-6 students

Virtual Classroom webinars for Year 3-6 students

eSafety Virtual Classroom webinars are live video sessions where an eSafety trainer facilitates student interaction using moderated chats and polls throughout a presentation.

Students usually participate in their school classroom using a smartboard, guided by their teacher. Register for an upcoming Virtual Classroom webinar to help students understand how to recognise 'red flag' situations when they're online.

For Years 3 and 4 - [Be an eSafe kid: Let's talk about 'red flags' online](#)

Tuesday 13 May, 2.00pm AEST

For Years 5 and 6 - [Be an eSafe kid: Recognising 'red flags' online](#)

Thursday 29 May, 2.00pm AEST

[Learn about eSafety Virtual Classrooms](#)



Are you an Early Years or lower primary school educator?

The *Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5* picture book is an age-appropriate way to introduce early years and lower primary students to online safety.

[Read](#) *Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5*

[Watch](#) Jimmy Rees bring the story to life (includes Auslan version)

[Learn](#) the *My Family Rules* song created by children's entertainer Lah-Lah

Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5 is also available at local libraries across Australia.

[Order your free copy](#)

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Parent and Carer News



**Term 2 free webinars
for parent and carers**

Looking for practical ways to support your child's online safety? Join our **free webinars** designed specifically for parents and carers.

Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online

Learn how to effectively use parental controls to protect your child from harmful content, manage their online time, and monitor their communications. This 45-minute webinar will cover:

- Types of parental controls for smart devices, apps, gaming platforms, and computers.
- Integrating parental controls with other online safety strategies to build your child's digital and critical skills.

3 June, 3.30pm AEST

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary school and lower high school.

[Register now](#)

eSafety 101: How eSafety can help you

Unsure how to start the conversation about online safety with your child? This 30-minute webinar will introduce:

- eSafety resources to help you initiate discussions about online safety.
- Top 5 tips to keep your family safe online.
- How eSafety can assist parents, children, and young people experiencing online harms.

21 May, 12.30pm AEST

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and secondary school.

[Register now](#)

Sexual extortion: What parents and carers need to know

Understand the serious issue of sexual extortion and how to support your child if they are targeted. This 30-minute webinar will explain:

- What sexual extortion is and its potential impacts on young people.
- Strategies to support and respond to young people experiencing sexual extortion.
- Encouraging safer and more positive online interactions.

28 May, 12.30pm

18 June, 12.30pm

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in upper primary and secondary school.

[Register now](#)

Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men

Discover how boys and young men engage online and the risks they face. This 45-minute webinar will help you understand:

- Social and cultural influences shaping boys and young men.
- How boys build relationships online and their vulnerability to manipulation.
- The impact of social media, gaming, and influencers on their identity and behaviour.
- Practical strategies to build critical thinking and challenge harmful narratives.

27 May, 12.30pm AEST

30 July, 12.30pm AEST

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in upper primary and secondary school.

[Register now](#)



What parents say about **eSafety webinars**


Don't just take our word for it, here's what parents are saying about eSafety webinars:

"I now know where to start the conversation with my teens! I definitely will spread the word! Thank you so much!"

"This was excellent - very useful and I learned some great tips."

"Love the concise presentation. Looking forward to implementing the practical help on refreshing feeds and app preferences. Thank you."

[Register for eSafety webinars](#)



Online safety education at school

Best practice online safety education for your child's school

As parents and carers, we know you want the best for your child, and when it comes to keeping them safe online, that couldn't be more important.

If your child's school is looking for an online safety education provider, consider engaging a Trusted eSafety Provider.

Trusted eSafety Providers are endorsed by the eSafety Commissioner to deliver specialist online safety education that is reliable, evidence-based and tailored to each school's needs.

Endorsement by eSafety means their approach to online safety is best practice and curriculum-aligned. They have also demonstrated their compliance with relevant safeguards for working with children and have appropriate insurance.

[Find out more](#)



I-CEPS
International Congress on
Evidence-based Parenting Support

PARENT DAY
2025 SATURDAY 7 JUNE
ONLINE **ONLY \$22**

All parents and carers are invited to attend this online event bringing you trusted, research-driven parenting insights from leading experts.

Presented by the Parenting and Family Research Alliance

REGISTER NOW!

The banner features a yellow background with a blue and red illustration of a man and a woman talking to a child. The text is in various colors and sizes, with a blue button for registration.

Register for Parent Day – an online event designed for parents & carers

Parents and carers are invited to the inaugural Parent Day, an online event taking place on 7 June. The eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, will join world-leading experts across the four-day event, organised by the International Congress of Evidence-based Parenting Support.

Register to learn evidence-based parenting advice on topics such as digital safety, fostering resilience, and navigating tricky conversations, in an accessible and practical way.

Tickets are \$22 for a full day of streamed expert presentations, also available to watch on demand for two

weeks post-event.

[Register](#)



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eSafety
Provider
esafety.gov.au



Ready to help with
online safety education

Take the guesswork out of online safety education

Strengthen your whole-school approach to online safety education by engaging a [Trusted eSafety Provider](#).

Trusted eSafety Providers have been assessed by eSafety for their ability to deliver high-quality learning for school staff, parents, carers, and students.

Whether you're looking to strengthen your school's existing approach or need guidance with new ideas and evidence-based strategies, these providers offer support to meet your needs. See which providers could be a great fit for your school by clicking the link below!

[Find out more](#)



When love becomes control

Recent findings from an eSafety survey suggests controlling behaviours are becoming normalised in young people's romantic relationships. [Track, harass, repeat: Investigating attitudes that normalise tech-based coercive control](#) found nearly 1 in 5 young people think it's okay to track their partner whenever they want and almost 1 in 3 young people believe constantly texting their partner to ask what they're doing and who they're with is a sign of care.

To help educators feel equipped to talk to young people about respect, consent and healthy relationships, eSafety has a number of resources on offer:

- **Register for eSafety Professional Learning:** [Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives](#), Thursday 31 July 3.45pm-4.30pm (AEST)
- **Read our latest Online Safety Advisory:** [When love becomes control](#)
- **Watch BTN High's latest video resource:** [The dark side of location-sharing apps](#)
- **Access support materials designed with and for young people:** [Being in a respectful relationship](#)

[Download the report](#)



Hot topic webinars coming up!

Responding and reporting: critical online incidents in school settings

Wednesday, 4 June, 3.45pm-4.15pm (AEST)
For upper primary and secondary educators.

Sexual extortion: What educators need to know

Thursday 19 June, 3.45-4.15pm (AEST)
For upper primary and secondary educators, and school support staff.

The changing face of cyberbullying – supporting young people

Tuesday 29 July, 3.45-4.30pm (AEST)
For educators and youth serving professionals.

AI-assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat

Tuesday 5 August, 3.45-4.15pm (AEST)
For upper primary and secondary educators.

[Register today](#)



Early Years Resources

[Early Learning Matters Week](#) is coming up (28 July - 3 August) and it's a great opportunity to [learn about online safety through play](#).

To help you prepare, eSafety has a number of resources for early childhood educators and parents, including:

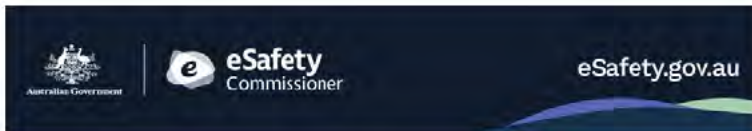
- Online safety teaching posters - available for order and download from our [website](#)
- Order or download the [Online Safety for under 5s booklet](#)
- [Family tech agreement for under 5s](#)
- Self-paced interactive [professional learning modules](#)

Explore eSafety's early learning program



Mark your calendar

- [Anti-Bullying Rapid Review Consultation](#) – closes 20 June 2025
- [Early Learning Matters week](#) – 28 July–3 August 2025
- [Bullying No Way: National Week of Action](#) – 11-15 August 2025 and watch out for information on [eSafety's virtual classroom webinars](#)
- [Child Protection Week](#) – 7-13 September



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Education News special edition

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Deepfake support for schools

As we reach the midpoint of the 2025 school year, eSafety would like to provide you with a special update on initiatives relevant to your school community.

The rapid proliferation of generative AI and so-called 'nudify' apps is resulting in an alarming surge in 'deepfake' nude images in Australian schools.

When school leaders or staff become aware of incidents involving AI-generated or digitally altered intimate images of students or staff shared without consent – whether via social media, messaging apps, school networks, or stored privately on devices – it's critical they take action.

To help schools respond to this growing challenge, the eSafety Commissioner has released a new step-by-step guide for responding to deepfake incidents.

Download the [Guide to responding to image-based abuse involving AI deepfakes](#) for support and advice. It is designed to work alongside your school's existing policies and procedures.

The guide strongly encourages educators to prioritise the wellbeing of children and staff who might be targeted. It

outlines the steps for reporting image-based abuse, including contacting police and reporting to eSafety if the content has been shared online, or if there are threats to share it. These incidents can be traumatic. Make sure students or staff who are impacted have access to safe reporting channels and wellbeing support.

Where to report

- **To local police** – they have the powers to seize devices and conduct interviews. Many of the students who are the subject of deepfake images are minors. While the images may be artificially generated, nude deepfake images of minors are generally regarded as child sexual abuse material and are a criminal offence. Obtain an event number (from local police) and then report it to eSafety.
- **To eSafety** using the [Report Abuse portal](#) – our specialist teams can provide advice, support, and **help to remove harmful content** wherever possible. Include the police event number if available.
- **Never share or save explicit content** – instead, make a written record of links (URLS), account names, and descriptions for evidence.

[Download the guide for schools](#)

Professional learning: Navigating the deepfake threat

Coming up in Term 3, eSafety is running a professional learning session on **AI-assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat**

This webinar for educators and youth-serving professionals covers:

- the tools, the behaviours and impacts of AI-assisted image-based abuse
- what is driving the use of deepfakes
- support strategies to prevent and respond to AI-assisted image-based abuse

Tuesday 5 August, 3.45pm (AEST)

[Register now](#)

New advisory: Deepfake damage in schools

eSafety has issued a new Online Safety Advisory to alert schools, parents/carers and young people to the emerging risks of deepfake technology. The advisory explains how these harms are happening, what actions schools and families can take, and where those affected can turn for help.

Help build awareness in your school community by including a link to the Deepfake Advisory in your next school newsletter and/or communications.

[Read the deepfake advisory](#)



Swimming between the digital flags

The relationship between social media and children's mental health is one of the most important conversations of our time. That's why, from mid-December, the Australian Government will require certain social media services to take steps to prevent under 16s from having accounts.

This week, eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant outlined how Australia plans to take this bold action forward, in a speech delivered at the National Press Club.

Here's what educators and parents need to know right now:

- **It's not a ban, it's a delay.** We're giving kids more time to build digital skills and resilience before facing the pressures of social media.
- **The responsibility lies with the platform.** There are no penalties for children or parents— only for platforms that fail to take reasonable steps to prevent under 16s from having accounts.
- **You're not alone.** eSafety offers trusted resources for parents and carers, educators, young people and kids. We've got the flags, the swimming lessons, and

the safety tips to help you support your kids. And our protective powers in areas such as cyberbullying and image-based abuse will still be there to help if things go wrong.

Australia is building a culture of online safety – just like we’ve done on our beaches. Because the internet, like the ocean, is not going away – and our kids are already dipping their toes in. To stay up to date on social media age restrictions, visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

[Watch the Commissioner’s message](#)

YouTube and the Social Media Minimum Age legislation

Earlier this week, Minister for Communications Anika Wells, published eSafety’s [independent advice](#) recommending that YouTube not be excluded from new legislation. If the Minister chooses to accept eSafety’s advice, YouTube would be subject to the same rules as other platforms, aimed at preventing children under 16 from creating accounts.

Importantly, this would **not** restrict access to educational content, which remains available via school links or in a logged-out state.

[Read eSafety’s full statement here](#)

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Everything you need to know about online safety – delivered straight to your inbox

Welcome to eSafety News – we're glad you're here.

eSafety is Australia's regulator for online safety. So, what is it we actually do? We help all Australians have safer, more positive experiences online. We educate the community about online safety risks and help to remove harmful content such as [cyberbullying](#) of children and young people, [adult cyber abuse](#), ['revenge porn' or image-based abuse](#) and [illegal and restricted content](#).

These days, there's no shortage of online safety advice – news stories, blogs, group chats. There's a lot of opinions out there and it's hard to know where to start and who to turn to. That's why we created eSafety News – to give you simple, trusted updates to help you and the people you care about stay safer online.

Here's what you can expect:

Online safety advice – expert-backed guidance to help you stay safer online

Updates on online trends and risks – what's happening and what to look out for

eSafety resources – tools and webinars to support you

New research – findings about how Australians use and experience the online world.

Latest on social media changes – resources for parents, young people and educators.

Thanks for joining us,
The eSafety team

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



Parents

Find advice for parents and carers to help children have safer experiences online.



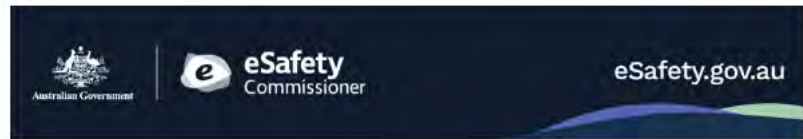
Classroom resources

Discover resources to help schools and educators with online safety.



Report

Make a report about cyberbullying, image-based abuse or illegal online content.



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Parent and Carer News



Swimming between the digital flags: helping young Australians navigate social media's dangerous currents

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Here's what parents need to know right now:

1. **It's not a ban, it's a delay.** We're giving kids more time to build digital skills and resilience before facing the pressures of social media.
2. **The responsibility lies with the platform.** There are no penalties for children or parents—only for platforms that fail to take reasonable steps to prevent under 16s from having accounts.
3. **You're not alone.** eSafety offers trusted resources for [parents and carers](#), [educators](#), [young people](#) and

[kids](#). We've got the flags, the swimming lessons, and the safety tips to help you support your kids. And our protective powers in areas such as [cyberbullying](#) and [image-based abuse](#) will still be there to help if things go wrong.

Australia is building a culture of online safety—just like we've done on our beaches. Because the internet, like the ocean, is not going away – and our kids are already dipping their toes in. To stay [up to date](#) on social media age restrictions, visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

Watch the [Commissioner's message](#)



When 'love' becomes control

Recent findings from an eSafety survey suggest controlling behaviours are becoming normalised in young people's romantic relationships. [Track, harass, repeat: Investigating attitudes that normalise tech-based coercive control](#) found nearly 1 in 5 young people think it's okay to track their partner whenever they want and almost 1 in 3 young people believe constantly texting their partner to ask what they're doing and who they're with is a sign of care.

If a young person you know is in a worrying relationship, and you're unsure how to help, you can:

- [Register](#) for eSafety's free parent and carer webinar: **Recognising online control in young people's lives**, 6 August 2025, 12.30pm
- [Read](#) our latest Online Safety Advisory: **When love becomes control**
- [Listen](#) to the Daily Aus podcast unpacking the eSafety data: **Is tracking your partner healthy?**
- [Share](#) this information with the young person in your life: **Being in a respectful relationship**

Register for eSafety webinars



**Supporting
boys and young
men online**

Supporting boys and young men online

Our latest eSafety webinar on the online experiences of young men and boys was so well received, we're doing it again!

Here's what people said:

"Keep the sessions coming! We need to talk more about what's going on, especially with the rapid rise of AI."

"Excellent and practical content. It didn't shy away from naming some platforms."

"I wish this session was made mandatory in all schools. Fantastic."

Join our upcoming session:

Date: Monday 30 July 2025

Time: 12.30-1.15pm AEST

[Register for the next session](#)

For additional reading on some the challenges facing young people today (and their parents), here's some recommendations from eSafety:

- [An unfair fight](#): how algorithms are shaping our adolescents
- [Shining a light](#) on the dark forces manipulating our teenagers
- [A way forward](#): Disrupting the darker forces impacting young men online

Free webinars

for parents
and carers



The changing face of cyberbullying: Protecting your child in 2025

Tuesday 5 August, 3.45-4.30pm [Find out more](#)

AI-assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat

Thursday 21 August, 12.30-1.15pm [Find out more](#)

Understanding AI companions: what parents and carers need to know

Thursday 28 August, 12.30-1.15pm [Find out more](#)

Upcoming parent and carer webinars

Tips for keeping your children safe online



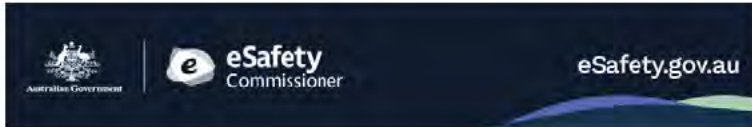
Findings from eSafety research indicate that parents can help protect against harmful online experiences by encouraging open communication and dialogue.

Regular, supportive conversations about online experiences help children feel safe and understood, making it easier for them to come to you if something goes wrong.

To help you start the conversation with your kids, eSafety has a number of resources designed for parents:

- [Online safety basics](#) – the 1,2,3 of how to help your children make sound decisions online
- [The hard-to-have conversations](#) – a step-by-step guide for parents
- [Where to get help and support](#) – links to support services like Kids helpline

More resources for parents



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Bullying No Way: National Week of Action

Bullying No Way: National Week of Action (11-15 August) is an Australia-wide bullying prevention initiative for schools.

To help educators prepare and participate, eSafety is offering a series of free professional learning webinars for teachers, live online safety lessons for students (Virtual Classrooms) and webinars for parents and carers.


Explore the sessions below and register today!

For Educators: Professional Learning Webinars

The Changing Face of Cyberbullying – Supporting Young People

Discover the latest cyberbullying trends and learn how to:

- identify signs of online harm
- build protective factors in students
- strengthen communication with families for early intervention

 **Tomorrow!** Tuesday, 29 July | 3:45–4:30pm (AEST)

Wednesday, 27 August | 3:45–4:30pm (AEST)

Teacher PL

For Students: Virtual Classrooms

eSafety is running live online safety lessons straight to your classroom to help students learn how to build positive peer relationships online.

The lessons are curriculum-aligned and informed by the latest intelligence from our investigation teams and eSafety's [Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education](#).

Years 3–4: Be an eSafe Kid: Being Online Should Be Fun for Everyone!

Students will explore online friendships and cyberbullying and learn how to build more positive peer relationships online.

- 6 August | 9.30am (AEST)
- 13 August | 2.00pm (AEST)
- 18 August | 2.00pm (AEST)
- 28 August | 9.30am (**AWST**)

Years 3-4 Virtual Classrooms

Years 5–6: Be an eSafe Kid: Your Choices in Chats!

A live interactive webinar designed for Year 5 and 6. Students explore how their choices in online chats can positively influence their online friendships and peer wellbeing.

- 7 August | 2.00pm (AEST)
- 13 August | 9.30am (**AWST**)
- 14 August | 2.00pm (AEST)
- 20 August | 9.30am (AEST)

Years 5-6 Virtual Classrooms

For Parents and Carers

The Changing Face of Cyberbullying: Protecting Your Child in 2025

Cyberbullying is evolving—with AI-powered tactics, coded emojis, and subtle manipulation. This 45-minute webinar will help you:

- Spot the signs
- Build support at home
- Guide your child to respond safely

Suitable for parents of both primary and secondary school students.

Monday, 5 August | 12:30pm (AEST)

Parents webinar

Share the term three webinar topics with your school community by [downloading our flyer](#) and including it in your school's newsletter.



Spotlight on Cyberbullying

How common is cyberbullying among children in Australia today? New eSafety report

eSafety recently surveyed over 3000 Australian children aged 10 to 17 years to determine the prevalence of online experiences and harms, including cyberbullying. We found more than 1 in 2 children have been cyberbullied at some point, with rates higher among trans and gender diverse children.

Read our research

Begin cyberbullying prevention in the early years

Be kind! is one of eSafety's 4 key messages for young children. Early years educators can start early by using our online safety [teaching posters](#) and [educator notes](#) to help teach kindness messages with young children.

[Order posters](#)

Taking a whole school approach to cyberbullying

School staff can learn how to prevent and respond to cyberbullying in schools through a whole-school approach to online safety education. To learn more, check out eSafety's Spotlight on Cyberbullying.

[Spotlight on cyberbullying](#)

Professional learning for lower primary teachers

eSafety has a number of self-paced short modules for lower primary school educators to support you teaching online safety.

The [Being respectful online](#) module focuses on setting the foundation for respectful relationships and addressing cyberbullying. It includes student-led activities for engaging with families about respect, online safety and inclusivity.

[Start learning](#)



Social media delay: correcting mistaken information about YouTube

In case you missed it, eSafety's [independent advice](#) to Minister for Communications Anika Wells regarding the Social Media Minimum Age legislation was published last month. In it, we recommended that no single platform or service – including YouTube – be specifically excluded from the rules aimed at preventing children under 16 from holding social media accounts. This is due to the fast-evolving nature of online platforms and the tendency for platform risk profiles to change swiftly.

You can read eSafety's full statement correcting mistaken claims made about YouTube below. Keep up to date with the social media age restrictions at our [website](#).

[Read the full eSafety Statement](#)



Term 3 Professional Learning for educators

Here's what's coming up in Term 3:

AI-assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat

Tuesday, 5 August | 3.45pm-4.15pm (AEST)

Thursday, 4 September | 3.45pm-4.15pm (AEST)

Algorithms and adolescents: The rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people

Wednesday, 20 August | 3.45pm-4.15pm (AEST)

Understanding AI companions: What educators and youth-serving professionals need to know

Wednesday, 3 September | 3.45pm (AEST)

Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives

 Thursday, 31 July | 3.45pm-4.30pm (AEST)

Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men

Wednesday, 10 September | 3.45pm-4.30pm (AEST)

A reminder that we also run webinars for parents and carers. [Click here](#) to see upcoming topics for Term 3! And [download the flyer](#) and share with families at your school.

[Register for professional learning](#)



Mark your calendar

- 11-15 August 2025 - [Bullying No Way: National Week of Action](#)
- **NEW DATE!!** 18-24 August 2025 - [Early Learning Matters week](#)
- 7-13 September - [Child Protection Week](#) (new Virtual Classrooms: register [here!](#))
- Tuesday 10 February 2026 - [Safer Internet Day 2026](#)

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eSafety News

Latest research


**How common
is cyberbullying
among children in Australia?**



eSafety recently surveyed over 3,000 Australian children aged 10 to 17 years to determine the prevalence of online experiences and harms, including cyberbullying. [Our research](#) found more than 1 in 2 children have been cyberbullied at some point, with rates higher among trans and gender diverse children.

eSafety's [cyberbullying guide for parents and carers](#) can help you understand what it is, what to do if your family experiences it and how you can support young people to keep safe online. If your child is being cyberbullied, help is available. You can report to platform, or eSafety if they can't help.

[Read the research snapshot](#)



Why are under-16s being 'banned' from social media?

From mid-December, Australian children under 16 will not be allowed to hold accounts on certain social media platforms. The age restrictions are likely to apply to Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube, among other platforms. Online gaming and standalone messaging apps are among a number of types of services that have been excluded.

It's not a ban. It's a delay to having accounts.

Being logged into an account increases the likelihood that they'll be exposed to pressures and risks that can be hard to deal with. These come from social media platform design features that encourage them to spend more time on screens, while also serving up content that can harm their health and wellbeing.


For example, the pressure to view disappearing content and respond to a stream of notifications and alerts has been linked to harms to health - these include reduced sleep and attention and increased stress levels.

While most platforms currently have a minimum age of 13 for account holders, delaying account access until 16 will give young people more time to develop important skills and maturity. It's breathing space to build digital literacy, critical reasoning, impulse control and greater resilience.

[Find out more](#)

New resources

Helping kids & young people



Yarning about online safety with First Nations families

First Nations children and young people are using the internet in positive, powerful and creative ways.

But [our research](#) shows they're also more likely to encounter online harms, like [hate speech](#) and [cyberbullying](#). In some cases, these negative experiences can lead to impaired mental health, perceived reputational damage and lower grades at school.

That's why we want you to have conversations about online safety – as a family.

[Our new resources](#) are designed to support parents and carers yarn with their kids and young people about online safety.

This two-way learning approach is grounded in what communities told us: kids and adults benefit most when they engage with online safety content together.

[Explore our new resources](#)



A baseline for online safety transparency

Transparency report reveals gaps in industry response to child safety

eSafety recently published a [transparency report](#) on how major platforms including *Apple, Discord, Google, Meta, Microsoft, Skype, Snapchat, and WhatsApp* are responding to child sexual exploitation and abuse material and activity on their service(s). This includes grooming, sexual extortion, and the sexual extortion of adults.

The report shows minimal progress has been made by some of the most well-resourced companies in the world to tackle this urgent issue despite previous eSafety

reports in 2022 and 2023 showing not enough was being done to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse on their services. [Read the full report or findings snapshot.](#)

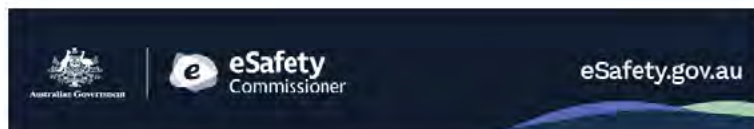
The above companies are required to report to eSafety on how they are implementing the [Basic Online Safety Expectations](#) set out by the Australian Government. eSafety publishes summaries of the information received under notices, improving industry's transparency and driving accountability.

About eSafety transparency reports

The above companies are required to report to eSafety on how they are implementing the [Basic Online Safety Expectations](#) set out by the Australian Government. eSafety publishes summaries of the information received under notices, improving industry's transparency and driving accountability.

[Read the report](#)

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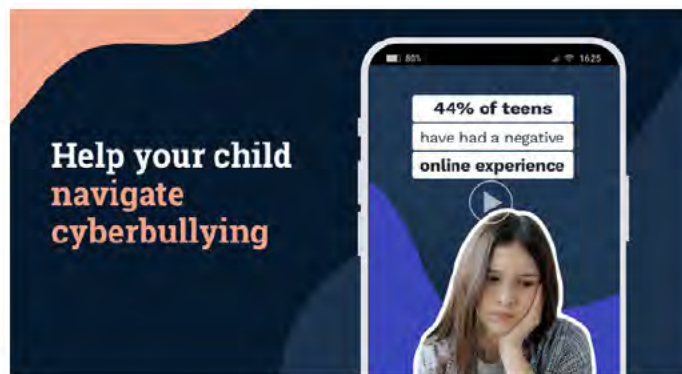
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Parent and Carer News




Help your child navigate cyberbullying

This week is **Bullying No Way: National Week of Action** (11-15 August) - an Australia-wide bullying prevention initiative for schools. Parents and carers also have an important role to play in preventing and addressing bullying. If you're concerned your child may be experiencing bullying online, here are 7 ways to support them:

1. **Reassure them** that you're here for them and that you won't take away their devices.
2. **Listen without judgement** when they open up.
3. **Collect evidence** of the bullying, like screenshots and URLs.
4. **Help them report** it to the platform or social media site. Read [The eSafety Guide](#) for advice on how to do this on specific platforms.
5. **No response?** Report it to [eSafety.gov.au/report](https://www.esafety.gov.au/report).
6. **Update their privacy settings** [across devices and accounts](#).
7. **Encourage and help them** to reach out for [support](#).

Cyberbullying guide for parents and carers



Navigating AI companions and deepfakes

Navigating AI companions and deepfakes

AI is changing the way young people connect - and not always for the better. From deepfake technology like photos, videos or sound files that can damage reputations to AI chatbots that are powered by artificial intelligence and mimic real relationships, it's more important than ever for parents and carers to stay informed and empowered.

Here's how you can help your child stay safe and resilient:

1. **Talk early, talk often** – Keep conversations open, calm and judgment-free so your child feels safe coming you.
2. **Explain the risks** – Help your child understand the risks (whether emotional, legal or psychological). Chat about the difference between real and artificial relationships.
3. **Set boundaries** – Use parental controls, app usage limits and guide your child with healthy online habits.
4. **Encourage real-life connections** – Hobbies, exercise, friendships, and mindfulness matter.
5. **Know where to get help** – If something goes wrong, stay calm, help collect evidence (without saving explicit content) and reach out for support. See [The eSafety Guide](#) for more information. Reach out to services like [Kids Helpline](#), [Headspace](#), or [Lifeline](#) for extra support if needed.
6. **Register for an [eSafety webinar](#)** - for more practical tools to support your child's relationships in the digital world

AI and deepfakes online safety advisory

Free webinar - AI assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat

AI, emojis, and hidden tactics - cyberbullying is changing, and often in ways that is hidden to parents.

Join eSafety's expert-led webinar to understand how AI technologies are being used and misused and why understanding their use matters. This session is ideal for parents and carers of children in both primary and secondary school and includes practical steps you can take to increase awareness and support your child.

📅 Thursday 21 August, 12:30pm to 1:15pm (AEST)

[Register now](#)

Free webinar - Understanding AI Companions: What parents and carers need to know

AI chatbots and companions, designed to simulate personal relationships, are growing in popularity, but they pose some very serious risks – especially to children and young people.

In this 45-minute webinar, we'll explore the basics of AI companions, their role in online interactions, and concerning behaviours to look out for. You'll walk away with practical tools to support your child's relationships in a digital world.

📅 Thursday 28 August, 12:30pm to 1:15pm (AEST)

📅 Thursday 11 September, 1:00pm to 1:45pm (AEST)

[Find out more](#)



New eSafety resources for First Nations families

First Nations children and young people are using the internet in powerful, positive and creative ways.

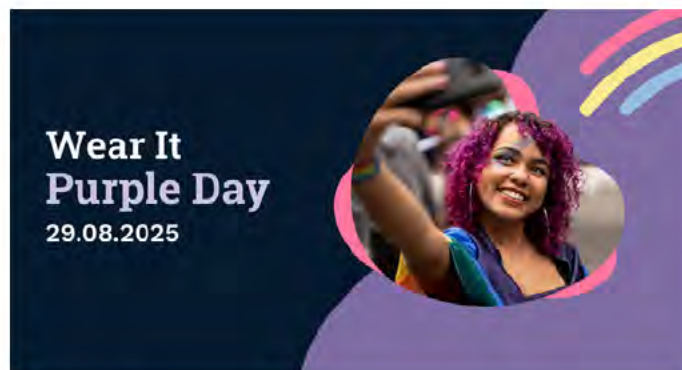
However, [our research](#) shows they're also more likely to encounter online harms, like [hate speech](#) and [cyberbullying](#). These negative online experiences can have deep impacts that lead to impaired mental health, perceived reputational damage and lower grades at school.

New resources from eSafety are designed to support parents and carers yarn with their kids and young people about online safety, tackling things like:

- cyberbullying
- protecting personal information
- safe gaming
- digital wellbeing.

Check out the [guides and fact sheets](#), [yarning cards](#) and [videos](#), and help spread the word among your community by [downloading](#) our social media tiles, posters and postcards.

[Explore our new resources](#)



Wear It Purple Day

eSafety's research shows that the LGBTIQ+ community experiences online hate at more than **double** the national average in Australia. It is important to recognise that online hate and discrimination also comes from within the community. We all have a role to play in ensuring that the online world is a safe and inclusive place for everyone.

To support your child, family member or friends who may belong to the LGBTIQ+ community, explore these helpful resources:

- [eSafety's LGBTIQ+ Learning Lounge](#) – practical advice and tools to support safe online experiences.
- [Support for young people](#) – including guidance for those who are out, transgender or gender diverse

online.

- [Proud Parent Guide](#) – developed as part of the Wear it Purple Day campaign, this resource helps parents and carers support their LGBTIQ+ children in creating safe spaces.



Why are under-16s being 'banned' from social media?

From mid-December, Australian children under 16 will not be allowed to hold accounts on certain social media platforms. The age restrictions are likely to apply to Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube, among other platforms. Online gaming and standalone messaging apps are among a number of types of services that have been excluded.

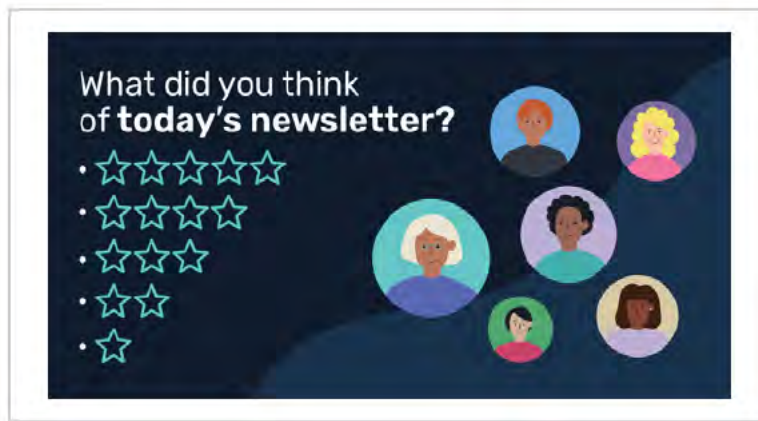
It's not a ban. It's a delay to having accounts.

Being logged into an account increases the likelihood that under-16s will be exposed to pressures and risks that can be hard to deal with. For example, the pressure to respond to a stream of notifications and alerts, and the risk of exposure to content that can harm their health and wellbeing. Delaying account access until 16 will give young people more time to build digital literacy, critical reasoning, impulse control and greater resilience.

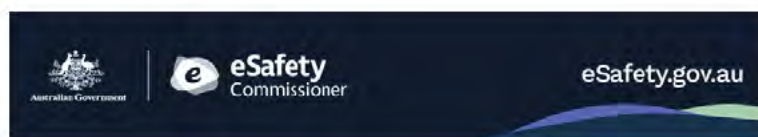
It's important that parents and carers help under-16s by talking openly about the age restrictions, finding out how they currently use social media and how they may be impacted by the law.

eSafety will provide more information and guidance over the coming months. Check out our tips below on what you can do now to help your family prepare.

What can I do to help my family prepare?



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Education Sector News



Join us for
**National Child
Protection Week**

Join us for National Child Protection Week

Next week is **National Child Protection Week (7–13 September)**, and this year's theme is **Shifting Conversation to Action**.

To support this important initiative, eSafety is running **Virtual Classrooms** to help primary school students learn how to protect themselves online. There is a session for years 3-4 and years 5-6. Our trainer will run through practical tools such as managing privacy settings, passphrases and personal information, recognising body clues and where to seek help in harmful situations.

Virtual Classrooms – Register now

For years 3-4

Be an eSafe kid: Power up your protection online
[Register your class now](#)

For years 5-6

Be an eSafe kid: Use your safety skills for protection online
[Register your class now](#)

eSafety has also developed a range of classroom resources to help teachers bring online safety into the

classroom:

For early years educators and families:

- [Play IT Safe](#) - A collection of play-based online safety activities to help young children learn online safety in a fun and engaging way.

For lower primary educators:

- [Ask for help](#) – a classroom activity designed to help students recognise an unsafe situation when using digital technologies and explore help-seeking strategies.
- [Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5](#) – travel into the Australian bush to the treetop home of eSafety sugar glider twins Swoosh and Glide as they learn about being safe online with their family. Read the picture book to the class or read along with the video.

For middle and upper primary educators:

- [Online boundaries and consent](#) - classroom activities to support students learn about online consent, how to define online boundaries, and how to seek help if needed.
- [Online friends and strangers](#) – follow the story of student Abigail as she makes a friend online and starts to question their unusual behaviour.

For parents:

- [Conversation cards and advice sheet](#) – developed in partnership with the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), these resources help parents and carers discuss online safety with their child. Available in English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese and Punjabi.



eSafety.gov.au

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Dealing with distressing content online



Support for young people viewing violent and distressing online content

eSafety is aware that distressing material is circulating online showing the fatal shooting at Utah Valley University, which occurred earlier this week.

Young people who encounter content like this online may be struggling to come to terms with what they have read and seen. It is normal for them to have questions or feel unsettled, and your support can make a big difference.

Online spaces should be safe for everyone. If a child sees violent or distressing material, it is important to check in and talk to them about the content they have seen. We also recommend that children use devices in open areas of the home, rather than in their bedroom, so you can be attuned to how they are coping and what they are engaging with online.

Here are some practical steps Australians can take if they come across this type of material online:

- **Report it to the platform:** Most major services have reporting tools for violent and graphic content. Using these tools means harmful material can be flagged and removed quickly.
- **Report it to eSafety:** Australians can lodge a complaint via esafety.gov.au.
- **Do not share the video:** Even if your intent is to raise awareness, reposting graphic material increases the risk of trauma and amplifies harm.

You can find more guidance and information about distressing online content below.

Dealing with distressing content

Relevant resources



We know that at challenging times, schools become hubs of support for their communities, with students, staff and families often seeking advice. eSafety has the necessary support and guidance, to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to responding to emerging issues.

There are precautions that we can take to prevent children seeing disturbing content online. eSafety has [a range of helpful resources](#).

For parents and carers

- [How to get started with parental controls](#)
- [General online safety advice for parents](#)

For kids and young people

- [I saw something online I didn't like](#) (for primary-school aged children)
- [Dealing with disturbing content](#) (for young people)

For educators

eSafety's [Toolkit for Schools](#) supports schools to create safer online environments and be prepared with processes in place when incidents do happen.

The [Respond modules](#) provide guidance on reporting requirements, minimising harm and supporting wellbeing. By being informed and prepared, we can all contribute to reducing the risk of children and young people being exposed to this content, and support those who are.

Other resources include:

- [Inappropriate content \(Fact sheet\)](#)
- [Inappropriate content \(Scenarios\)](#)

Support services



If your child, student, or someone you know, has come across disturbing content online, there are a range of counselling services you can reach out to for help and support.

If a life is in danger call Triple Zero (000) right now.

- **Kids Helpline**, for 5–25-year-olds: 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au (webchat is also available).
- **headspace**: support for young people, professionals, educators and families
- **Lifeline**: 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au
- **Beyond Blue**: 1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au

Find more information on support services, including state-based services for parents and carers at eSafety.gov.au.

We hope the information above has been useful, and that it provides some practical support for Australian children and families.



eSafety.gov.au

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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 133 of 148



New regulatory guidance on social media minimum age

eSafety published [regulatory guidance](#) for the online industry, outlining the reasonable steps age-restricted social media platforms must take to prevent Australian children under 16 from having accounts on their services from 10 December.

The guidance is informed by ongoing industry engagement, [community consultation](#) and the [Age Assurance Technology Trial](#) commissioned by the Australian Government and outlines how platforms can meet their obligations through deploying age assurance technologies, improved reporting pathways and clear communication with users.

[Read the guidance](#)

Commitment to Children's Rights

As part of eSafety's responsibility for implementing the social media age restrictions for Australians under 16, we have developed a [Statement of Commitment to Children's Rights](#).

Respect for children's rights underpins eSafety's principles-based approach to implementing the social media age restrictions. We also expect those rights to be

respected by age-restricted social media platforms when complying with their obligations.

Read the statement

Further resources will be released on [eSafety's Hub](#) to support children, parents, educators and communities in understanding the new laws and what they mean for online safety.

Go to the [eSafety social media age restrictions hub](#)



New industry codes for online safety

eSafety has registered new industry-drafted codes which aim to better protect children from a range of harmful and age-inappropriate content.

[The six codes](#) apply to a broad range of online services and platforms — including app stores, social media services, gaming services, pornography websites, generative AI services and AI companion chatbots, equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

Under the codes, pornography sites and other services whose purpose includes distributing pornography or other high-impact content, will be required to implement appropriate age assurance technologies to prevent children from accessing harmful material.

eSafety's [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) will help you understand how the codes will work in practice, including how they were developed, the age checks required, and what it means for searching or viewing adult content.

Find out more

A graphic with a dark blue background and abstract shapes in purple, green, and light blue. The text 'Regulatory actions and updates' is in white. To the right is a white document icon with four blue checkmarks.

Regulatory actions and updates

eSafety moves against services used to 'nudify' Australian school children

A [formal warning](#) has been issued to a UK-based company for enabling the creation of child sexual exploitation material through the provision of its online 'nudify' services. The services have been attracting about 100,000 visitors per month and are being used to generate explicit deepfake images of real students in Australian schools.

[Find out more](#)

Earlier this year eSafety issued an [Online Safety Advisory](#) to alert parents and schools to the recent proliferation of open-source AI nudify apps that are easily accessible by anyone with a smartphone.

[Find out more](#)

Roblox commitment to protect kids from online grooming

Popular online gaming platform Roblox has committed to introduce [a new suite of safety measures](#) following concerns raised by eSafety about child grooming risks.

Roblox has committed to implementing the safety measures in Australia - including making accounts for users aged under 16 private by default and introducing tools to prevent adult users from contacting under 16s without parental consent – by the end of 2025.

[Find out more](#)

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Document 134 of 148



Talking to your child about the age restrictions

As we approach 10 December, when the new [Social Media Minimum Age](#) law comes into effect, it's important for families to start preparing for the changes.

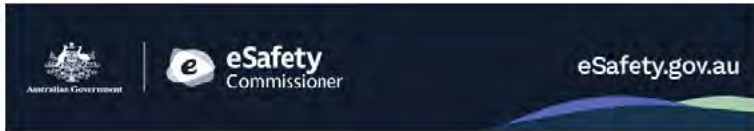
If you have children under 16 who currently use age-restricted social media platforms, they will be directly impacted by the new law.

To support your children through this transition, it's helpful to:

- Talk openly about the new age restrictions and why they're being introduced.
- Understand how your child currently uses social media and explore how these changes might affect them.
- Reassure them that these changes are about safety and wellbeing, not punishment.

To help guide these conversations, eSafety has developed practical tips for parents and carers to start these conversations to support you in starting and managing discussions in a calm and constructive way.

[Find out more](#)



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Navigating the social media changes

From 10 December 2025, certain social media platforms won't be allowed to let Australian children under 16 create or keep an account, giving them more time to develop important skills and maturity.

Quick facts about the age restrictions, and how they may impact schools:

- The age restrictions are likely to apply to [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Snapchat](#), [TikTok](#), [X](#) and [YouTube](#) as well as other platforms. [See the latest list](#).
- Under-16s will still be able to see publicly available social media content that doesn't require logging into an account.
- Schools may need to explore alternative methods for communicating with parents and students.
- There are exclusions for a number of platforms, including educational tools such as learning management systems. For example, Google Classroom and YouTube Kids will not be age restricted, and YouTube videos that can be seen without logging in can still be shared by teachers.
- For further guidance, including whether educators will be able to use their own accounts to share age-appropriate education materials, please refer to school or sector policies and procedures.

Today, eSafety launched new pages on the [social media age restrictions hub](#), designed to support [parents and carers](#), [educators](#) and [young people](#), as we prepare for the restrictions to come into effect.

The eSafety hub is your go-to resource for preparing your school community, from understanding how the age restrictions affect schools to accessing tools that help you communicate these changes to students and parents,

Answers to frequently asked questions

eSafety consulted widely with educators, parents and carers and young people, and has developed up-to-date guidance, advice, and answers to frequently asked questions, including:

- How will the age restrictions impact schools that use social media
- How should schools respond if a student under 16 is found to have access to an age-restricted account?
- What if something goes wrong while an under-16 is on an age-restricted platform?

Find answers to these questions and more, at [the hub](#).

[Visit the hub](#)

Webinars for educators



eSafety is running [live webinars for educators and youth-serving professionals](#), in the lead up to 10 December. The 30-minute sessions will cover:

- What the new legislation means for educators and youth-serving professionals.
- Insights into how platform design features can impact young people's wellbeing.
- Strategies and resources to support young people through the transition.

You will leave with:

- a clearer understanding of the age restriction legislation

- practical resources to support young people and families through the changes
- the confidence to respond to questions and concerns from young people and parents and carers about what is happening.

Monday 10 November, 3:45pm (AEDT)

Wednesday 19 November, 3:45pm (AEDT)


Wednesday 26 November, 3:45pm (AEDT)

Thursday 27 November, 3:45pm (AEDT)

Monday 1 December, 3:45pm (AEDT)

[Register now](#)


Support to set classroom expectations



eSafety's [Classroom tech agreement](#) has been adapted for the age restrictions. Use it in your classrooms to help set clear expectations for working and interacting online.

[View the agreement](#)

How can schools support parents, carers and young people?



We understand that parents and carers are seeking clear information, practical advice, and support to help their families navigate the upcoming social media age restrictions.

You can support parents and carers by directing them to the [Social media age restrictions and your family](#). This includes answers to frequently asked questions, as well as tools to prepare for the changes with under-16s, including a get-ready guide and a guide for starting conversations with young people about the social media age restrictions and its impacts.

eSafety is also running webinars for parents and carers. [Find out more.](#)

To support your students directly, refer them to eSafety's [information and resources specifically for under-16s](#). These explain the changes and how they might affect under-16s, provide a get-ready guide that students can fill out, and cover related health and wellbeing issues.

For educators, the [stakeholder kit](#) contains suggestions and tools to help you communicate these changes to your student and parent community - including posters, flyers, action plans, and ready-to-use content for newsletters and social media.

Tools to communicate with your school community

To support educators in preparing for the age restrictions, eSafety has developed a comprehensive educator [stakeholder kit](#).

It includes clear guidance and practical assets to help you inform and equip your staff and school community. Inside, you'll find posters and flyers for display and distribution, downloadable PDF action plans tailored for parents, carers, and young people, as well as suggested copy and visuals for your newsletters and social media channels.

[Download the stakeholder kit](#)

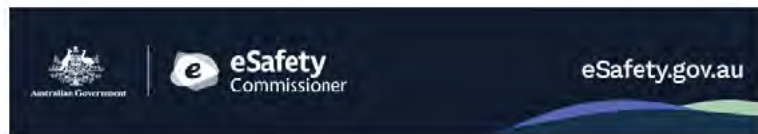
Ongoing updates and support from eSafety



Over the coming months, eSafety will continue to update the [Social media minimum age restrictions hub](#), ensuring parents, carers, and young people have access to the latest information and resources.

We're also developing additional resources and materials, designed to support the development of digital literacy in under-16s and help prepare them for responsible social media use. We'll keep you informed as soon as these new resources are available.

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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 136 of 148



New information and resources

From **10 December 2025**, certain social media platforms won't be allowed to let Australian children under 16 create or keep an account, giving them more time to develop important skills and maturity.

We have launched new pages on the [social media age restrictions hub](#), designed to support [parents and carers](#), [educators](#), and [young people](#) as we prepare for the restrictions to come into effect.

These tailored resources aim to help Australians understand and prepare for the changes that are coming. Informed by extensive [consultation](#), all resources are available for free at [eSafety.gov.au](#).

Live webinars

eSafety is running [live webinars](#) for educators and youth-serving professionals, and parents and carers, in the lead up to 10 December.

The 30-minute sessions will cover:

- What the new legislation means for educators, parents and carers, and young people.
- Insights into how platform design features can impact young people's wellbeing.
- Strategies and resources to support young people through the transition.

[Register for a webinar](#) and share the schedule.

Answers to frequently asked questions

eSafety consulted widely with educators, parents and carers and young people, and has developed up-to-date guidance, advice, and answers to frequently asked questions, including:

- Will underage users be able to reactivate their old accounts when they turn 16?
- Won't the age restrictions stop under-16s from accessing important benefits of being online?
- How will children's digital rights be protected under the age restrictions?

Find answers to these questions and more, at [the hub](#).

Visit the hub



Too much too soon: The reality of children's access to porn online

More and more evidence shows that children are seeing content that does not reflect healthy, respectful or real-life sexual relationships. This can affect children's understanding of intimacy, boundaries, and respect.

[Research released by eSafety in 2023](#) found that young peoples' first exposure to porn often happens through a basic search online, or by stumbling across content without trying.

New enforceable [industry codes](#) will require effective barriers to protect children from pornography as well as violent content and themes of suicide, self-harm, and disordered eating. Read our [frequently asked questions](#) about how the codes will work in practice.

In addition to the codes, eSafety has advice on what parents and carers, and educators can do. With open conversations at home, stronger protections online, and support from schools and communities, we can help kids navigate these spaces with greater confidence and care. Read the [eSafety online safety advisory](#) for practical tips.

[Learn more](#)



Court orders \$343,500 penalty for posting deepfakes of Australian women

The Federal Court has ordered Anthony Rotondo (Antonio Rotondo) to pay a \$343,500 penalty plus costs, for posting deepfake images of several high-profile Australian women.

eSafety sought a significant civil penalty to reflect the seriousness of the Online Safety Act breaches and the damaging impacts of the image-based abuse on the women targeted.

We remain deeply concerned by the non-consensual creation and sharing of explicit deepfake images which can cause significant psychological and emotional distress.

That's why eSafety has taken steps to tackle deepfake image-based abuse including launching [enforcement action](#) against a technology company responsible for AI-generated 'nudify' services. These were used to create deepfake sexualised images of Australian school children.

[Learn more](#)

How violent content is reaching children

Learn what you can do about it



Violent, explicit videos of real-life events are being served to teens and young people without warning.

Graphic clips are shown through autoplay, algorithmic recommendations and reposts, including brutal murders, mass casualty events and conflict footage.

Social media algorithms are designed to amplify content that has strong engagement, even when that engagement is driven by shock, fear and outrage. Harmful content can also be tagged with popular hashtags to appear in unrelated searches or as recommended content.

Our [latest online safety advisory](#) outlines the eSafety activity to reduce the impact of online harm, including exposure to violent content. It also gives parents and carers practical tips to support their children.

[Learn more](#)

Safer Internet Day is coming!

10 February 2026



Save the date: Safer Internet Day 2026

Before your inbox fills up again, mark this one down: Safer Internet Day is back on **Tuesday 10 February 2026!**

Start the year strong with a focus on online safety. Whether you're teaching a class, leading a team or chatting with family and friends, this is the day to have

conversations about how we can make online spaces safer and more positive for everyone.

We'll be releasing new resources and ideas to help you run activities, share tips and promote online safety at work, at school and at home.

[Sign up](#) to take part, and we'll let you know as soon as the resources are ready.

Sign up



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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 137 of 148



Preparing for social media changes

From **10 December 2025**, some social media platforms must prevent Australians under 16 from creating or keeping accounts.

eSafety has [updated its guidance](#) on which platforms are likely to be **age-restricted**. These include Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, and YouTube.

Platforms we consider do not currently meet the criteria for 'age-restricted social media platform' and are therefore **not age-restricted** include Discord, GitHub, Google Classroom, LEGO Play, Messenger, Roblox, Steam, WhatsApp, and YouTube Kids.

Technology changes quickly, so this list isn't fixed. We'll keep sharing updates on [our website](#).

To help young people, families and educators prepare, eSafety has released a package of resources on a [dedicated online hub](#) and will run [live webinars](#) to provide information and answer questions.

[Visit the social media age restrictions hub](#)

Join our free webinars

Help end digital violence



To mark this year's [16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence](#), we're hosting a series of webinars focused on empowering Australians to recognise and respond to tech-based abuse.

Whether you're a parent, carer, team leader or someone who wants to understand gendered online harms, these sessions will give you practical advice and tools to keep you and others safe. We welcome you sharing these sessions with your networks.

Please note: These sessions are designed for people 18 years and over.

Introduction to Tech based abuse: Knowing how to respond

Tuesday 25 November 2025, 2:00-3:00pm AEDT

[Register now](#)

Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives

Monday 1 December 2025, 12:30-1:15pm AEDT

[Register now](#)

Influencers, ideology and impact: How algorithms influence and reinforce harmful beliefs

Tuesday 9 December 2025, 12:30-1:15pm AEDT

[Register now](#)

**Regulatory actions
and updates**



eSafety secures removal of video chat service used for child grooming

Tech giants Apple and Google have removed roulette-style video chat service OmeTV from their app stores after eSafety highlighted serious breaches of Australia's online safety laws.

The breaches included the app enabling adults to be randomly matched with children, leading to grooming and child sexual exploitation.

In August this year, eSafety issued a formal warning to OmeTV's parent company for allegedly breaching one of Australia's [codes and standards](#). We also reminded Apple and Google of their responsibilities under the App Store Code to help protect children.

These codes and standards require online services to tackle the most harmful content on their services, including child sexual exploitation and abuse. Law enforcement has long warned that chat-roulette style apps can be used by offenders to target and groom children.

This is a great example of eSafety working proactively with tech platforms to keep children safer online.

[Learn more](#)

eSafety requires providers of AI companion chatbots to explain how they are keeping Aussie kids safe

eSafety has issued legal notices to four AI companion providers. The providers must explain how they're protecting children from exposure to a range of harms, including sexually explicit conversations and images as well as suicidal ideation and self-harm.

The notices were given to Character Technologies, Inc. (Character ai), Glimpse AI (Nomi), Chai Research Corp (Chai), and Chub AI Inc. (Chub ai).

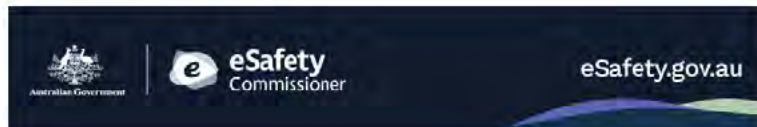
These AI companions, powered by generative AI, simulate personal relationships through human-like conversations and are often marketed for friendship, emotional support, or even romantic companionship.

The notices require the companies to show how they're complying with Australia's [Basic Online Safety](#).

[Expectations](#). They must report on the steps they're taking to keep Australians safe online, especially children.

We recently registered new [industry codes](#) designed to protect children from exposure to a range of age-inappropriate content. These new codes will also apply to the growing number of AI chatbots.

[Learn more](#)



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Document 138 of 148



To help the online industry and the public to prepare for the [Social Media Minimum Age obligation](#), eSafety has considered whether certain services are likely to be 'age-restricted social media platforms' and are therefore required to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 from having social media accounts from 10 December 2025. Earlier today, we announced an update to the [list of services](#) that, in eSafety's view, we consider will be age-restricted social media platforms. These platforms include:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Kick
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- Threads
- TikTok
- X
- YouTube.

We also announced an update to the list of services that, in eSafety's view, we consider **will not** be age-restricted social media platforms on the basis they do not currently meet the criteria for 'age-restricted social media platform'. These platforms include:

- Discord

- GitHub
- Google Classroom
- LEGO Play
- Messenger
- Roblox
- Steam and Steam Chat
- WhatsApp
- YouTube Kids.

From 10 December, eSafety expects all age-restricted platforms to take [reasonable steps](#) to prevent Australian children under the age of 16 from having accounts. Any age restricted platforms which fail to do so may face enforcement action, including civil penalties of up to \$49.5 million.

Technology changes quickly, so eSafety won't publish a fixed list of age-restricted companies. Instead, eSafety will regularly share [updated guidance on its website](#) about how it assesses services and enforces compliance. When new platforms appear or the sole, primary or significant purpose of existing ones change significantly, they may be assessed again.

No online platform or service is risk-free, especially for children. Young people can still be exposed to harmful conduct such as cyberbullying and being asked to share nudes, and to content that's inappropriate for their age like pornography and violent material.

You can always check [the eSafety guide](#) which is regularly updated with information and guidance on social media, games, apps and sites.

Information and support



To help young people, families and educators, eSafety has released a package of resources, and will run [live webinars](#) to provide information and answer questions. Webinars for parents and carers, and educators and youth-service professionals are scheduled throughout November and December 2025.

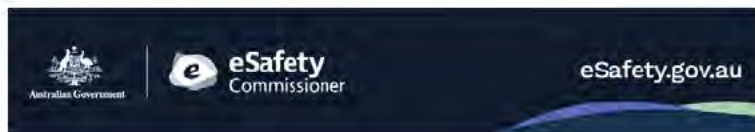
[Register for a live webinar](#)

eSafety's [dedicated online hub](#) has tailored FAQs explaining what is happening, and how to prepare. It also includes:

- [Practical guidance for parents and carers](#), including conversations starters and get-ready guides.
- [Information for educators](#), explaining what the new restrictions mean for schools, and how to prepare students.
- [Youth-friendly content](#) outlining what the new restrictions mean for young people, and downloadable action plans and where to go for help and support.

[Visit the hub](#)

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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 139 of 148



New video series: what the Social Media Age Restrictions mean for your family

We know that staying on top of digital changes can be challenging, especially for busy parents and carers. That's why we've created the [Social Media Age Restriction Video Series](#): a short, voice-led resource designed to help you understand what's changing, why it matters, and how to support your family through it.

This four-topic series covers:

- **A delay, not a ban:** What the changes mean for your child's access to social media
- **Why delay social media accounts?** Hear directly from a young person on the benefits of waiting
- **How will the age restrictions be implemented?** What to expect and how it will work
- **Support, resources and tips to prepare:** Practical advice to help your family adjust

Whether you're watching at home or listening on the go, this flexible format makes it easy to stay informed and confident in your digital parenting journey.

You can even watch it with your child to start the conversation together!

[Watch the videos now](#)



Read our latest
**Online Safety
Advisory**

Protecting kids from violent online content

Videos showing extreme violence are no longer rare - they often go viral within minutes.

Violent incidents are filmed, uploaded, and replayed almost instantly, often landing in the social media feeds of young people without warning.

Graphic clips can appear through autoplay, recommendations, and reposts, making it hard to avoid.

Our latest [Online Safety Advisory](#) explains:

- What 'gore' means and how it spreads
- Why it matters for young people
- Practical steps parents, carers, and schools can take to reduce harm

Before exposure happens, here's what you can do:

Talk early and often. Keep discussions open and non-judgemental.

Set up protections. Use [parental controls](#) and platform filters to reduce violent content in feeds.

Tighten privacy. Limit who can contact your child or share content with them.

Model healthy habits. Be mindful of what you view, share and say about gore online.

[Read the full advisory](#)



Join our upcoming webinars for parents and carers

You're invited to join our free live webinars designed to build confidence and skills in supporting safer online experiences for children and young people.

Coming up in November and December:

- [Social media age restrictions explained – a guide for parents and carers.](#)
From 10 December 2025, certain social media platforms will no longer allow Australian children under 16 to create or keep an account. Join our 30-minute information session to understand what's changing and how to support your child.
- [Algorithms and adolescents: The rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people.](#)
Explore the rewards and risks of recommender systems for young people. This 45-minute webinar will help you understand how algorithms shape online experiences, and what you can do to protect your child.
- [Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into secondary school.](#)
This 45-minute webinar explores the social pressures, peer influences, and technological challenges young people face as they transition into secondary school. It also offers practical strategies for navigating online friendships and connections to help minimise negative experiences. It's suitable for parents and carers of children in upper primary school (ages 11 to 12) and Year 7.
- [Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives](#)
It's not always easy to spot when a relationship becomes controlling, especially for young people. This

45-minute webinar will explore how tech-based coercive control impacts young people, the red flags to watch for and practical ways to support those experiencing it.

Whether you're new to online safety or looking to deepen your understanding, these webinars offer practical insights and tools to support your family.

[Register now](#)

[Join the global movement](#)

Help end digital violence



During the global [16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence](#) campaign (25 November – 10 December), you can play a vital role in preventing digital abuse.

Register for our webinars or explore our online resources to learn how to spot the signs and support those affected.

[Learn more](#)

eSafety takes action

eSafety secures removal of video chat service used for child grooming

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[More info](#)

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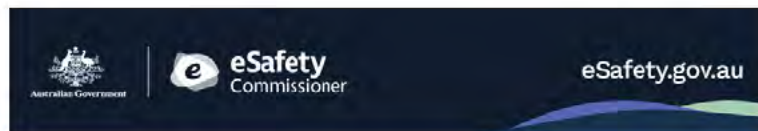
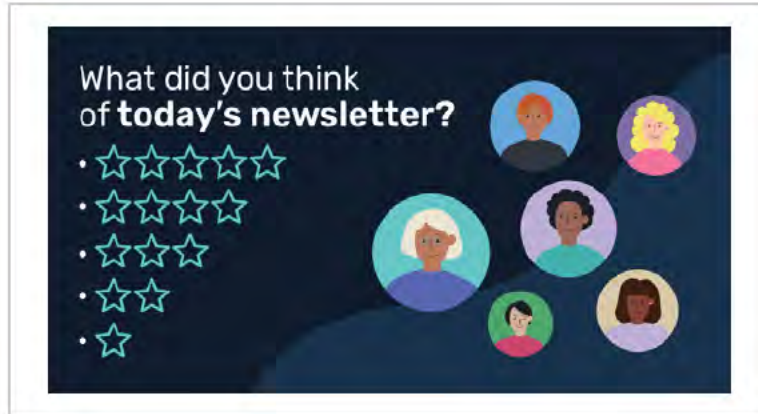
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More info



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Safer Internet Day Tuesday 10 February 2026

Hey there! We know how busy things get this time of year - but before 2026 kicks into gear, [Safer Internet Day](#) is coming up and worth popping in your calendar.

The internet connects nearly every part of our lives – it's where we work, learn, play and connect with others. That's why this day matters. It's a reminder for all of us to pause and think about how we can make online spaces safer, and more positive.

Whether you're at work, teaching in a classroom, or guiding your family online, there's a way for everyone to get involved.

How to get involved



Sign up



Download resources

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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 141 of 148





What educators need to know

From 10 December 2025, [age-restricted social media platforms](#) will be required to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 years old from creating or keeping an account.

This change is designed to give under-16s more time to develop and strengthen their digital resilience.

Here's how you can prepare:

Find out [which social media platforms will be age-restricted](#)

Learn [what these changes mean for educators](#)

Watch [short videos](#) to help prepare children for the new rules and share them with your student's parent and carers

Join a [free live 30-minute webinar](#) to hear the latest information and ask questions

Co-create an [Online Safety Classroom Agreement](#) with your students that defines, highlights and encourages safe and respectful online behaviours

Talk with school leadership about implementing a [whole-school approach](#) to online safety education in 2026, boosting students' knowledge and skills in line with the intent of the age restrictions. Keep an eye out for new whole-school resources coming next year.

[Learn more](#)



Safer Internet Day 2026 resources are now live

We know how busy this time of year is – wrapping up learning in December and planning for 2026. But before you sign off for the year, here's something worth pencilling in.

Safer Internet Day, Tuesday 10 February 2026, is a great opportunity to kick off the new year with an online safety focus. Whether you're working with early years, school students or at a tertiary institution, there's activities, virtual classrooms and resources to help you get involved.

Explore the new [Safer Internet Day hub](#) and start planning.


[Safer Internet Day Hub](#)



One for the record books!

We just set a new record! Almost 1,000 Early Years staff joined us for our very first Early Years information session to learn about the safe use of digital technologies and online environments.

Missed out? Don't worry – another session is coming soon!

 **Next free information session: Wednesday 18 February 2026, 1:00pm (AEDT)**

This session will cover:

- the importance of digital online safety education in Early Years
- the eSafety Commissioner's role and reporting functions
- [eSafety's Early Years resources](#) for educators, families and children 0-5.

[Register now](#)

With new child safety regulatory requirements being introduced, now is the perfect time to learn how to keep ourselves and our children safer online.

Our updated Early Years resources are designed to:

- build young children's understanding of online safety
- encourage safe, kind and confident digital behaviours
- equip adults with practical tips and tools
- foster collaboration between educators and families.

Explore and share resources with your service, staff, and families:

[Early Years resources](#)

Did you know?

Early childhood education and care providers can apply for a **subsidy** to support staff training that builds capacity and skills. The subsidy can even be used to backfill staff while they complete training. Round 2 applications open 12 January 2026.

[Find out more](#)



The second edition of the Digital Landscape is here!

Straight from the eSafety Youth Council group chat - written by young people, for young people.

[This term's edition](#) is all about [Social Media Age Restrictions](#) – a hot topic that's shaping the way young people connect online. Inside, you'll find:

In focus: Social Media Age Restrictions – stay in the loop and things to know

Online safety in pop culture: Online safety trends making waves in media

Digital wellness tips: Simple ways to talk about it, stay connected, and reach out for support

Stay in the know: [eSafety Youth Council](#) applications open in February 2026.

Why share this with your students?

It's written in their language, tackles real issues they care about, and sparks meaningful conversations about online safety and wellbeing.

[Access the Digital Landscape](#)

If you know someone who might be interested in joining the next cohort of the [eSafety Youth Council](#), encourage them to email youth@esafety.gov.au to join our Expressions of Interest list. They'll be among the first to hear when applications open in early 2026!

[Learn more about the Youth Council](#)

Register for professional learning



Register now for eSafety's Term 1 hot topic live webinars

Kick off the new year with essential insights into the biggest online safety issues impacting schools and young people. Our hot topic webinars are designed for educators and youth-serving professionals who want practical strategies and to up-to-date knowledge.

What's coming up in Term 1:

- [Social Media Age Restrictions Explained](#) – What the changes mean and how to support students
- [Risks and rewards of online communities](#) – What educators and youth-serving professionals need to know
- [AI assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat](#) – Understanding and responding to deepfake threats

Don't miss out – spots fill fast!

[Register now](#)

Looking for more professional learning?

- [Watch on-demand professional learning videos](#)
- [Access self-paced online modules for lower primary teachers](#)
- [Join the eSafety Champions Network](#)
- [Attend virtual classroom webinars for primary schools](#)



Strengthen your whole-school approach to online safety

Looking for ways to build safer, more supportive online environments for your school community?

Join the thousands of schools across Australia that have partnered with a [Trusted eSafety Provider](#) to deliver high-quality online safety education.

These providers are specially **assessed by eSafety** to ensure they deliver programs that work for schools, including:

- Professional learning for school staff
- Interactive sessions for students
- Practical guidance for parents and carers

Whether you're refining your current approach or starting fresh with evidence-based strategies, these providers can help you meet your school's needs.

See which [providers](#) could be the perfect fit for your school in 2026.

[Learn more](#)

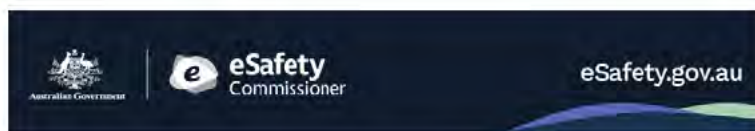
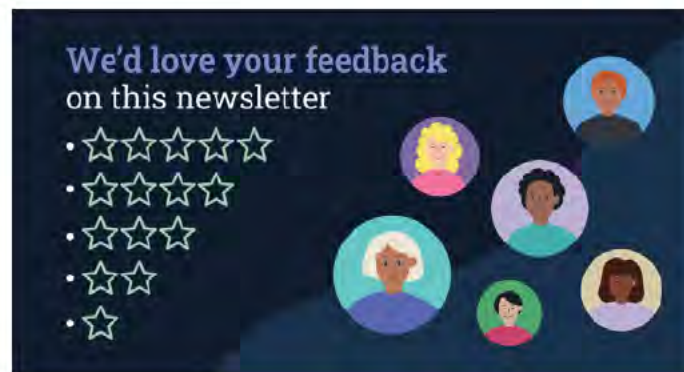


eSafety action prevents services 'nudging' Australian school children

A provider of three of the world's most widely used 'nudge' services has withdrawn access in Australia. This is in response to [our enforcement action](#) against the company for allowing its services to be used to create artificially generated child sexual exploitation material.

The 'nudge' services provided by the company were receiving approximately 100,000 visits a month from Australians and have featured in high-profile cases related to the creation of AI-generated sexual exploitation material of students in Australian schools.

[Read more](#)



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Document 142 of 148



What to do if you see distressing content online

Like so many Australians, eSafety is shocked and deeply saddened by the tragic events that took place at Bondi Beach. Our hearts go out to the Jewish and Bondi communities in the face of such senseless violence.

eSafety has reminded social media platforms that sensitive content labels or interstitials (blurring filters) should be implemented to prevent incidental exposure to this distressing content. This is in line with platforms' own terms of service.

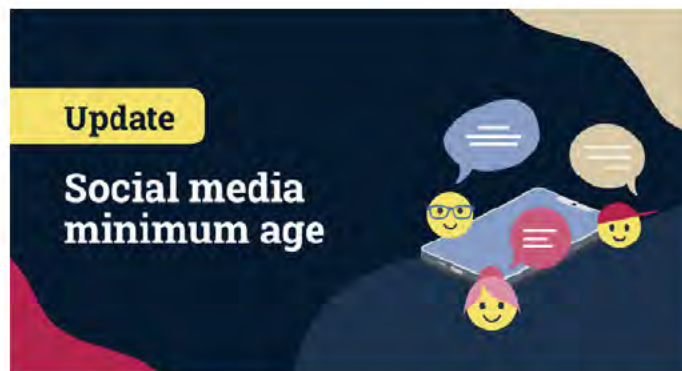
To support educators, parents and carers eSafety has also put out guidance on how to speak to children who may have come across this extremely distressing content.

- **Report it to the platform:** Most major services have reporting tools for violent and graphic content. Using these tools means harmful material can be flagged and removed quickly.
- **Report it to eSafety:** Australians can lodge a complaint via [Report online harm](#).
- **Do not share the video:** Even if your intent is to raise awareness, reposting graphic material increases the risk of trauma and amplifies harm.
- **Use safety settings and parental controls:** Australians can adjust content filters, restricted modes and parental settings on devices and services to help

reduce exposure, especially for children and young people.

- **Talk with children and young people:** If they have been exposed to disturbing material, open conversations and reassurance can help. We provide resources on our [website](#) to support parents and carers in having these discussions, including our [The hard-to-have conversations](#) guide.
- **If you need support** after viewing distressing content, contact Lifeline on 13 11 13 or Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636

[Find out more](#)



Social media age restrictions are now in effect

Age-restricted social media platforms must now take reasonable steps to [prevent under-16s from having accounts](#). The delay aims to give young people time to build skills in digital literacy and critical thinking, to help prepare them for access to accounts when they're 16.

It's important to note that age assurance can involve a range of steps for both new and current users, including reviews and appeals processes. These processes may take several days or even weeks to complete fairly and accurately and may include applying multiple age assurance measures to accounts over time.

However, eSafety will not hesitate to take enforcement action where it identifies systemic breaches of the law, including seeking penalties of up to \$49.5 million.

As previously indicated, eSafety will be monitoring platforms' compliance through a variety of channels, including information gathering notices.

[Visit the hub](#)

Technology's role in family & domestic violence

[Learn what you can do about it](#)



Smart features are becoming standard on devices we carry, wear, and use. This includes household appliances, TVs, cars, and wearables like phones and watches.

Frontline family and domestic violence workers are telling eSafety they're seeing more reports of [coercive control via smart devices](#) – suggesting an emerging trend in an all-too-familiar space.

Perpetrators can use connected tech to monitor, track or control a partner or former partner. They exploit location-sharing and geo-location features and things like shared accounts.

[Find out more](#), including how to protect yourself from tech-based abuse.

[Learn more](#)

Introducing

eSafety Parent Advisory Group



Parents at the heart of online safety change

eSafety recently held its first meeting of the new [Parent Advisory Group](#). This diverse group of 12 organisations will play a critical role in shaping practical and inclusive support for families as Australia implements its world-leading [Social Media Minimum Age \(SMMA\)](#).

The group's purpose is clear: to provide expert advice and real-world insights that help eSafety reach parents with information and resources parents and carers can trust. From reviewing resources to shaping messaging and reaching hard-to-engage communities, the Parent Advisory Group aims to ensure Australian families have the tools they need to navigate this significant change.

[Find out more](#)

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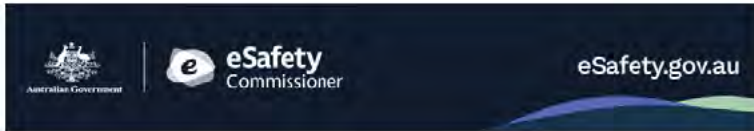
New codes to protect Australian kids from harmful content

Alongside the social media delay, another major [online safety reform](#) is underway that will change how the online industry protects children.

New [industry-developed codes](#) require online services to do more to protect children from harmful content, including pornography, extreme violence, and material about suicide, self-harm and eating disorders.

From 27 December, when the first set of codes takes effect, search engines must blur image results for online pornography to reduce accidental exposure - similar to how safe search operates on services like Google and Bing. Search engines will also be required to automatically redirect searches about suicide, self-harm or eating disorders to mental health support services.

[Learn more](#)



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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 143 of 148



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Here's what you need to know:

- Age-restricted platforms will have different approaches to complying with the legislation. Some have already communicated with under 16 users, while others may take longer. Check the [eSafety guide](#) for links to the information platforms provided about how they will comply.
- Check in on your under-16 and try to support them through the change. Let them know that [help and support](#) is available if they need it.
- Remind them that if they have a harmful experience online, they should reach out for support – even if they're under 16 and it happens on social media. They won't get in trouble.

Remember, the platforms are responsible for complying with the law. Under-16s who manage to get around it won't get into trouble if they're caught.

Our [Social Media Age Restrictions Hub](#) has FAQs, videos, and information to help you feel confident and prepared to

work through the changes with your under-16 - while they stay connected and have fun online.

[More info](#)



Discover the eSafety Gaming Toolkit

Online games are a big part of many children's lives and with the holiday season approaching, now's the perfect time to explore how to support safe and positive gaming experiences.

The [eSafety Gaming Toolkit](#) is a practical resource for parents, carers and educators, offering guidance across six key areas:

Getting Started: Tips for setting up devices and choosing age-appropriate games with safety in mind.

Gaming Together: Encourages shared play to build connection and promote positive gaming habits.

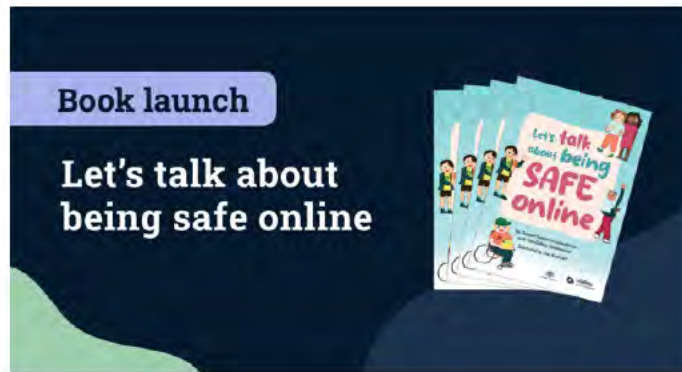
Going Online: Prepares children for online gaming by focusing on digital readiness and safety.

Playing with Others: Covers respectful communication and strategies for staying safe when interacting with others in-game.

How to Manage Money in Games: Advice on understanding in-game purchases and setting rules together around spending.

Sharing Safely: Guidance on responsible content creation and sharing within gaming communities.

If you're new to [gaming](#) or looking to strengthen your digital parenting toolkit, this resource is here to help!



New online safety book for families – out now!

Keeping kids safe online can feel overwhelming, but starting the conversation early makes a big difference. That's why eSafety has created '[Let's Talk About Being Safe Online](#)'—a book designed to help families talk openly about staying safe in digital spaces.

Written by expert author **Jayneen Sanders** and beautifully illustrated by **Jess Rackleyft**, this book uses gentle questions and prompts to help children share how they feel about being online. It's a simple way to build trust, confidence, and a shared understanding of what respectful and safe behaviour looks like.

We'd love for you to [read it together with your child](#). Use it as a springboard for those important chats—because when kids feel heard and supported, they're better equipped to enjoy positive, safe experiences online.

Order your free copy

You can also [watch Jayneen read the book](#) with your family.

Listen to author Jayneen Sanders speak about why this book matters below.



Celebrating Inclusion

On 3 December, we celebrated **International Day of People with Disability**—a United Nations Day dedicated to promoting awareness, understanding and inclusion for the **5.5 million Australians living with disability**.

This year's theme, 'Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress', reminds us that real progress happens when everyone can participate fully and equally, including in the digital world.

At eSafety, we know many people with disability enjoy positive online experiences, but some face unique challenges. [Our research](#) found:

- **40%** of young gamers with disability said their parents think they spend too much time gaming online.
- **25%** said they argue with their parents about gaming time.

But importantly, we found young people with disability also reported big benefits from gaming, including:

- **Skill development (79%)**
- **Social connection (63%)**
- **Emotional regulation (54%)**

These insights show that online gaming can support learning, connection and wellbeing—especially when parents and carers are involved and informed.

Want to learn more? Explore eSafety's resources and research for people with disability:

- ['People with disability'](#) page with Easy Read Guides
- [Using your neurodivergent mind to thrive online](#) for young people
- [A new playground: The digital lives of young people with disability](#)
- [How adults with intellectual disability experience online abuse](#)

Be part of the movement: learn more, share stories, and take action to build a society where difference is not just accepted, but celebrated. Find out more at www.idpwd.com.au



Strengthening our support for parents and carers

Keeping children and young people safe online is a top priority for parents and carers—and it's ours too.

That's why eSafety Commissioner **Julie Inman Grant** launched the inaugural [Parent Advisory Group](#) on **26 November 2025**.

This group brings together 12 leading organisations representing diverse communities across Australia. Their mission? To make sure eSafety resources are practical, inclusive and grounded in real family experiences—just like yours.

The Parent Advisory Group will:

- **Shape parent messaging** and provide evidence-informed insights that reflect family needs.
- **Review and test eSafety resources** to ensure they work for real households.
- **Help connect families** with trusted online safety support.

We're committed to making online safety easier for parents and carers. The Parent Advisory Group is an important step forward in ensuring you have the tools and guidance you need to keep your family safe online.

[Learn more](#)



Straight from the eSafety Youth Council group chat

The second edition of the Digital Landscape is here, written by young people, for young people.

This [new edition](#) is all about Social Media Age Restrictions – a hot topic that's shaping the way young people connect online. Inside, you'll find:

In focus: [Social Media Age Restrictions](#) – stay in the loop and things to know

Online safety in pop culture: Online safety trends making waves in media

Digital wellness tips: Simple ways to talk about it, stay connected, and reach out for support

Stay in the know: [eSafety Youth Council](#) applications open in February 2026.

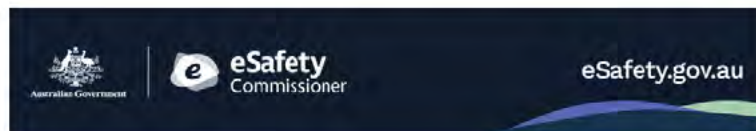
Why share this with a young person in your life?

It's written in their language, tackles real issues they care about, and sparks meaningful conversations about online safety and wellbeing.

You can use it as to start meaningful conversations and build safer digital habits together – making online safety part of everyday life.

[Check out the Digital Landscape](#)

If you know someone aged 13-24 who might be interested in joining the next cohort of the [eSafety Youth Council](#), encourage them to email youth@esafety.gov.au to join our **Expressions of Interest** list. They'll be among the first to hear when applications open in early 2026!



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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 144 of 148



The eSafety schools' hub

Back-to-school online safety essentials

The start of the school year is the perfect time to set your school community up for safer and more positive online experiences, and we have tips to help you get started!

Whether you're refreshing existing practices or starting from scratch, we have everything you need to embed a [whole-school approach](#).

The [eSafety schools' hub](#) has a range of essential resources right at your fingertips, such as:

- Quick 5-minute [professional learning videos](#) to help you build confidence in online safety best practice.
- Clear, [up-to-date guidance](#) on managing online safety issues such as cyberbullying, image-based abuse and exposure to distressing content.
- [Newsletter content kits](#) you can drop straight into your school communications.
- Printable [posters](#) to promote positive online behaviours around the school.
- [Programs](#) you can engage to support online safety at your school: [eSafety Champions Network](#) and [Trusted eSafety Providers](#).

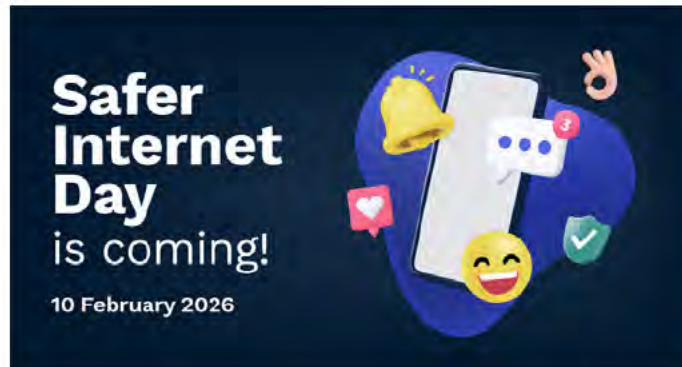
[Visit eSafety schools' hub](#)

Want more?

Use our Online Safety Classroom Agreements to spark conversations and support safe, respectful online behaviours in your classroom. Versions available for:

- [Lower primary](#)
- [Middle primary, upper primary and lower secondary](#)

You can also encourage your school community to subscribe to [eSafety News for parents and carers](#). We have the Term 1 [parent and carer webinar flyer](#) available for you to share with your school community.



Safer Internet Day: Your 2-week to-do list

Need to sort out your plans for Safer Internet Day on 10 February? You're in luck! Everything you need is ready and waiting on the [Safer Internet Day hub](#).

Here's how you can get involved:

[Visit the hub and download the resources](#) – explore activities, posters and resources you can use in your classroom or across the school.

[Register your class for a Virtual Classroom](#) – our free, interactive sessions help Year 3-4 and Year 5-6 students build digital literacy and online safety skills.

And... keep an eye out for our **new Mighty Heroes adventure!** It is a [brand-new web-based game](#) for middle-primary students launching on Safer Internet Day. Watch the trailer below!



You're all set. Whether you do one activity or many, every conversation helps make the internet a safer, more positive place for young people.

[Safer Internet Day hub](#)



Support students manage online risks, stay safer online and seek help

Since the **Social Media Minimum Age** legislation came into effect in December, major social media platforms have [removed access to about 4.7 million accounts](#) identified as belonging to children under 16.

To support you, your students and your school community with the change, we have a new suite of practical resources. These are designed to help under-16s manage online risks, stay safer online, and know when and how to get help.

On our website, you'll find:

- [Supporting digital literacy for under-16s](#) page filled with advice and resources guided by Element 4 of the [Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education](#).
- [Classroom resources and lesson ideas](#), including a range of digital literacy activities for Foundation-Year 12 classes.

- [Toolkit for Schools](#): use the '[Prepare](#)' element to help your school assess its readiness to deal with online safety issues. The '[Respond](#)' element will help your school assess and respond to online incidents and guidance to minimise harm and support student wellbeing.
- The [Social Media Age Restrictions hub](#) with a dedicated and regularly updated page [specifically for educators](#), including updated responses to [frequently asked questions](#).
- Our [whole-school approach](#) to online safety education, including social and emotional learning. It goes beyond lessons for each year level and class, integrating teachable moments across the curriculum, which are embedded in routines and extracurricular activities.



Kick off Term 1 with these hot topic sessions

Start the year off strong with our free online safety sessions.

Our professional learning covers the latest online safety research, case studies and teaching strategies. These webinar sessions can support educators and those who work with young people to integrate online safety into their teaching and learning programs and student wellbeing education.

Explore our [upcoming sessions](#) and register today. Participate solo or with your colleagues!

- [Risks and rewards of online communities](#) - **NEW!** Deepen your understanding of how young people experience and engage with online communities, explore the risks these spaces can present—including exposure to harmful beliefs and content—and learn practical strategies to support young people while promoting safe, positive online experiences.

- [Social media age restrictions explained](#)
Learn what the legislation means for educators and youth-serving professionals and gain insights into how platform design features can influence young people's wellbeing. You'll also be equipped with practical strategies and resources to support young people who are affected by age restrictions.
- [AI assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat](#)
This webinar helps educators and youth-serving professionals understand how young people are experiencing AI-assisted image-based abuse, the factors driving the rise of deepfakes, and practical strategies to prevent and respond to this emerging harm.

[Register now](#)



Keep yourself and our children safer online

Our [Early Years program](#) resources are designed to support and encourage safe use of digital technologies for children aged 0–5.

Join our Early Years and Out of School Hours care (OOSH) information session to learn how to get the most out of them!

Our first session was attended by almost 1,000 people working in early years education. If you missed out, don't worry — **our next session is on Wednesday 18 February, 1–2pm AEDT.**

[Register](#) to learn about:

the importance of online safety education in the early years and OOSH

eSafety's role and reporting functions

[Early Years](#) and [lower primary resources](#) for educators, families and children 0-5.

[Register now](#)

Additionally, you can:

- Check out our updated range of [Early Years resources](#) to share with children and families.
- Access [professional learning](#) for your Early Years service and staff and [self-paced online learning modules](#) developed in partnership with Early Childhood Australia.
- Order free [eSafety books](#) and [Mighty Heroes poster packs](#) for your service.

Upcoming events for educators



Mark your calendar

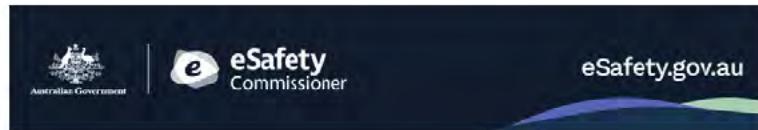
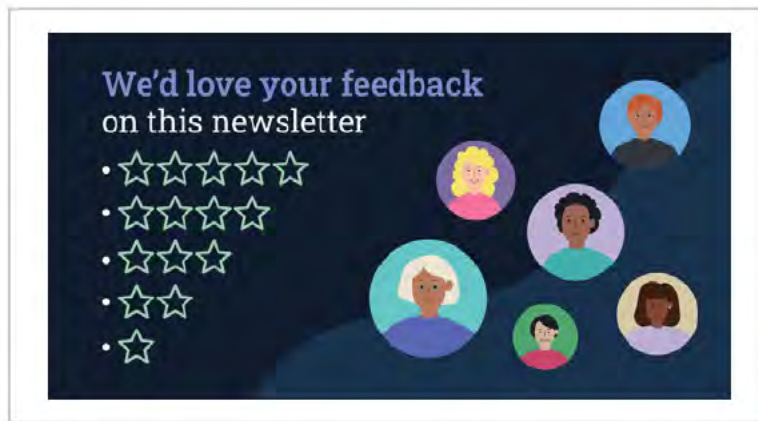
- **Tuesday 10 February:** [Safer Internet Day 2026](#)
- **Wednesday 11 February:** eSafety's Youth Council recruitment opens. Do you know a young person aged 13-24 who is passionate about making the online world safer and more inclusive? Encourage your students to consider applying. Visit [eSafety Youth Council](#) for more info.
- **Wednesday 18 February:** Register for our [Early Years information session](#)

Resources for your school community



Explore other helpful resources

- Order your school a [free Mighty Heroes poster pack](#) (4 x A3 posters) featuring important online safety messages for lower primary students.
- Access a new book, [Let's talk about being safe online](#), developed to help parents, carers, and children aged from age 7 to have open, meaningful conversations about online safety. [Order the book for your class here](#). You can also play the video of author Jayneen [reading the book](#) in class to bring its important messages to life.



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eSafety FOI 26021
Document 145 of 148



Continued support for families navigating social media changes

Since the **Social Media Minimum Age** legislation came into effect in December, major social media platforms have [removed access to about 4.7 million accounts](#) identified as belonging to children under 16.

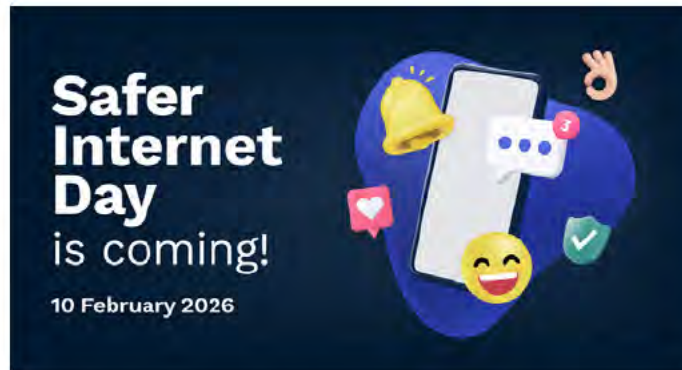
Delaying account access until 16 gives young people more time to develop important skills and maturity. It's breathing space to build digital literacy, critical reasoning, impulse control and greater resilience.

At eSafety, we're here to help families navigate this transition. We have practical resources available specifically for parents and carers, including:

- [Social Media Age Restrictions Hub](#) – Information, guidance and tools to help you talk to children and young people about the changes and support their online experiences.
- [FAQs for parents and carers](#) – Responses to frequently asked questions addressing families' concerns about the change.
- [First Nations resources](#) – Co-designed with First Nations communities, the parent and carer yarning guide, student workbook and digital toolkit explain the change, why it matters and how to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people through the transition.

- [Regional family support](#) – Explore the dedicated [online hub](#) with FAQs and practical guidance for parents and carers, including conversations starters, youth-friendly content, and where to go for support.

[Visit the hub](#)



Safer Internet Day is just around the corner

[Safer Internet Day](#) on Tuesday 10 February is a great chance to pause and talk about how your family uses the internet. Whether your kids are just starting out or already deep into gaming and navigating the online world, a little check-in can go a long way.

Here are some simple ways to mark the day at home:

- [Explore our resources for parents and carers](#) including conversation starters, practical tips and activities.
- [Chat about our 5 simple tips](#) from being kind online to speaking up about anything that doesn't feel right.

We also have resources for educators and workplaces on our [Safer Internet Day hub](#) that you can share.

[More info](#)



Build good online habits early

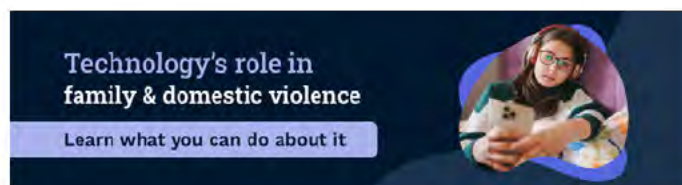
Heading back to school is the perfect time to check in on online safety. Start exploring the basics together, such as:

- Set up devices securely
- Use strong passwords and privacy settings
- Turn on age-appropriate [parental controls](#)
- Choose apps and [games](#) that are suitable for your child.

[Good habits start young!](#) It's important to talk early and talk often. Keep conversations open by asking your child what they enjoy online and who they interact with. Reassure them that they can always come to you if something feels wrong.

As children grow, help them build digital intelligence – skills like respect, empathy, critical thinking, responsible behaviour and resilience. Setting clear family rules around device use can also make a big difference. Modelling healthy habits shows what responsible use looks like.

[Learn more](#)



Smart devices and hidden risks

Smart features on everyday devices can be really helpful — from phones and household appliances to security cameras, cars, and wearables like smartwatches and

fitness trackers. But for some families, these devices are being misused in harmful ways.

Frontline family and domestic violence workers are telling eSafety they're seeing more reports of [coercive control via smart cars](#). Tools designed for convenience—like remote locking, location tracking, and app-based controls—can be weaponised. Shared accounts and location-sharing add to the risk.

[Our advisory](#) sets out the patterns, shows the warning signs, and gives practical advice and resources for families. We also connect people to specialist support where risks extend beyond our powers.

[Read more](#)

Visit the [technology-facilitated abuse hub](#) to understand tech-base abuse and how to recognise it.



Practical tips and expert advice for parents and carers

Start the year feeling confident about your child's online safety. Our [free eSafety webinars](#) give parents and carers practical tips and expert advice to help children have safer, more positive online experiences.


Explore our [upcoming sessions](#) and register today!

- [Social media age restrictions explained](#)
Join this webinar to understand the new changes and how to support your child. *Ideal for parents and carers of upper primary and teens under 16.*
- [Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into secondary school](#)
Discover strategies to manage social pressures, peer influences and tech challenges young people face as they move into secondary school. *Ideal for parents*

and carers of children aged 11–12 and those starting Year 7.

- [Influencers, ideology and impact: How algorithms shape online experiences](#)
Learn how algorithms and recommender systems influence what young people see online and how to guide safer, more positive feeds and support critical thinking. *Ideal for parents and carers of children 10 years and older.*
- [Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives](#)
Explore how tech-based coercive control impacts young people, the red flags to watch for and practical ways to support those experiencing it. *Ideal for parents and carers of secondary school aged children.*
- [Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online](#)
This webinar covers the types of controls available, and how to use them alongside other online safety measures. *Ideal for parents and carers of primary and secondary school aged children.*

[Register now](#)

A banner with a dark blue background and a green wave-like shape at the bottom right. The text "eSafety takes action" is written in white.

eSafety takes action

eSafety raises concerns about misuse of Grok to generate sexualised content

eSafety remains concerned about the use of the [generative AI](#) system [Grok](#) on [X](#) to generate content that may sexualise or exploit people, particularly children.

While the number of reports eSafety has received remains small, eSafety has seen a recent increase from almost none to several reports over the past couple of weeks relating to the use of Grok to generate sexualised or exploitative imagery. eSafety will use its powers, including removal notices, where appropriate and where material meets the relevant thresholds defined in the Online Safety Act.

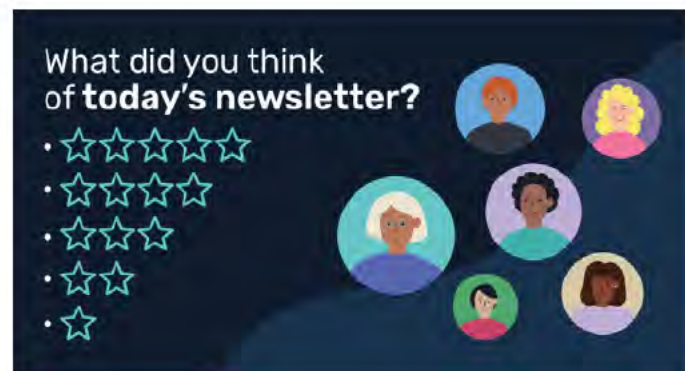
[Read more](#)

Protecting Australian kids from inappropriate and harmful content

eSafety has published [regulatory guidance](#) ahead of the commencement of new Age-Restricted Material Codes requiring online services to protect children from exposure to age-inappropriate content like pornography, high-impact violence and material which promotes self-harm, suicide and disordered eating. The first tranche of the codes commenced 27 December 2025.

Under the new rules, as well as protecting children from exposure to harmful age-inappropriate content, search engines will also be required to redirect Australians seeking information related to suicide, self-harm and eating disorders to appropriate mental health support services.

[Read more](#)



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Document 146 of 148



**Support with
social media
age restrictions**

Continued support for families navigating social media changes

We know families are continuing to adjust to the Social Media Minimum Age changes introduced on 10 December 2025, which means many social media platforms must prevent Australians under 16 from having accounts.

[Early results are encouraging](#). eSafety's initial monitoring shows major platforms **restricted or removed access to about 4.7 million accounts** identified as belonging to children under 16 in the first half of December. Implementing fair and accurate age check processes will take time. If your under 16 still has access to social media accounts, you don't have to wait for the platforms to act. You can:

- have a conversation with your child about the age restrictions, explaining they're designed to help protect people their age
- explore the [FAQ's](#), such as 'How can I help my child prepare for losing social media accounts?'
- delete the apps with your child.

If your under 16 is feeling confused, overwhelmed or unsure about how to cope with the change, the ['I need help'](#) page offers support just for them – including practical steps and direct links to 24/7 services such as Kids Helpline, Headspace and 13YARN.

It is important young people know they won't get into trouble for seeking help if they experience something harmful online – even if it happens on a social media platform they're not meant to be using.

Want to learn more about the Social Media Age Restrictions? Join our [webinar](#) tomorrow just for parents and carers at 12:30pm (AEDT)!

[Register now](#)



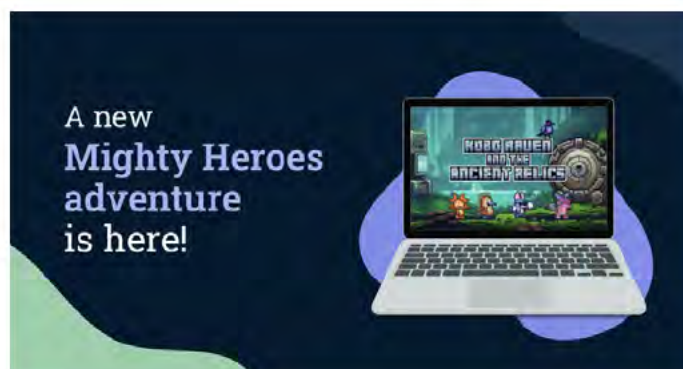
Calling all young people aged 13-24!

Applications are now open for the [eSafety Youth Council](#) — a group of young people aged 13 to 24 who help shape online safety education, resources and advice for other young Australians.

If you know a young person who has opinions about what they're seeing online (the good and the bad) and wants to make an impact, encourage them to apply! We also have the [Application Guide](#) which breaks down all the info for them before applying.

Applications close 29 March 2026.

[Share the opportunity](#)



A new Mighty Heroes online safety adventure

We're excited to share our brand-new [Mighty Heroes game!](#)

It's a fun, interactive web-based game created to help children build essential online safety skills. The game introduces four Mighty Heroes, each with their own online safety superpower. Players enter the pixel world to help the Mighty Heroes defeat Robo Raven and restore the internet to a safe and positive place for everyone.

It's easy for families to try at home—the game can be played on tablets, laptops or desktop computers, and doesn't require any logins. Families can jump straight in and explore!

Explore the Mighty Heroes game, videos and conversation starters at the link below.

[Play the game](#)



eSafety takes action

Keeping children safe on major gaming platforms

We recently notified [Roblox](#)—one of the most widely used online gaming environments for children—of our intention to directly test the platform's implementation and effectiveness of the nine safety commitments it made to us last year.

This action follows growing concerns, including from the Australian Government, about online child grooming and sexual exploitation.


Our proactive testing aims to ensure platforms are meeting their commitments and doing their part to create safer online spaces for children and young people.

[Read more](#)

While regulatory action is vital, **we also know families may need practical support** to help children enjoy online games safely and confidently in everyday life.

That's why we've developed the [gaming toolkit](#)—a collection of easy-to-use resources designed to help you encourage your child to have these positive experiences, while helping to protect them from risks and exposure to harmful content.

[Explore the toolkit](#)



Protecting Australian kids from potentially harmful content

New online safety protections are arriving

The Age-Restricted Materials Codes are designed to protect children from age-inappropriate and potentially harmful online content, such as sexually explicit websites, high-impact violence and pro-suicide, self-harm, and disordered eating content. They strengthen children's protections from accidental and unsolicited exposure to content they're too young for, while maintaining adults' right to access legal content and websites.

The new codes join Australia's existing codes and standards focussed on unlawful material, such as child sexual exploitation and abuse and pro-terror content.

Codes already in force:

Search engine results that include sexually explicit or high-impact violence images or videos must be blurred by default.

Searches relating to eating disorders, suicide or self-harm must prioritise and promote reliable mental health support services and information.

Codes commencing on 9 March:

Social media services that state sexually explicit or self-harm content is against their rules (most of them) must filter out this content.

Age checks so legal sexually explicit content can only be accessed by adults.

Give all users better tools, info and options to limit their exposure to content they don't want to see.

Together, the [online safety codes and standards](#) put responsibility where it belongs—with the providers designing and delivering these services.

[Learn more](#)

**Register for
online safety webinars**



Access free webinars for parents and carers

Our free eSafety webinars give parents and carers practical strategies to support safer, more positive online experiences. These sessions draw on the latest guidance on online safety and are designed to be clear, supportive, and easy to follow.

Upcoming sessions:

- [Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives](#)
It's not always easy to spot when a relationship becomes controlling, especially for young people. This 45-minute webinar will explore how tech-based coercive control impacts young people, the red flags to watch for and practical ways to support those experiencing it.
- [Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online](#)
Learn how parental controls work, the options available across devices and platforms, and how these tools can support safer experiences when used alongside open conversations. Suitable for parents and carers of children in primary and secondary school.

[Register now](#)



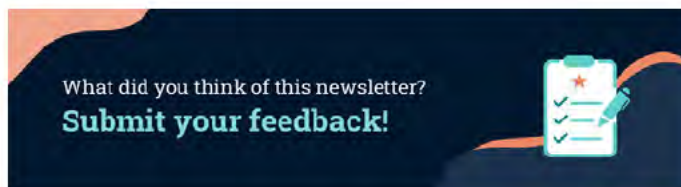
Thank you for supporting Safer Internet Day

[Safer Internet Day 2026](#) is a wrap and a huge thank you for supporting it, in whatever way you did. Every conversation, share and small action adds up, and together we reached thousands of Australians with online safety messages.

To mark the day, we held an in-person event at Parliament House themed Advice to My Younger Self. We heard opening remarks from Commissioner Julie Inman Grant, and Minister Anika Wells also joined the program, before a youth panel hosted by Nat Kelly (ABC's Behind the News) with panellists Raghu (eSafety Youth Council), April (ReachOut Youth Advocate) and Jessica (AYAC Youth representative).

We also opened the event with a short video featuring young people sharing honest reflections and advice about growing up online—check it out below.

[Watch the video](#)



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Safer Internet Day Tuesday 10 February 2026

Today is a global day of action that invites us to pause and ask:

What role can I play in making the internet safer and more positive?

We're spending more of our lives online, and the digital world keeps shifting. New apps, new rules, new risks, new opportunities – it can feel like one big adventure that's tricky to navigate. We can't switch the internet off, but we can shape it into a space that feels safer and kinder.

Whether you're in a classroom, a workplace or at home, you have a role to play. Even small actions today can make a real difference to how we connect, learn, and spend time online.

Everything you need is on our Safer internet Day hub.

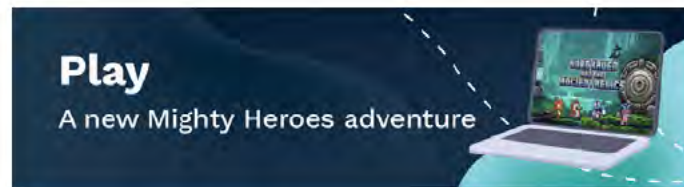
[Safer Internet Day hub](#)



This year, we're not giving you one "right" way to celebrate. Instead, we're handing you the map and letting you choose your own Safer Internet Day adventure.

Pick one, pick a few, or do them all. No matter which one you pick – thanks for using your powers for good online

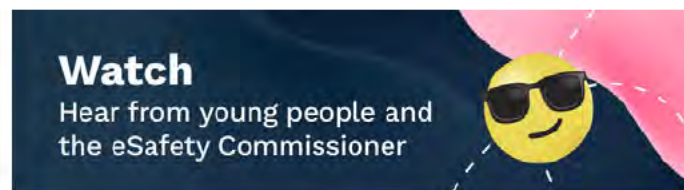
today



Teaching or caring for primary-aged kids? Send them on an online safety quest with **Robo Raven and the Ancient Relics: A Mighty Heroes adventure** – a new web-based game with the Mighty Heroes characters to help students build essential skills like critical thinking, positive online behaviour, online security and respectful online relationships.

Educators – you'll find teacher notes, 60+ classroom activities, student worksheets and a completion certificate.

[Start the adventure](#)



eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant reflects on why Safer Internet Day matters and how we can all play a part in creating a safer, more positive internet.

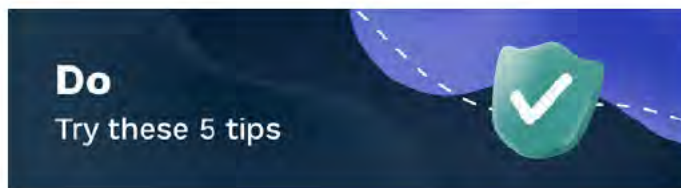


[Watch now](#)

Hear directly from young people as they share advice they wish they could give their younger self before diving into online life.



Watch now



Every good quest needs a toolkit. Our 5 simple tips are your starter pack for a safer, more positive internet.

Think of them as small moves that help you (and the people around you) level up online.

Be kind - Show empathy, respect and kindness in every online interaction.

Balance time online - Make space for offline connection, rest and reflection.

Speak up - [Report](#) online abuse and harmful content to eSafety.

Protect your space - Use [privacy settings](#), strong passwords or [parental controls](#) to keep you and your kids safe online.

Start the conversation - Talk about online safety with your networks including your family, friends, colleagues and community.

Watch the video



While we all love cute animal videos and recipes, today's a good day to give online safety a moment in the feed. Here are a few easy ways to spread the word:

- **Show how you're celebrating** – post a photo or short video of your Safer Internet Day activity.
- **Use our supporter tiles** – grab a ready-made tile from the hub (on the Resources for schools and tertiary, or Resources for workplaces pages) and share it. Tag us - [@eSafetyOffice](#) and [#SaferInternetDay2026](#) – we'd love to see how you're celebrating.
- **Not big on social?** Add a shout-out in your newsletter, intranet or group chat - you can [share the 5 tips](#).

[Get your supporter tile](#)

eSafety acknowledges all First Nations people for their continuing care of everything Country encompasses — land, waters and community. We pay our respects to First Nations people, and to Elders past and present.



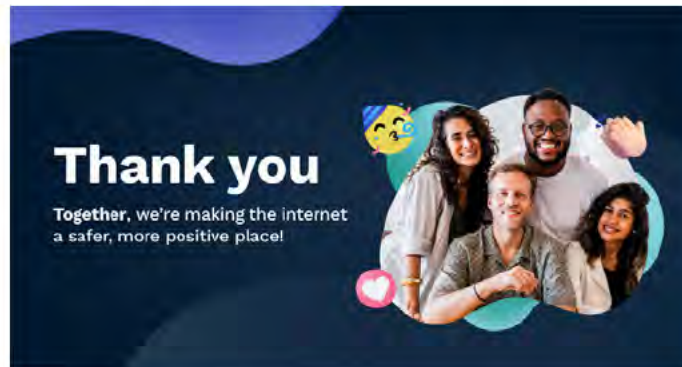
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And just like that... Safer Internet Day 2026 is a wrap

Whether you ran a classroom activity, shared a post, had a chat about online safety with your team, kids or friends, or simply took a minute to think about how we can make online spaces safer and more positive – thank you. Those small actions genuinely add up, and they help shape the digital world young people are growing up in.

Got 5 minutes? We would love for you to share your thoughts in our [survey](#), to help us understand your experience, the resources and activities you loved (or wished for), and any improvements you'd like to see.

Thank you again for your support. Together, we reached thousands of Australians with online safety messages, helping shape the digital world we're all living in.

[Complete the survey](#)



What's next? eSafety Youth Council applications open

Safer Internet Day is one moment in the calendar – but online safety is a year-round conversation especially with young people. We want young people's voices at the table, helping shape the way we talk about online safety and how we support young Australians.

That's where the [eSafety Youth Council](#) comes in. Know a young person aged 13-24 who has thoughts about life online and wants to make a difference? Send this their way – applications are open, and everything they need to know is in the [Application guide](#).

[Learn more](#)



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