

About the age law for social media apps



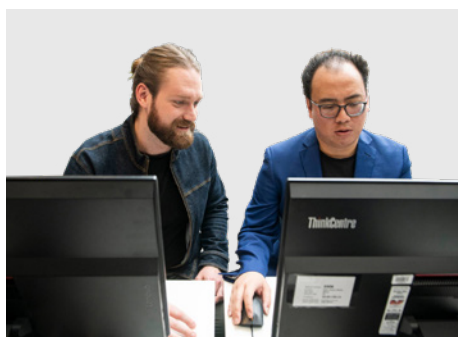
Easy Read

About this information



The **eSafety Commissioner** wrote this information.

We will say **eSafety** for short.



eSafety supports people to be safe online.

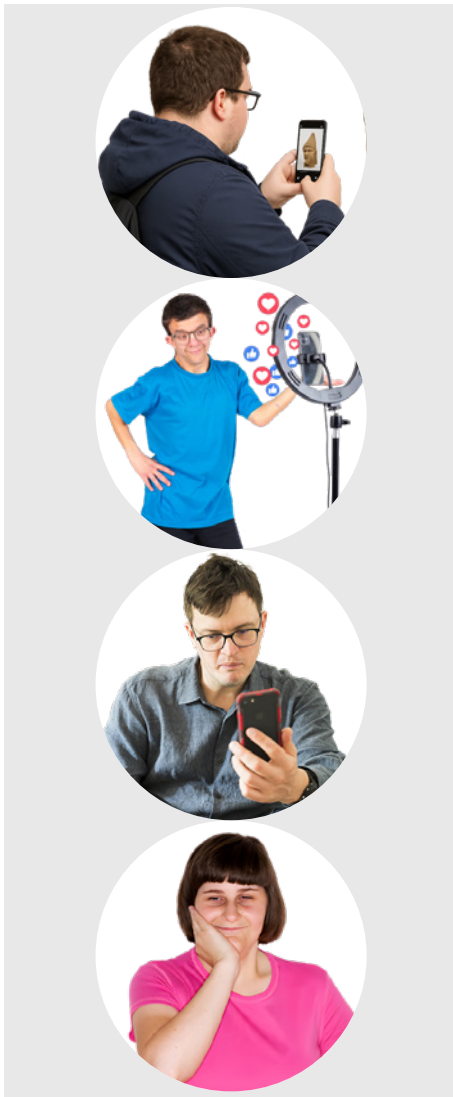


Australian Government

eSafety is part of the Australian Government.



This information is for young people under 16 who might still use social media apps.



Social media apps are online spaces people can use to share

- photos
- videos
- information
- what you think.



There is a **law** that says you must be 16 or older to use many social media apps.



A **law** is a rule everyone has to follow.

About the law



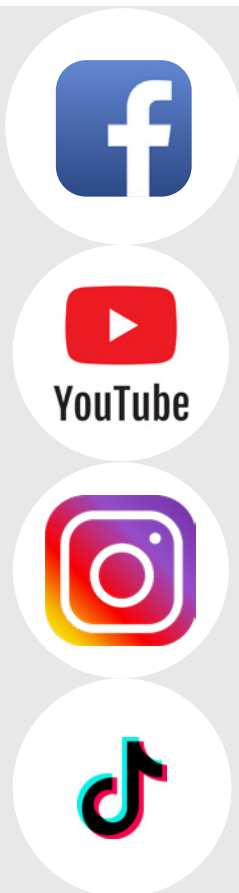
Australian Government

The Australian Government made a special law for using social media apps.



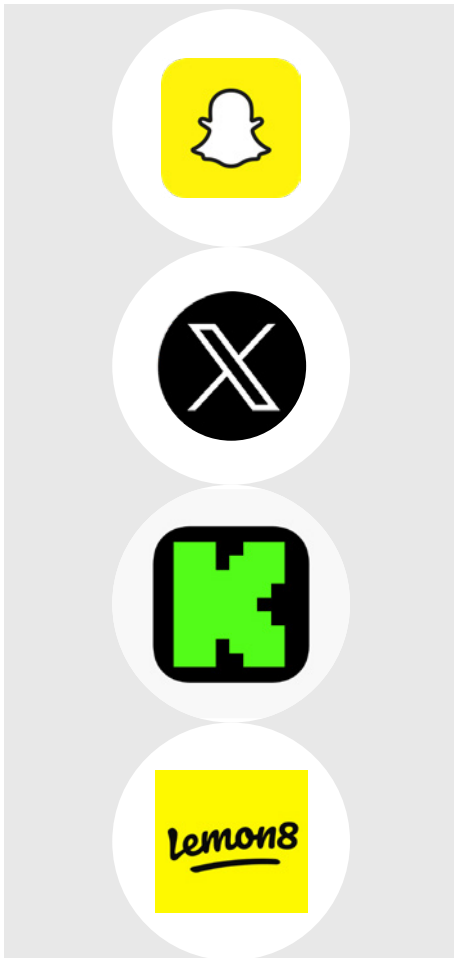
We call it the **social media apps law**.

We will say the **law** for short.



The law is for social media apps like

- Facebook
- YouTube
- Instagram
- TikTok.

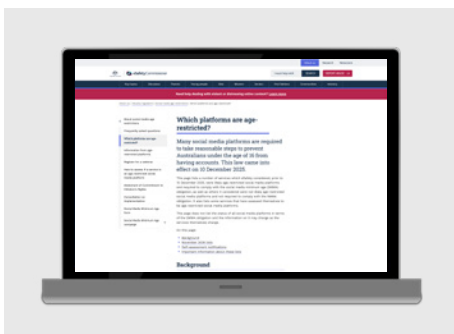


The law is for social media apps like

- Snapchat
- X
- KICK
- Lemon8.



The law is also for some other social media apps.



You can see a list of these at

www.bit.ly/social-media-restrict

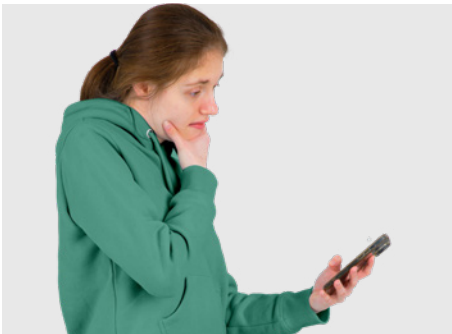
Why the government made the law



The government made the law to keep young people safer online.



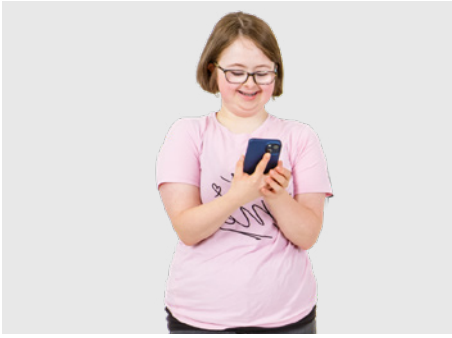
The law is also meant to help keep young people happy and healthy.



This is because social media apps can sometimes make young people unsafe.



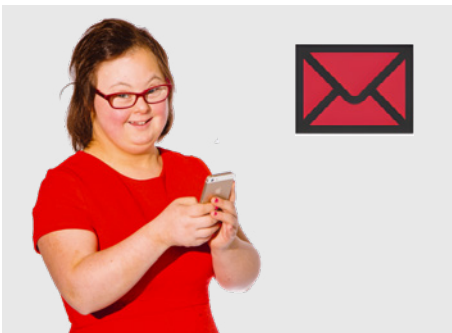
They can also make young people feel upset.



Social media apps do this in different ways.



They try to keep you on them all the time.



They send you lots of messages to make you come back.



They might show things that are bad or that make you feel upset.

If you spend too much time on social media
it can



- stop you from doing other things

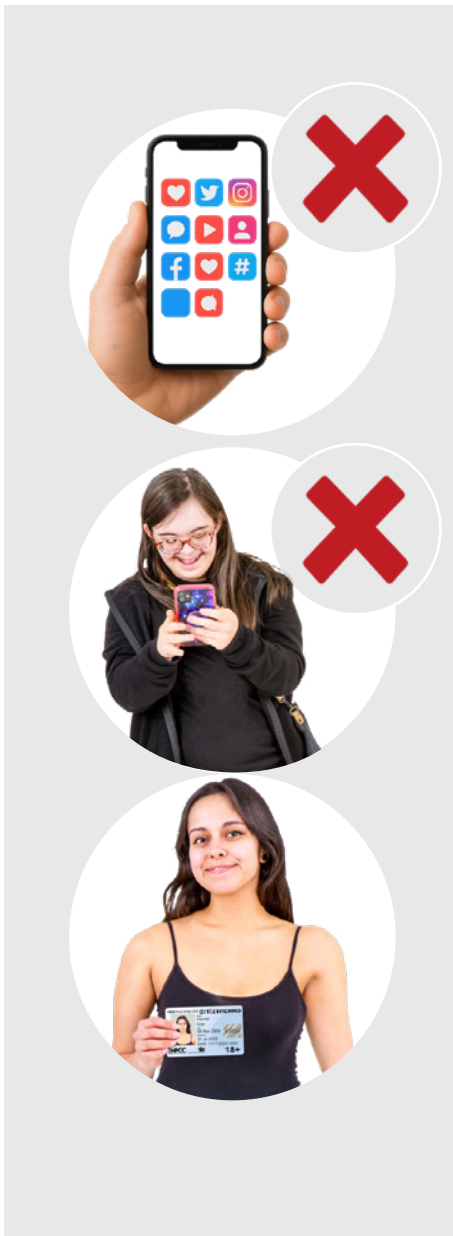


- make it hard to sleep or do schoolwork.

How the age check works



The social media apps have to check your age to make sure you are 16 or older.



If you are under 16 social media apps must

- turn off your account with them
- make sure you can not open an account with them
- tell you how they will check your age.

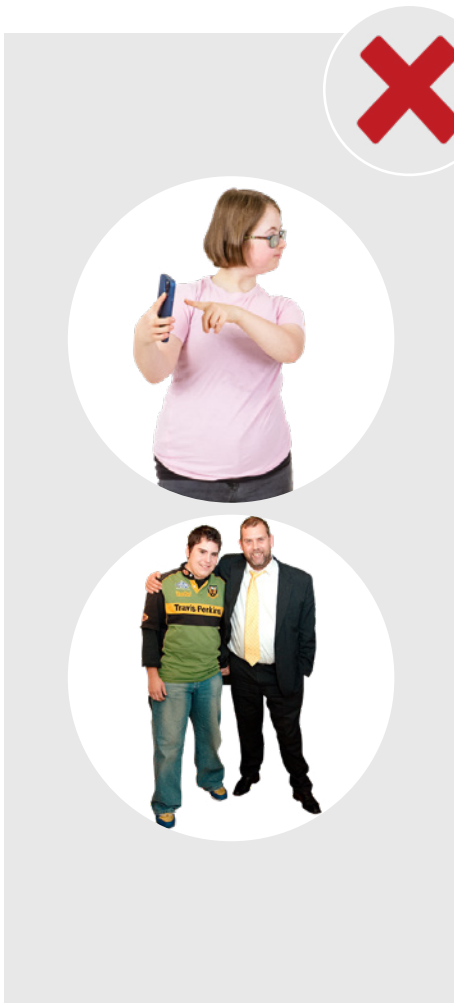


Sometimes the age check might not stop you right away from using the app.



Even if you can use the app now you can be blocked any time until you turn 16.

What happens if you are under 16 and still on social media?



If you are on a social media app and you are under 16

- you will not get into trouble
- your family will not get into trouble.

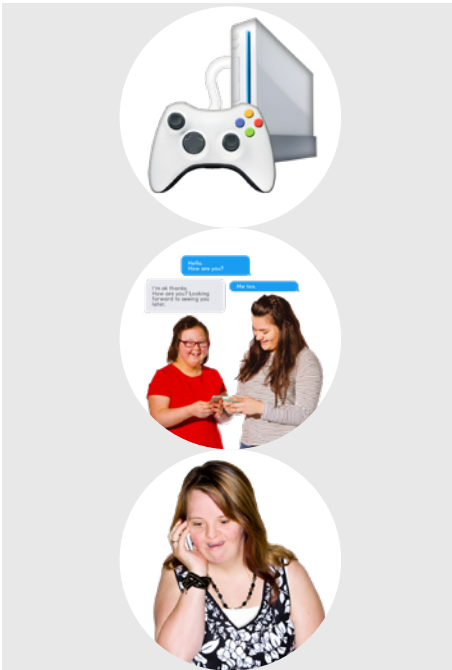


But the social media app might get into trouble with the government.

How you can keep in contact with others



If you are under 16 you can still talk to friends and family in other ways.



You can talk to them

- in online games
- on messaging apps
- on the phone.



Think about who you would like to keep in contact with.



Then think about the best way to contact them.



Get their phone number or give them yours.



But only give your phone number to close friends and family.



Start a chat group on an app that is not social media.



Meet up more with your friends in person.

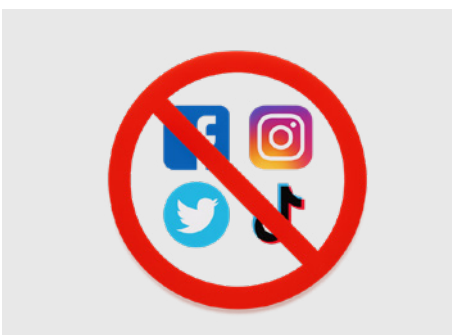


Ask an adult you trust to help you download messaging apps.

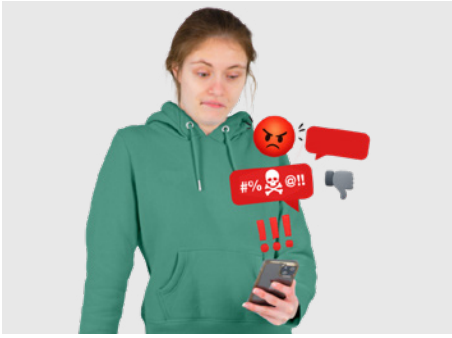


They can also help you download things you want to keep from your social media apps like

- videos
- photos
- contacts.



This is because some social media apps might delete your account.



Remember that bad things can also happen in other online spaces so always be careful.



- a parent



- a teacher

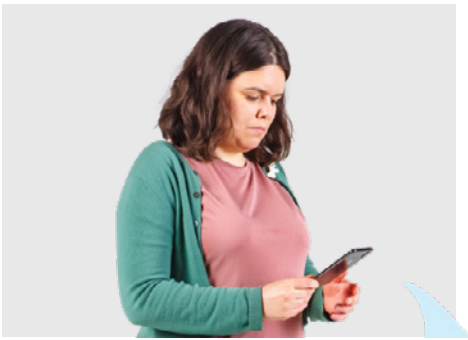


- a support worker.

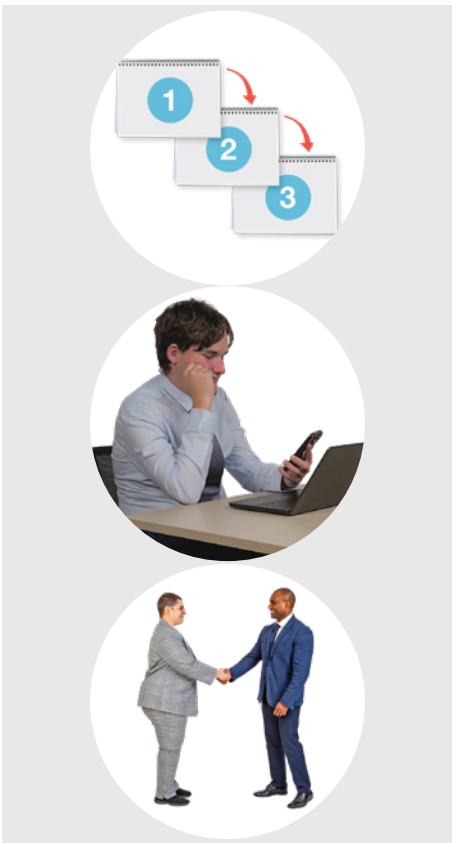
Watch out for scams



Each social media app checks the age of users in its own way.



Only trust questions and information that come from the social media app itself.



The social media app should tell you

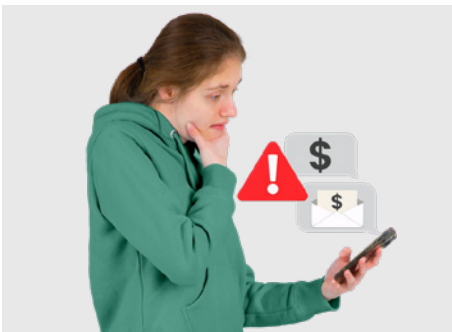
- what steps to follow
- what information to give them
- when they use another company to ask you for information.



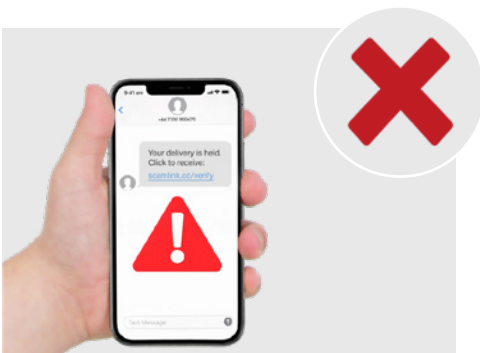
If you get a message that asks you to prove your age do not share this information right away.



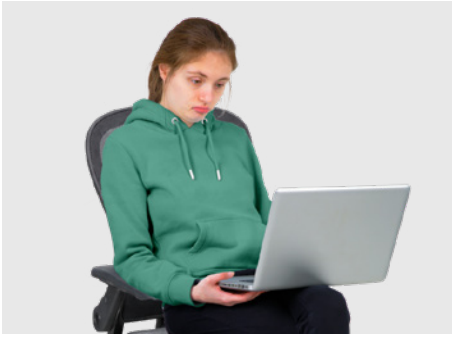
First make sure the message is really from the social media app and is not a **scam**.



A **scam** is when someone tricks you to take your money or personal information.



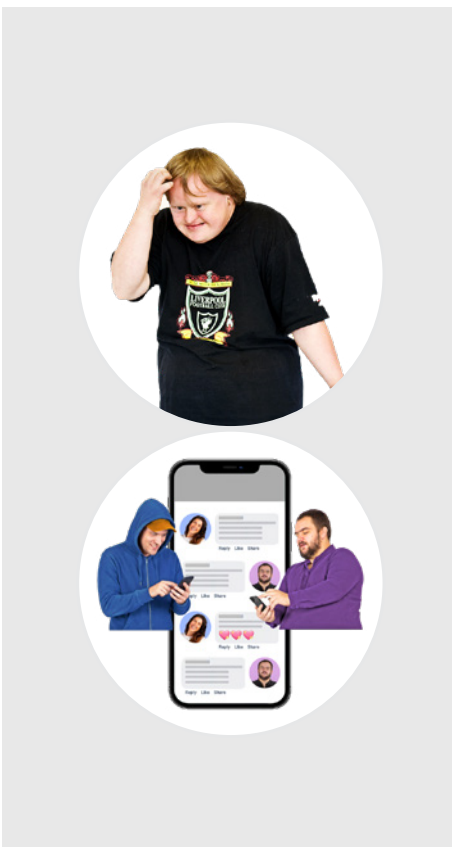
Do not click links or download anything yet.



Go to the **Help** or **Support** part of the social media app to check what to do.



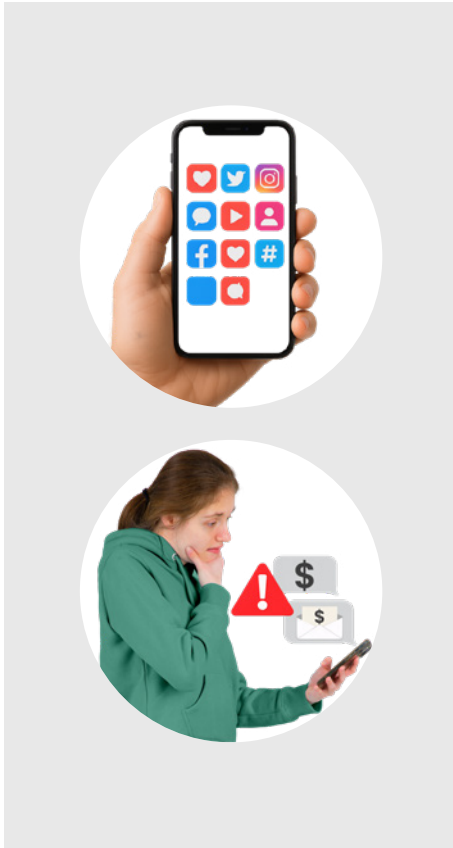
You will not get into trouble even if you are under 16 and still on one of the apps.



You can talk to someone you trust

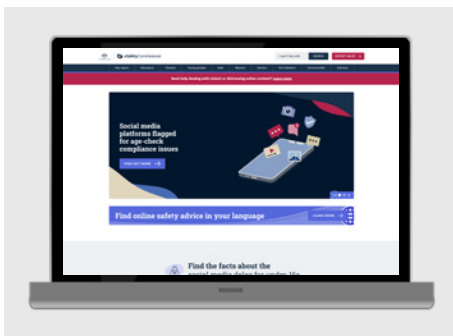
- if you think something is a scam
- if you got scammed.

More information



You can go to the eSafety website for more information about

- the law for using social media apps
- scams.



To look at the website go to

eSafety.gov.au



Most of the website is not Easy Read.

Who did this Easy Read



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eSafety Commissioner.



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