

# CYBERSAFETY

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<http://www.informationeconomy.sa.gov.au>

## Cyber Safety

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All users of the internet need to be aware of the possible risks, so that they can make the most of the all the amazing opportunities for communication, entertainment, education, business and much more which are available online.

There have been many reports of users of technology, especially the internet, being victims of harassment, scams, fraud and being exposed to inappropriate material online.

Children and young people are particularly vulnerable as they know how to use the computers and mobile phones, but they often lack the maturity to understand the real consequences of their behaviour and how to deal with inappropriate contact or content.

Parents need to be aware of the risks their children may face and the steps they can take to help protect them.

These tips are general advice which may help all users of the internet to stay safe online.

### 1. Use your common sense.

If an offer, scheme or sale seems to be too good to be true - then it probably is! Make sure you read the fine print before you commit to any sale or deal online.

The same rules apply when online as you would follow in everyday life. If you have any details check if there are any warnings on:

[www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

[www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)

Office of Consumer and Business Affairs

Contact either organisation for advice if you are unsure of an online offer, scheme or sale.

### 2. Know your digital footprint; the information and photos of you available to all on the internet.

Search for your name on the internet using a variety of search engines to discover what information is out there about you.

Checking your digital footprint should include searching for your name using a variety of search engines, to get as wide a search as possible. You should also search websites such as 'Facebook', 'MySpace' and 'YouTube' for entries and photos of yourself or organisations you are involved with. Let others know if you find entries that may concern them, they may then do the same for you.

If you find information about yourself that you don't like, ask the person who posted the information to remove it. You can complain to the host website to try to have material removed.

**3. Make sure all your online Profiles (Facebook, MySpace, Bebo etc) are private – so only those you give permission can see your full social networking profile.**

The default setting of most of these website is NOT private.

Keep rechecking your personal settings to ensure you haven't accidentally changed your status.

**4. Consider the photos you post of yourself online – they can be used for purposes you may not like.**

If you do post photos try and use photos of a low resolution.

Remember that once a photo is posted, it may be copied by others and in years to come you may wish you hadn't put it on the internet.

**5. Ensure you keep your private details private.**

Make sure you do not post personal information on the internet.

For example many social networking websites allow you to post your date of birth, mobile phone number and address – this information should be kept private, your friends and family already know these details so there is no need to display them online.

This information can make it easy for someone to find more information about you.

**6. Try and ensure that you know the true identity of everyone you chat to online.**

When chatting online it can be difficult to confirm the identity of the person to whom you are chatting, so keep personal information to a minimum.

When online it is advisable to not tell people, especially those you do not know, your full name, where you work and where you live.

**7. Parents should supervise the internet usage of their children.**

Parents should know what their children are doing online and who they are chatting to.

Parents should regularly check the online profiles of their children.



**8. Children should not have a computer with internet access in their bedroom.**

Computers with internet access should be in public areas of the house where the screen can be seen at all times. Young children should be supervised at all times whilst on the internet.

**9. Keep your computer security updates up to date.**

Ensure you have properly installed up to date anti virus and firewall software on all computers that use the internet.

Install all updates for any software you use as they become available. This will help keep your computer safe from online threats as they are identified.

Consider subscribing to the free Stay Smart Online Alert Service at [www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au)

**10. Report any cyber bullying**

If you are being bullied or harassed, online or via mobile phone, save all the correspondence such as emails, sms and take 'screen shots' (press the 'print screen' key and 'save as' or print) of any websites and contact the police.

It is an offence to make threats, menace, harass or cause offence using the internet or mobile phones.

**Digital Footprint**  
Evidence of a computer user's activity online and offline

**Cyberstalking**  
Repeated, intense harassment and/or abuse that may include threats and can create fear

**Harassment**  
The repeated sending of abusive, threatening and insulting messages

**Impersonation**  
Posting or sending material online, whilst pretending to be someone else

**Useful Websites**

**Stay Smart Online**

[www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au)

**Net Safe**

[www.netsafe.org.nz](http://www.netsafe.org.nz)

**Bullying No Way**

[www.bullyingnoway.com.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au)

**Virtual Global Taskforce**

[www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com](http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com)

**Australian Communication and Media Authority**

[www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)

**Internet Industry Association Security Patrol**

[www.security.iaa.net.au](http://www.security.iaa.net.au)

**Centre for Safe and Responsible Internet Use**

[www.cyberbully.org](http://www.cyberbully.org)

**Text Talk** (translate from text talk to English)

[www.transl8it.com](http://www.transl8it.com)

**Urban Dictionary**

[www.urbandictionary.com](http://www.urbandictionary.com)

**Online Safety**

Preschool  
[www.nettysworld.com.au](http://www.nettysworld.com.au)  
Primary School  
[www.cyberquoll.com.au](http://www.cyberquoll.com.au)  
Teenagers  
[www.wisuptoit.com.au](http://www.wisuptoit.com.au)