



New Online Safety Laws: We've Got Your Back

Helping to protect Australians online

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stakeholder Toolkit

We acknowledge that many individuals refer to themselves by their clan, mob and or country. For the purposes of this document, we respectfully refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Introduction

The Australian Government introduced the *Online Safety Act 2021* on 23 January 2022. This means there are new laws in place to protect all Australians online. The new laws give eSafety stronger mechanisms to address serious online abuse if it meets the high threshold of being 'seriously harmful' to an individual.

These laws give greater protection to adults and children, so we can all be protected online.

It's important that everyone in the community knows about the new laws and the protections in place if they need them.

The 'We've Got Your Back' campaign provides simple information to help everyone in the community understand what the new laws mean for you, your family and community.

In this kit, you'll find some tools to help you share information so that people know where to go for help if they need it.

- Social media tiles and videos
- Stay Safe Online Booklet
- Fact sheets
- Posters
- Postcards
- E-Newsletter

What's it about?

The new laws provide stronger protection against serious online, if it meets the high threshold of being 'seriously harmful'. Serious harm can have an impact on people physically or on their mental health. It might be temporary, or it might have a permanent impact.

Some examples of serious online harms include:

- Seriously harmful or illegal content
- Non-consensual sharing of intimate images or videos
- Cyberbullying of children
- Severely abusive or menacing content that is intended to cause serious mental or physical harm.

How does it work?

A person experiencing serious online abuse or cyberbullying must first report the material to the platform before seeking assistance from eSafety.

If the platform doesn't remove the material, or if you experience image-based abuse, you can make a report to eSafety. They can then work with online services and platforms to remove menacing, harassing or threatening online material, if it targets an Australian individual and the material is posted with the likely intention of causing serious harm.

If the material is not removed, eSafety can also impose penalties on those that posted it, as well as the provider of the service where the abuse appears.



"It's important that everyone in the community knows about the new laws and the protections in place if they need them".

What doesn't the Act cover?

There are certain forms of abuse that are not covered under the new laws.

However, if the below experiences are combined with seriously threatening, harmful or dangerous content, the new laws could still apply.

Examples of what the Act does not cover in isolation:

- Defamatory comments
- Political satire or journalism
- Spam and scams
- Hacking
- Identity theft.

If you have been scammed online, visit **www.scamwatch.gov.au**.

If you have been a victim of cybercrime, call the Australian Cyber Security Hotline on 1800 CYBER1 (1300 292 371) or visit **cyber.gov.au** for advice and guidance.

Racism and serious online harm

Racism can significantly impact how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities experience serious online abuse. If you experience targeted racial online abuse, violent threats or harassment that causes you serious mental or physical harm, there are some steps you can take:

- You must first report the abuse to the online platform where it happened.
- If the online platform does not remove the content within 48 hours, you should then report it to **esafety.gov.au**.

Tips to stay safe online

You can share these tips with your community and networks to help everyone stay safe online.

Learn about online safety risks.

The best way to stay safe online is to understand the risks and what can go wrong. You can visit **[eSafety.gov.au](http://esafety.gov.au)** for information and resources.

Check your security settings.

Looking after your privacy is important online. You can check your account settings to make sure that strangers are not able to access your information or contact you without your consent. There are tips available for checking the security settings for each platform at **[eSafety.gov.au](http://esafety.gov.au)**.

Talk to someone you trust.

You can also talk to someone you trust if you are unsure about something that has happened online. The more we talk about online safety, the more we can grow and learn together as a community.

To help spread the word about online safety you might like to:

- download the videos and social media tiles and share them with your networks and on your social media accounts
- print the posters and display them in community spaces
- provide copies of the fact sheets in community spaces and organisations
- use the key messages in your communication with communities, for example, on your website, in your newsletters and on your social media channels.

There are a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources available at **[eSafety.gov.au](http://esafety.gov.au)**

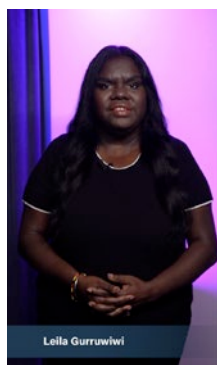


ONLINE SAFETY LAWS

**WE'VE
GOT YOUR
BACK**

Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Audiences

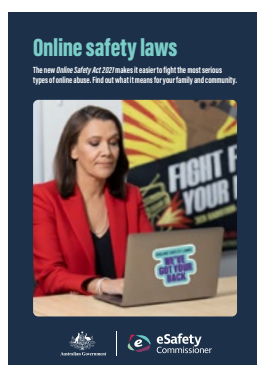
The following products have been developed specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences.



[Download the video here](#)



[Download the fact sheets here](#)



[Download the booklet here](#)

You can also access other campaign materials, including the recording for First Nations radio, here.

[Download other campaign material here](#)



[Download the poster here](#)

How you can help

Print and share the messages and material

- Put up the posters and display in community centres, waiting rooms, at the community sports hall, at the community store and on local noticeboards.
- Print this toolkit and have copies available for the community to take home.
- Email a link to the toolkit to local community leaders, organisations and service providers.
- Share copies of the fact sheets with community groups to start a conversation about online safety.

Start a conversation about staying safe online

- Yarn with mob about the new laws and supports available at **eSafety.gov.au**:
 - ask what they know about staying safe online
 - share experiences of online safety
 - talk about resources and support available to protect you online if things go wrong.
- Share information with staff or community networks at local meetings. This can help to start a conversation and make sure people know where to go for help if they need it.

Post about online safety on social media

- Use your social media platforms to share messages about staying safe online.
- Share the social media tiles and messages on your community's local Facebook page for news or residents.
- Encourage people to be respectful online and remind people where they can go for help.

Share the eNewsletter with your networks.



“Yarn with mob about the new laws and supports available at eSafety.gov.au”.

Looking after wellbeing

Online abuse in any form can be stressful for the individual, family and community. eSafety also provides referrals to support services and can provide online safety advice to help everyone stay safe online.

- **BeyondBlue: 1300 22 4636** (mental health support)
- **Lifeline: 13 11 14** (mental health and suicide prevention)
- **1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732** (support for people affected by sexual abuse or domestic violence)
- **Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800** (counselling for youth between 5-25 years)
- **National Counselling and Referral Service: 1800 421 468** (support for people with disability)

If someone is in danger or requires immediate support, please call emergency services (000).

Want more information?

Visit **eSafety.gov.au** for more information about the Online Safety campaign.

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Australian Government



eSafety
Commissioner