

Newsletter



Safeguarding Children and Young People



Online Safety Awareness to Safeguard Children and Young People

Welcome to our first newsletter edition of 2022!

With **Safer Internet Day** this month, coupled with children going back to school and many learning online, this edition aims to raise awareness about online safety for children and young people and share resources for families.

From the Child Protection Unit Team,
Sally, Imbi, Clare, Kath and Ali

Tuesday 8 February 2022 Safer Internet Day -

This day is celebrated annually around the world in February. To read about this world event and how you can celebrate go to: <https://www.saferinternetday.org/>



New Online Laws in Australia

The Online Safety Act 2021 expands Australia's protections against online harm, to keep pace with abusive behaviour and toxic content. New laws have been added which will strengthen safety for children and young people in the online world, including broadening the Cyberbullying Scheme for children to capture harms that occur on services other than social media. To learn about the Online Safety Act go to <https://www.esafety.gov.au/whats-on/online-safety-act>

Rise in Reports of Online Child Sexual Exploitation during COVID-19:

In addition to risk factors that have increased for child abuse and neglect during COVID-19, such as income & housing stress, parental mental health, substance use and domestic violence, reports of online child sexual exploitation has risen.

Online child sexual exploitation most commonly includes grooming, live streaming, consuming child sexual abuse material, and coercing and blackmailing children for sexual purposes. These matters are usually reported to, and handled by, the police or the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE). Cases may come to the attention of child protection services where the child's parent/carer is involved in the exploitation and/or has failed to protect the child. During COVID-19, public

tipoffs about online child sexual exploitation material more than doubled— reports made by members of the public to the ACCCE increased by 122% as Australia went into COVID-19 restrictions through April–June 2020. In 2019–20, the ACCCE Child Protection Triage Unit received more than 21,000 reports, an increase from more than 14,000 reports in 2018–19. Each report may contain thousands of images of children being abused.

To learn more about the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, which was established in 2018, go to <https://www.accce.gov.au/>

If you think a child is in immediate danger call 000.

24 hour Support Services:
Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
Lifeline: 13 11 14

Planning a Youth Group or Children's Liturgy online?

Download our Safe Practices Online with Children and Young People document



And remember when planning a children's activity or program for the year to complete a Risk Assessment beforehand



For information & resources regarding Family & Parish-based Catechises please contact Ph. 08 8301 6827 or 08 8301 6195

1800 551 800



kidshelpline
Anytime | Any Reason

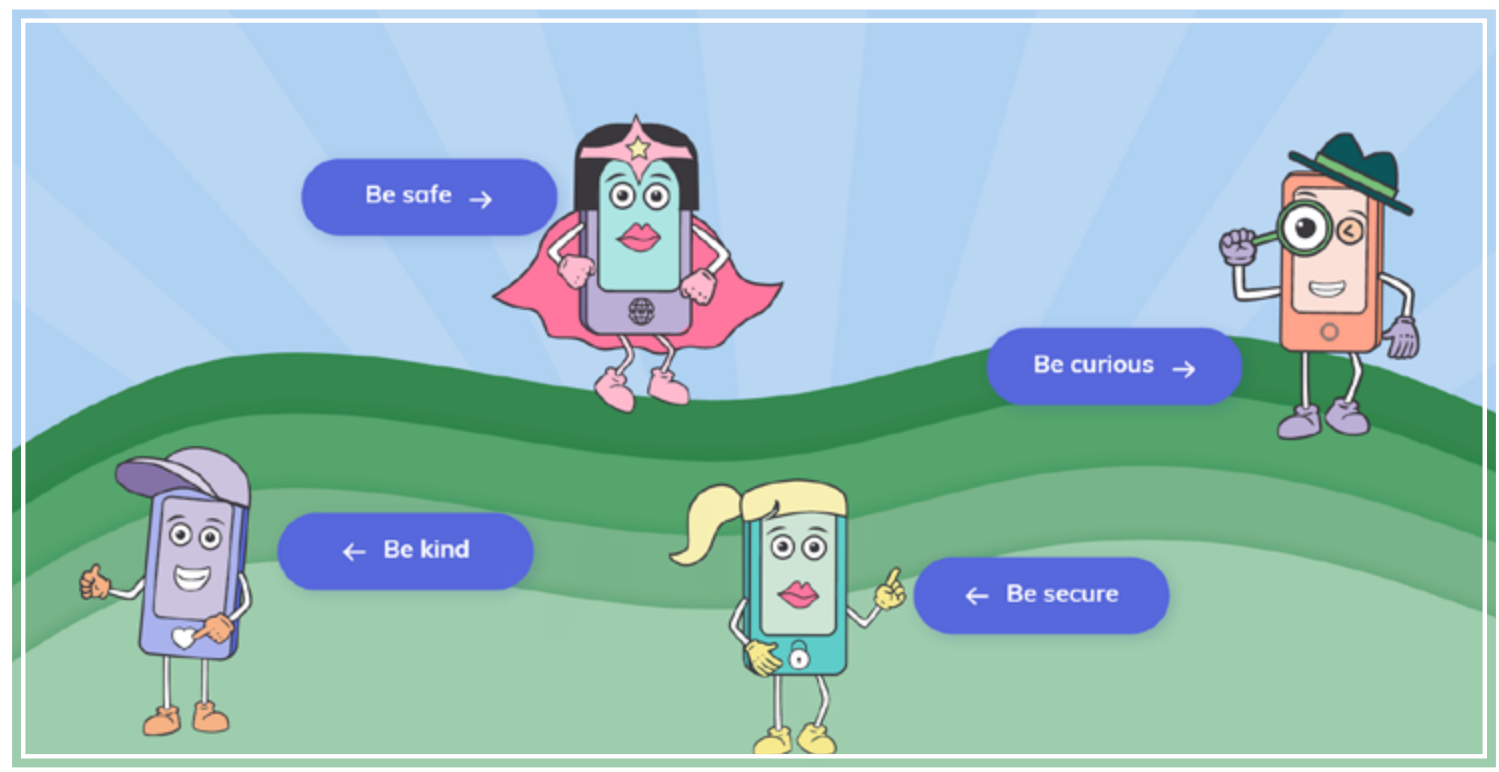
Lifeline
13 11 44

DID YOU KNOW?

Online safety is part of SEFA Goal 2, in the *Safe Environment for All Program* in which both our built physical and online environments are safe and welcoming spaces in the Catholic Adelaide Archdiocese.

Best Practice Guidelines forms part of our safe interactions with children and young people, which applies to both the physical & online environment.





Resources that speak directly to children and young people on 'How to be Safe'

The Australian eSafety Commissioner's Website

The Australian eSafety Commissioner's website at <https://www.esafety.gov.au/> provides useful tools and information on how to stay safe online, not only for parents and caregivers, but for children and young people too. Child friendly information and imagery communicates to children and

young people practical tips such as: how to respond when you receive 'unwanted contact', what to do if you see something that makes you feel uncomfortable (i.e. who to talk to and what to do about it), what information should not be shared online and tips for safely sharing photos and videos.

Review your Child's Online Safety

The back-to-school period is a great time for families to review their child's online safety. Online safety is a skill to learn and is best done when parents work with their child/young person to build upon these skills.

A great starting point for a parent/caregiver to open

these conversations with their child and do an initial check to establish online-safety literacy would be looking at this link together with their child/young person: 'Be an eSafe Kid' which provides 10 tips for keeping safe online, click here: [Be an eSafe kid | eSafety Commissioner](#)



Supports Available in your Community

You're welcome to contact us at the Child Protection Unit to find out about support services and resources available for children, young people and families

Ph: 8210 8159

Email: childprotection@adelaide.catholic.org.au

