

## TIPS FOR YOUR KIDS & TEENS

- **Think before you post!** Content posted online can be there forever. You can put it up, but you can't necessarily take it down.
- **Be considerate**—only send the kind of messages and photos you would be happy to receive.
- **Remember that sexting can be illegal**, so never share naked images of yourself or forward images you have received.
- **Say no if someone asks you to do something**—like take or pass on a photo—that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- **Don't be embarrassed**—talk to a trusted adult if someone pressures you to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable or sends you content that worries you.
- **Stay aware** of what's going on around you and guard your privacy. Remember, if you can take pictures of everything and everyone with your phone, so can others ... and you may not want to be the subject of their photos!

- **If you have sent an image** or message that you regret seek advice from a trusted adult.
- **Confidential guidance** and advice can also be found at the Cybersmart Online Helpline on the Cybersmart website or call Kids Helpline direct on **1800 55 1800**.



If you would like to talk to us in your own language, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450.

### Italian Italiano

Se desiderate parlare con noi in italiano, siete pregati di chiamare il servizio d'interpretariato telefonico (Telephone Interpreter Service) al numero 131 450 e loro ci contatteranno per voi.

### Vietnamese Tiếng Việt

Nếu quý vị muốn nói chuyện với chúng tôi bằng tiếng Việt, xin điện thoại đến Dịch Vụ Thông Dịch qua điện thoại (TIS) ở số 131 450 và họ sẽ giúp quý vị liên lạc với chúng tôi.

### Greek Ελληνικά

Αν θέλετε να μας μιλήσετε στη γλώσσα σας, παρακαλείστε να τηλεφωνήσετε στην Τηλεφωνική Υπηρεσία Διεμνηνέων στο 131 450 και να ζητήσετε να επικοινωνήσουν μαζί μας εκ μέρους σας.

### Arabic العربية

إذا كنت تودّ التحدث إلينا بلغتك، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفهية والخطية على الرقم 131 450 حيث يقوم مترجم من الخدمة بالاتصال بنا والتحدث إلينا نيابةً عنك.

### Traditional Chinese 繁體中文

如果您希望用您的語言和我們傾談，請致電131 450 電話傳譯員服務 (Telephone Interpreter Service)，他們會替您和我們聯絡。

### For more information contact:

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Cybersmart program

Cybersafety Contact Centre

Telephone: 1800 880 176

Email: [cybersafety@acma.gov.au](mailto:cybersafety@acma.gov.au)

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

ACMA037A.1007

[WWW.CYBERSMART.GOV.AU](http://WWW.CYBERSMART.GOV.AU)



cyber(smart:)

SEXTING



Australian  
Communications  
and Media Authority

# SAFE SEXTING

THERE'S NO SUCH THING

**Sexting refers to the sending of provocative or sexual photos, messages or videos, generally using a mobile phone. It can also include posting this type of material online.**

While sharing suggestive images or text messages may seem like innocent flirting or be amusing for many young people, sexting can have serious social and legal consequences.

Young people sometimes willingly share images of themselves, naked. However, sexting can also happen in response to peer pressure.

Sexting can have unforeseen consequences. For example, a 15 year old girl takes a topless photo of herself and sends it to her boyfriend's mobile phone, at his request. After their relationship ends, the boy posts the photo with unflattering comments on a social networking site for friends to see.

Images taken without the person's knowledge or consent and forwarded on to others can also be considered sexting.

## SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Once images and messages are sent they can often spread rapidly. If images are posted online it can almost be impossible to remove them or to control access to them.

As a result, sexting can cause embarrassment both now and in the future. Family, friends, future partners

and employers may have access to sexting images and messages, which can damage your child's or teen's reputation.

Sexting can also lead to cyberbullying, sexual harassment or at its most extreme, assault.

To remain safe, young people need to consider how they deal with their own, and others', messages and images. It can be easy for them to forget the potential impact of their actions in an online environment.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Sexting has legal implications which should be taken seriously. Under Australian law, young people may be committing a crime when taking, receiving or forwarding sexual images of themselves or friends who are minors. This applies even if all participants are willing.

These acts can represent the production or distribution of child pornography.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

- **Warn your child** about the social and legal consequences of sexting.
- **Remind them to think before they act**—taking or sending sexual images, even of themselves, has social implications and may be illegal.
- **Remind your child to delete** any sexual content they receive from others and to avoid forwarding this type of content.
- **Remind your child to consider** the feelings of others when distributing any content by mobile phone or online.
- **Learn how to use your child's mobile phone** and talk with them about what they can and can't do with it.
- **If you are concerned** that a sexting incident may be a criminal matter, contact your local police.

