PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Together for a better internet
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#SID2025

NICTA

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Help children to be safe online

Parents and caregivers can support children of all ages to have safe and positive experiences online

Helpful TIPS!

Top cyber smart tips for parents

- Always consider your child's age, gender and maturity and how this may impact their safety online. Factors impacting safety online will vary depending on the child's age and gender, and whether they have a disability.
- Learn how to set parental controls and limit access to adult content.
- Disable in-app purchases on your child's device.
- Ensure your child knows how to be cautious about sharing their details online.
- Turn off location settings when using social media sites on smartphones.
- Create a family media agreement with tech-free zones such as cars and bedrooms.
- Help your child learn to filter information online and navigate fact from fiction.

Protect your child's privacy online

Use privacy settings and review them frequently
- Sit down with your child and go over their social media privacy settings.
- On Facebook:
    - the safest privacy setting to use is 'Only Me'
    - check your app settings to see what is being shared with each app.
- For new devices and websites, follow privacy directions during initial set up.
- Remind children to be aware of what information they are agreeing to share before they start using apps, websites or devices.

Use two-factor authentication
- Two-factor authentication increases your security because it allows you to authorise only certain devices to access an account.

Delete old accounts and update your passwords
- Delete any old, unused online accounts.
- Update passwords regularly and choose strong passwords.

Online behaviour
- Make sure children understand the basics of good online behaviour, including the impact and potential repercussions of posting or commenting online.

Protections for children
- Some legal restrictions help protect your child's consumer privacy and ensure they use age-appropriate websites and applications. For example, the *Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015* elaborates on measures to ensure children's protection and privacy. It stresses the importance of parental/guardian consent when using or sharing a child's image or information.
- Parents' awareness of their obligations under the legislation will help them to support online safety.

Protect children from image-based abuse

Image-based abuse can include the non-consensual sharing of images, including the illegal distribution and sharing of 'nudes' i.e. naked images. Children are vulnerable to being pressured into sending images of themselves when they are engaging with strangers online. This practice is a violation of domestic law, and a serious threat to the privacy of children.

Sharing private images of anyone below the age of 18 is always a crime. Actions for parents include:

- Talk to your child about the nature of online images: they can never be completely removed from the internet so should never be sent to anyone. Consider explaining to children that sharing their own image may be a crime if they are under 18.
- If your child's privacy has been violated, submit a request with the relevant website or platform to try to have the image removed. Screenshot it for evidence.
- Consider accessing a counselling service as this experience can be highly traumatising for children.

Internet safety and preventing cyberbullying

Take an interest in your child's online world. Learn how to use the devices, apps and technologies used by your child.

Ensure that children with disabilities can benefit from all that technology can offer such as accessible formats, but do so safely and with the proper support they might need. Remember that the needs of children with disabilities can be diverse.

Set reasonable limits. Help children learn to make responsible decisions about using technology by establishing guidelines and exerting control when necessary.

Get to know your child's online friends. Help your child learn the difference between a real friend and a friendly stranger. Instruct children never to meet online friends.

Talk with your child if you suspect they are being bullied. Changes in your child's behaviour and attitude may signal that they are being bullied at school or online. Victimised children are more likely to have difficulty sleeping, headaches, nervousness, stomach aches and make excuses to avoid going to school.

Help children to speak up when they are being victimised or witness someone else being victimised online.

Show your child you love them and will protect them. Children who are bullied are at risk of mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, diminished self-esteem and social withdrawal.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is bullying with the use of digital technologies. It can take place on social media, messaging platforms, gaming platforms and mobile phones. Parents play a critical role in preventing and responding to cyberbullying.

If your child experiences cyberbullying:
- Contact the site administrator to have bullying content removed.
- If bullying is coming from a school student, report it to their school. Schools are encouraged to protect students and can help stop bullying.
- Talk to your child about getting support if they are very upset.
- Report any serious threat to police. A threat made online is against the *PNG Cyber Crime Code Act 2016.*
- Set parental limitations on phone and internet access of children under the age of 18.

Ensure that children and young people know:
- How to ignore bullying messages and block unwanted contact on email, social media, chat rooms, games and other programs.
- To keep a record of bullying messages so you can report it.
- How to help a friend if they are being bullied, and to tell a responsible adult.
- Not to bully others.

Identify fake news

Almost all fake news spreads through social media by misinformed or ill-intentioned individuals. Parents can teach their children how to identify and verify fake news.

Watch out for dramatic headlines
- If the headline seems too exaggerated or unbelievable, it probably is. Be cautious with "shocking" stories that are designed to grab attention.

Check where it's coming from
- Look for news from reliable sources such as news on the radio, newspapers, or NBC News. Be wary if it's from unknown or questionable sources.

Double-check with other sources
- Before sharing anything, check to see if other trusted sources are reporting the same thing. If only one website or social media page is talking about it, it's worth questioning.

Look for proof
- Good news stories should cite sources or provide evidence. If there are no references or proof backing up the claims, it's likely fake.

Think before you share
- Let your kids know that spreading fake news can cause problems, panic and confusion. Always verify the information before passing it on to others.