Cyber safety

Recently I was lucky enough to join in on a webinar around Cyber Safety. There is so much information around this topic out there that it is often hard to know which one is worth the read, worth using as a proactive strategy or worth utilising.

Think U Know Australia, is an evidence-based education program led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), delivered nationally in partnership with police and industry partners to prevent online child sexual exploitation. Below I have shared their advice on what to do if your child is a victim of exploitation, resources also, that are well worth a read (even if for a rainy day), and the link to access the Think U Know website.

I also wanted to share with you a great resource from The Carly Ryan Foundation to use as a checklist when your student receives a new device.

https://www.carlyryanfoundation.com/resources/new-device-checklist

Has your child been a victim of exploitation

The following information can be used as a checklist for how to make a report to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation.

1. Collect evidence

When making a report, it is helpful to collect evidence before the content is removed to show police exactly what happened. This includes:

- Screenshots/photos of the conversation (remember to not screenshot, save, share or distribute any explicit images of the underage person as this is an offence).

- Record of social media details (including account profile, profile usernames and URL of profile).

- Webpage addresses (URLs).

- Dates and times.

- Any other information you have about the interaction or suspect.

It's important to capture this information before blocking or deleting the user or you may lose important evidence.

2. Block

Block the user and consider changing your account information, including your password.

If you are unsure how to block, check the platforms 'help' section.

3. Report

Complete the reporting form here which goes through to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation for review and assessment.

Online incidents that don't require a police response can be reported to the platform where the issue occurred. Most platforms have a 'help' section that explains how to report or make a complaint.

There is no information too small or insignificant. Something that may appear small or insignificant could prove vital to a police investigation. It is important to understand that the police are here to protect children from online child sexual abuse. They will not be blamed or criticised for being a victim.

https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/

Other great resources

https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/

https://www.accce.gov.au/

https://www.accce.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/Sadistic%20Online%20Exploitation%20Factsheet_AFP-JPC3-ACCCE_Jul2025.pdf

https://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/2/publications/criminal-justice/is-it-legal-guide/laq_00108-is-it-legal-a5-guide-web.pdf'

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