

Australian Resources

The Australian Internet safety advisory board <http://www.netalert.net.au/> is an independent community advocacy group, established by the Australian government in 1999. It was created to educate Australians about managing Internet access. The site has a special feature on dealing with pornography and pop-up advertisements, tips on Net usage and advice on how to report offensive sites online. NetAlert has launched a new website, [Netty's World](#), to help educate children about safer Internet practices.

Internet safety hotline on **1800 880 176**

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF FAMILY STUDIES website on Internet safety
<http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/internetsafety.html>

This web site provides a be very useful selective listing of the various websites and sources of information covering safety issues and guidelines for parents of children and young people in using the Internet.

Tips for prevention from Young Media Australia

http://www.youngmedia.org.au/mediachildren/06_07_tips_net.htm

Twelve tips for safe Internet use

1. Spend some time with your child enjoying the exciting things on the Internet and discuss the ways they can use the internet for education and fun.
2. Information on the Internet comes from many sources. Not all is reliable. Encourage a careful approach to 'information' found on the Internet.
3. Be aware of what your children are

doing on-line. Have the computer in a public area in the home, not in a bedroom or children's playroom.

4. Encourage children to tell you about anything that worries them and have family talks about the dangers of the Internet.
5. The Internet is fun, but full of strangers. Children should never give out personal information such as names and addresses.
6. Many Internet sites have questionnaires and competitions. Ask your children to talk to you before filling in any forms.
7. The Internet is a great place to make friends. However, not every one is who they seem to be. Children and young people should check with their parents before arranging any face to face meetings, and ensure that such meetings are in a public place, with an adult present.
8. Encourage children to send e-mail only to friends, so they will have no need to correspond with strangers.
9. Some information on chat lines is not appropriate for children. Teach them to say 'No' to messages, or to leave a site that makes them feel uncomfortable.
10. If your child brings something inappropriate to your attention, tell them you are pleased they did and discuss it calmly.
11. Encourage your child's school to develop a CyberSafety policy too.
12. Too much time sitting at a computer can be unhealthy. Extensive use can result in repetitive stress injuries, eyestrain, obesity, and social isolation. Set a limit (an hour at most) and encourage your child to get out and explore the real world too. Overseas/internet-based resources