

ONLINE SAFETY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people are internet natives, a trend only accentuated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Even in our post-pandemic world, it is vital to ensure that online ministry is still conducted in a safe environment, particularly for our young and vulnerable members.



Anglican Diocese of
Canberra & Goulburn

This document provides some important and helpful information in regard to conducting online ministry in a safe manner.

ONLINE SAFE MINISTRY GUIDELINES

(Acknowledgement: The Anglican Guidelines (below) are from Sydney Diocese's 'COVID-19 - Principles Of Safe Youth Ministry In An Online Context', which can be downloaded from safeministry.org.au (these are used by permission). We thank the PSU of the Sydney Diocese for their ongoing commitment to Safe Ministry).

- Planning is crucial. You must take care with the message you intend to communicate through both the words and images you use as it may be perceived differently by those who view it.
- Youth group members, their friends and parents should be directed to the Church or Youth Group's official video streaming/conferencing account and not an individual leader's account. These accounts should only be used in a one directional manner e.g. the Church account must not add, follow or comment on any followers account.
- Caution should be observed with the use of any sites that delete posts, images, and comments.
- Schedule times for online forums and make these times known to youth and parents (chatting outside organised times should be discouraged).
- Leaders should never have a group with students only of the opposite gender.
- Clear guidelines should be made known to parents and participants about the forum e.g. maintain respectful conversations, observe appropriate dress codes, where possible leaders and participants should be in a public place (not private bedrooms) and be respectful of other household member's privacy when meeting.
- A senior leader (e.g. Youth Minister/Rector) should also be informed of when and how groups are meeting online.
- There should be at least 2 adult leaders present in any online gathering and all leaders should be clear about what their responsibilities are in this forum e.g. sharing a talk, leading a discussion, moderating/responding to comments.
- There should be no private contact or conversations with any student in Years 7-9. Any private conversations with older youth must be recorded and never deleted.

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ONLINE SAFE MINISTRY GUIDELINES CONTINUED

- Make sure there is clear communication with parents about the changes so they are aware of the new means of connecting and communicating and can be alert to it.
- If youth are going to send prayer points to a leader through a social media messaging platform, we would recommend use of more public forums such as group chats with two leaders rather than private messaging.
- Where possible, invite others in to the video conferences and chats rather than conducting them one-to-one. (If it is not possible to invite someone else, consider postponing the chat or informing your head ministry leader of the chat and the reason for it).
- Ensure all leaders, parents and participants know whom to speak to regarding inappropriate behaviour by leaders or ministry participants.

AUSTRALIAN ESAFETY COMMISSIONER RESOURCES

The eSafety Commissioner was established as an independent statutory office under the Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 (Cth). Many of the functions of the Commissioner are set out in section 15 of the Act.

Initially, these functions primarily related to enhancing online safety for Australian children. In 2017, the Act was amended to expand the Commissioner's remit to promoting and enhancing online safety for all Australians.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

[Click for more information or scan the QR code](#)



ZOOM – PRIVACY & SECURITY

There has been some concern around privacy and security while using Zoom for church services and meetings. It is important to keep in mind that if you share your meeting link on social media or other public forums, that makes your event public. Anyone who has access to the link can join your meeting.

Please take the time to visit the Zoom website and familiarise yourself with Zoom's settings and features so you are able to protect your virtual space. Best Practices for Securing Your Zoom Meetings is a useful document that covers everything you need to keep your meetings safe, including the use of meeting IDs, passwords and the Waiting Room feature.

ZOOM PRIVACY RESOURCES

[Click for more information or scan the QR code](#)

