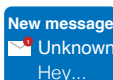


Common misconceptions of online child sexual exploitation

Online child sexual exploitation is a complex issue. There are many myths about the topic, and it's critical to get the facts right.

Myth	Reality
 Online child sex offenders are 'strangers' to victims	 Online child sex offenders can be known to the victim, such as a family friend or relative
 My child is primary school-aged, so are not at risk	 Online child sexual offenders do not discriminate against age
 Only females are at risk of online child sexual exploitation	 Anyone under the age of 18 can be a victim of online child sexual exploitation
 Online child sex offenders are always older males	 Online child sex offenders can be any age, male or female and come from any background
 Online child sexual exploitation and child sex abuse doesn't happen in Australia	 Australian law enforcement continue to disrupt online child sex offender networks in Australia
 Parental controls and privacy settings are enough to keep children and young people safe online	 To ensure online safety, multiple strategies are needed, including open and honest conversations with children and young people
 Children's games (on gaming consoles or apps) are always safer	 Any site, game, app or platform with a chat function can be used by online child sex offenders
 Just viewing online child sexual exploitation and abuse material isn't causing any harm	 Viewing such material continues the cycle of harm for victims and creates a market to produce more material
 Online child sexual exploitation isn't as important as safety in the physical world	 Exploitation has offline impacts
 Children in smaller or more isolated towns are safer from offenders	 Victims of online child sexual exploitation can be located anywhere
 I would have time to notice the signs if my child was being groomed online	 It can take only minutes for online child sex offenders to gain trust and form 'friendships' with a potential victim
 Online child sexual exploitation and abuse won't happen to my child	 Online child sexual exploitation and abuse can happen to anyone under 18 years and offenders are skilled in exploiting vulnerabilities