

# Personal image sharing



This factsheet explains personal image sharing (sexting or sending nudes) and includes tips for parents and carers.



**Sharing personal sexual content or ‘sexting’ refers to the sharing of sexually explicit photos, messages or videos.**



#### SEXTING MAY INCLUDE SENDING OR RECEIVING:

- > Nude or sexualised photos or selfies
- > Videos showing nudity or sexual acts
- > Messages of a sexual nature

Sharing this type of content can have serious social and legal consequences for the people involved.





## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Each State and Territory may manage these cases differently.

However, under Commonwealth law, an image of someone under the age of 18 in which they are naked, in a sexualised pose or engaged in a sexual act may be considered child abuse material.

Once you hit 'send', you never know where your personal images may end up. It can be difficult to delete an image or video once it is sent.

It is a common scenario where an image has been sent and then shown or sent to others or posted on the internet. This can be embarrassing and hurtful.

Using apps with disappearing media (such as Snapchat), where photos, videos or messages, are meant to disappear after a few seconds, can be saved and stored without you knowing.

Ghost, decoy or vault apps can be used to hide images on smartphones.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD?

- > Encourage open discussions with your children about what content they might be sharing.
- > Talk about some tactics they could use if they feel pressured to send images.
- > Try to avoid judgement and labelling.
- > Consider seeking advice from support services.

If your child comes to you for help, the most important thing you can do is support them.



## REPORT IT

If you become aware of sexual or naked videos or photos of your child online, report them to the platform they are posted on to get them removed.

If you believe the incident is malicious or may be a result of grooming, contact your local police or report to ThinkUKnow [thinkuknow.org.au/report](http://thinkuknow.org.au/report).

Image based abuse can be reported to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

## Where can I get help?

### CONSIDER SEEKING ADVICE FROM SUPPORT SERVICES:



**Lifeline**  
13 11 14



**Kids Helpline**  
1800 55 1800



**Youth Beyond Blue**  
[www.youthbeyondblue.com](http://www.youthbeyondblue.com)



**ReachOut**  
[www.au.reachout.com](http://www.au.reachout.com)



**Office of the eSafety Commissioner**  
[www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

**If you believe a child is in immediate danger call Triple Zero (000). For Police non-urgent help call 131 444 or your local police station.**