

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