

Empowering children with disability to thrive online

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Ava's story



Understanding the risks and opportunities



**Rapid evidence
review of academic
and grey literature**



**eSafety
regulatory scheme
complaints data**

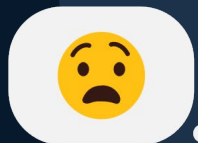


**Stakeholder
consultations**

Increased vulnerability online

Intersecting factors

e.g. communication barriers and digital literacy



Barriers to disclosure and help-seeking

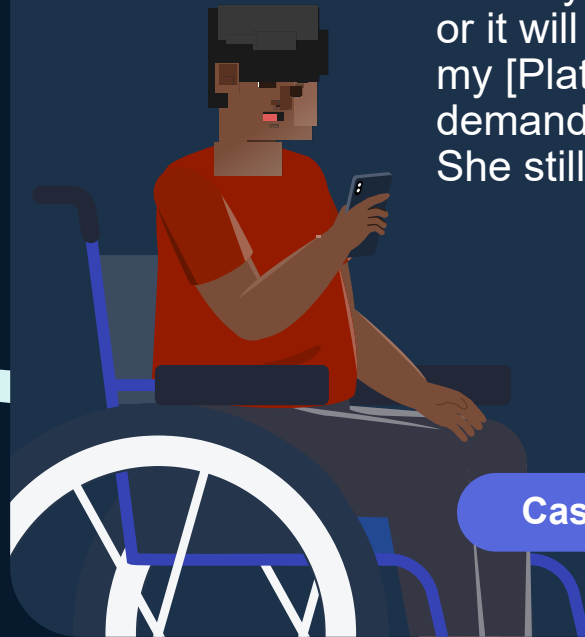


Gaps in developmentally appropriate online safety education



Online sexual victimisation of children with disability

“She recorded it and sent me a text saying to pay her 500 AUD or it will be sent to everyone in my [Platform] follow list... then demanded 700... Then 350... She still refused to delete it”



Case 3 | Aged 18-24 years

“She found out from friends that there's a video and/or photos of her going around performing the act. My daughter did not have any knowledge and did not give consent for any photo to be taken”



Case 5 | aged 16-17 years

Understanding the impact on families



“My son has delayed developmental disability... he has experienced suicidal thoughts... I am seriously concerned he will harm himself”

Case 24 | aged 16-17 years



“My daughter has ASD, ADHD, depression... she befriended people online who made her take photos and 'perform acts' on video... she was too ashamed that she wanted to end her life”

Case 4 | aged 13-15 years

What could help?



✓ Strengths-based approaches

✓ Proactive online safety education

✓ Inclusive reporting pathways



Simplified messaging and resources

tailored to children's developmental stage

Supporting families to take action

Talk regularly with them about what they're doing online



Animated videos

Guidance for age-appropriate conversations about the topic

Know where to report abuse and find support

Supporting a whole of community response

eSafety resources for professionals:

Advice for professionals

Online reflection tool for professionals and leaders

Support for parents and carers

Tools to support others to report online harm

6 things

you can do to help prevent child sexual abuse online



1

Learn about online risks and prevention strategies to help you talk about them



2

Understand your organisation's policies for device use when working with children



3

Talk with children and young people, without stigma or shame, about their online experiences



4

If something goes wrong, support children to report to eSafety for help and content removal



5

Support parents and carers to talk about this issue with their children using age-appropriate language



6

Help spread awareness within your community about child sexual abuse online and where to get support



Addressing gaps in understanding sexual development

- ✓ First Nations
- ✓ OOHC
- ✓ LGBTQIA+
- ✓ CALD
- ✓ Disability



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