



Mobile internet-enabled devices

What are mobile internet-enabled devices?

Mobile internet-enabled devices let you access the internet with a wireless connection on a portable device. Such devices can include mobile phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and palmtops.

A network named 3G (third generation wireless) allows a range of internet services, including digital content, rich media, streaming video, audio and graphics to be used with these devices. Older telephone networks do not allow for the internet to be accessed with mobile devices.

Dangers for children

Mobile internet technology is relatively new in Australia. As such, there are a number of potential dangers for children. These include:

- high expense—both the initial contract expense as well as the extra charges associated with frequent use and excessive downloads;
- exposure to inappropriate content—there are only a limited amount of filtering solutions available for mobile internet enabled devices;
- exposure to advertising by mobile marketers—marketers use the internet as a cost-effective means of advertising; with mobile internet-enabled devices, children can be constantly exposed to these messages wherever they are;
- stalking and bullying—there is an increased risk in either being stalked or bullied online by acquaintances or strangers as children have more online contact; and
- new security concerns—these include identity theft, stealing and misuse of equipment.

Ensuring that children are safe

There are a number of internet safety issues for children using mobile internet enabled devices. Parents or carers should discuss the following:

- privacy—knowing why personal information is important and what should or shouldn't be disclosed online;
- netiquette—sensible online behaviour that children should understand;
- law—an understanding of legal issues such as copyright and defamation; and
- security—being aware and prepared for security risks such as viruses and spyware. Making sure all devices are secure (passwords, pin numbers etc.) and treated with care.

About NetAlert

NetAlert is the Australian Government's online safety program, set up to protect Australian families online. NetAlert is part of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). It offers independent, sensible, helpful and reliable advice and information about potential problems, dangers and threats on the internet and ways to minimise or avoid these problems.

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