



Pornography and inappropriate content

Inappropriate content on the internet

There is a range of material that is both illegal and inappropriate on the internet which children can potentially view. It is available through websites, discussion groups, shared in peer-to-peer (P2P) networks, via instant messaging programs, short-message-service (SMS) or sent as spam (junk mail) via email.

The content can be broadly grouped, but not limited to, the following categories.

Pornography

Pornography is widespread on the internet and there is both legal and illegal pornography available ranging from easily accessible softcore pictures to harder to locate child pornography.

In Australia, the Office of Film and Literature Classification uses the same guidelines for the classification of films and computer games to classify potentially inappropriate internet content.

Hate groups

Racial hatred groups, anti-gay and anti-Semitism groups and others often have websites that reflect their views.

Violence

Violence on the internet can include instructional sites such as bomb or weapon making, vigilante or violent groups that display explicit violent behaviour such as domestic bashings and rape.

Illegal activity

Content can be displayed on the internet, which promotes illegal activity such as copyright infringement (especially with music files), security breaches (such as unauthorised access to computers) or fraudulent online schemes.

Extremist groups and cults

Extremist organisations and cults can offer information online about what they believe in or what they do. Often these groups use the internet as a way to recruit new members.

Online advertising

There is an amount of advertising material on the internet which is inappropriate for children. This advertising can be sent through any online services on the internet which provide inexpensive delivery channels for advertisers.

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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