

Get Online Week

Find reliable information online



Not everything you see online can be trusted.

Knowing how to identify reliable information is a handy skill to have and can help to keep you and your community safer online.

Find reliable information online.

Use official websites

Go to the official website or app of organisations you know and trust already to find information about them, their products or services. If you are searching for them on Google, scroll past links marked as 'sponsored' as these are ads. Instead look for their official website in the unsponsored results you are shown.

Top tip: Don't panic. There's a lot of information online and it can be easy to get overwhelmed.

Look at the web address (URL) to see what type of organisation created the website. Websites run by the Australian Government tend to be reliable and have up to date information. Official Australian Government websites have **.gov.au** in their URL. Websites with **.com** in their URL are typically run by a business who might be trying to sell you something.

Check how current the news or information on the website is by looking for a publishing date.

Top tip: In an emergency, the ABC is an official source of information as our 'emergency broadcaster'. You can also check your state emergency websites or apps to find updates you can trust.

Not everything on social media is true

Social media is great for sharing info with your friends, family and community. But, not everything you see, watch or read on social media is true, even if someone you trust posts about it. Some people try to deliberately trick you. Other people share wrong information by accident.

Think before you share. Do you think what you are seeing might not be real?

Top tip: Watch out for fake news. It can look just like legitimate information so can be tricky to spot.

Don't rely on just the headlines. Instead, read the full article and check if what you see is right on official websites or apps. You can also use online fact checkers like www.aap.com.au/factcheck or www.abc.net.au/news/factcheck.

Look out for scams and fake accounts

Criminals may try to trick you by sending you fake SMS, emails or social media messages. They can pretend to be your friends, family, government organisations or businesses.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Don't click on links you are sent and not expecting. Instead, check on their official website or app that what they are saying is true. Contact them using details you find on the official website, not the details sent to you.

Top tip: Check out scamwatch.gov.au for the latest information on scams and what you can do if you are caught out.

Help to stop fake accounts being created in your name and scammers using your details by limiting what you share on social media. Try not to share your birthday, home address, email address, phone number or location publicly.

Only accept friend requests from people you know. Research people you want to follow on social media to make sure it's really them.

Top tip: Report scammers and fake accounts.

Keep learning

The Be Connected and Good Things Learning websites have free tips on how to use your device and the internet safely.

Visit beconnected.esafety.gov.au and learning.goodthingsfoundation.org.au to get started.