

Key audience:

Ages 13 – 17

Online blackmail and sexual extortion response kit

i This kit has been created to help you manage serious incidents of online blackmail involving sexual extortion.

While online blackmail and sexual extortion can take various forms, this resource is specific to a global trend of teenage boys being targeted on social media in exchange for money.

WHAT IS IT?

Online blackmail involving sexual extortion is when **someone is pressured or tricked into taking and sending sexual content of themselves online.**

An offender then threatens to on-share your content to others unless their demands are met. These demands include:

- More images/videos
- Sexual favours
- Money

Authorities globally are seeing a significant increase in offenders overseas targeting teenagers with threats to share their content in exchange for money, gift cards or online gaming credits.

If this happens to you and you are under the age of 18, it is online child sexual abuse.

HOW IT WORKS

Offenders create a fake profile, identify as a female, and send a direct message on social media.

The fake profile will then suggest that the chat continues onto another platform, usually one where you can do video calls, or where images and videos can be sent.

The chat will turn sexual, and the fake profile will convince you to participate in sexualised video calls or send images or videos of yourself. During video calls this content is recorded without you knowing.

Once the 'female' profile has your content, they will ask you for a large amount of money otherwise they will threaten to share it with your friends and family from your social media contacts. They might ask for cryptocurrency, online bank transfer, or online game or gift cards.

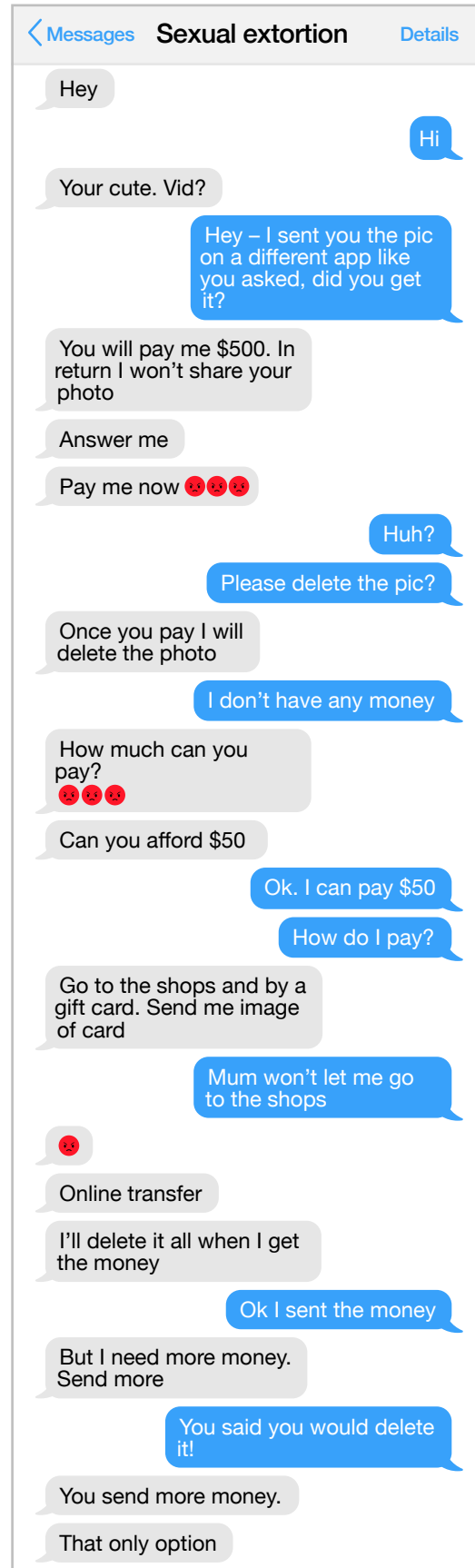
Once you have paid them, they will continue to ask you for money and threaten to share your content.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

When talking to new people online there are a few things to look out for:

- ▶ Unsolicited friend or follow requests or random adds from people you don't know
- ▶ Sudden sexualised questions or conversation
- ▶ Instantly receiving sexual images from a 'fake' profile asking for some in return
- ▶ Getting a direct message on one app, then being asked to continue chatting on a different one
- ▶ Signs that English may be a second language
- ▶ The 'female' profile might say that their webcam or microphone are not working for video calls/chats
- ▶ The 'female' profile says that they promise to delete your content

These are examples of the types of chats being reported to the ACCCE.



HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

These offenders will make you feel like you will be in trouble for what has happened to keep the crime going. It is important to know that you've done nothing wrong.

You can make it stop



Avoid sending any more images or videos.



Do not pay. Once you pay the first time, they will ask you to pay again.



Immediately take screenshots from the chat, this will be important for making a report to the police.



Block the fake profile.

MAKING A REPORT


If you are under the age of 18 and this situation has happened to you (or another young person you know), you are a victim of online child sexual abuse which must be reported to police.

While you may be embarrassed to talk about, it is important to get help as soon as possible. Your safety and wellbeing are the most important things. Remember that the police are here to protect you. They are on your side.

1 Collect as much evidence as you can:

- Screenshots of the chat
- URLs
- Any other records that you can get from the profile
- This might include the profile name, profile picture, or any other contact information

2 Make an online report to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation.

 accce.gov.au/report

Don't send images or videos of yourself as part of the report, this is child abuse material.

If you think you are in immediate danger, call Triple Zero (000).

What to expect after making a report to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation

- Your report to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation will be looked at by specialist investigators in the Australian Federal Police.
- After your report has been assessed, the police will be in contact via email or phone to talk about what has happened and to make sure that you are safe.
- Police are here to protect children from online child sexual abuse, so it's important to know that you won't be criticised, blamed or arrested for being a victim.
- It is normal to want to hide what has happened and not talk about it with your parents, carers or police. Offenders use this fear to continue to commit crimes against you and other victims. The best protection you have is to get specialist support as soon as possible.



GETTING YOUR CONTENT REMOVED IF IT HAS BEEN POSTED ONLINE

If you find sexualised content of yourself has been posted online, there are things you can do to have it taken down.

The eSafety Commissioner prioritises the removal of child sexual abuse material and can help you.

Make an online report at esafety.gov.au/report.



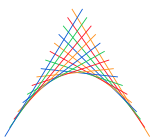
HOW TO GET SUPPORT

You don't have to manage this alone; what has happened is not your fault. There are many ways you can get help to talk about what has happened to you.

- **Speak to someone you trust** for advice such as a friend, parent, carer, teacher or school counsellor. There is nothing so bad you can't tell a trusted adult.
- If a sibling or friend comes to you, there are various **support services available**, and you can report on their behalf.
- **Kids Helpline** is a free and confidential 24-hour online phone counselling service for young people aged 5-25 years and even parents. You can call them or chat to them online.

If you, or someone you know, has been sent sexualised content of someone on your social media friends list

- Tell your friend that someone has on-shared their content with you, and remind them that there are things that can be done to fix it.
- Support your friend and have their back.
- Encourage your friend to talk to a trusted adult, or talk to one on their behalf.
- Help your friend make a report to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation and to have any additional content removed by contacting the eSafety Commissioner.
- Delete the content. This is considered to be child abuse material and there are offences for saving, storing or on sharing this content further.



Australian
Centre to Counter
Child Exploitation

accce.gov.au



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