

Sextortion: Messaging Kit

Introduction

We are experiencing a global trend of offshore offenders targeting Australian teenage boys by coercing them into sending sexually explicit content and then blackmailing them. This includes threats to share the content with friends and family unless they pay.

The Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) is warning parents, carers and young people about the trend and providing advice on how to take action.

If you, or someone you know is a victim of this crime and under the age of 18, you can report to accce.gov.au/report.

A specialist team of trained police officers assess each report and will action a response.

Who is this kit for?

- > Parents and carers of tweens and teens
- > Australian high school communities
- > Mental health support services
- > Child protection and online safety advocates
- > State and Territory police and Crime Stoppers
- > ACCCE stakeholders including non-government organisations
- > Organisations that work with young people

Facts

- > In April 2022, the ACCCE received 39 reports of actual or attempted cash-based sexual extortion of a minor. The ACCCE now receives hundreds of reports each month. This indicates the concerning prevalence of 'sextortion', but also encouragingly that young people are coming forward seeking help.
- > Our current data shows over 90 per cent of victims are male, predominantly 15-17 years old, however we have seen examples where victims are as young as seven-years-old.
- > While more young people are coming forward, our analysis indicates that less than half of minors report, suggesting the true number of victims is much higher.
- > Victims fear they will get into trouble if they report – this is not true. Children are never to blame for being a victim.
- > The ACCCE is here to protect children from online child sexual abuse.

What can you do to help?

By sharing the contents of this kit on your own social media account, newsletter and website platforms, you can help us raise awareness of this issue.

Encourage young people to report to accce.gov.au/report. Tell them that they will not get into trouble for reporting – they will not be blamed. Let them know about the [Sexual Extortion Response Kit](#) to manage sextortion.

Social media

Facebook post example

Sexual extortion ([#sextortion](#)) is a growing, global trend detected by law enforcement in Australia and overseas.

It is also known as online blackmail.

Teenagers aged between 13 and 17 are being targeted.

The [@AusFedPolice](#) [@ACCCEaus](#) and [@ThinkUKnowAustralia](#) can tell you what to look for, how to report and that it's ok to report. You won't be blamed.

Download a Sexual Extortion Response Kit [link to information page on website] and report this crime at accce.gov.au/report.

[#sextortion](#) [#ACCCE](#) [#SextortionIsACrime](#) [#OnlineSafety](#)

Instagram post example

Would you know what to do if a young person you care for told you they'd been blackmailed after sending sexual images to someone online?

The [@ACCCEaus](#) is seeing a significant increase in overseas organised criminal syndicates targeting Australian teens with threats to share their content.

If this happens to someone under the age of 18, it is online child sexual abuse. And it is a crime.

The [@AusFedPolice](#), [@ACCCEaus](#) and [#ThinkUKnowAustralia](#) have created an online blackmail and sexual extortion response kit to help you manage incidents of online blackmail involving [#sextortion](#) (sexual extortion).

Visit their websites for more information.

[#sextortion](#) [#ACCCE](#) [#SextortionIsACrime](#) [#OnlineSafety](#)



Social media content

Facebook

- > [Post image 1](#)
- > [Post image 2](#)
- > [Story image](#)
- > [Cover banner](#)

Instagram

- > [Post image](#)
- > [Story image](#)

Twitter / X

- > [Post image](#)
- > [Cover banner](#)

YouTube

- > [Download a 20-second chat animation](#)

LinkedIn

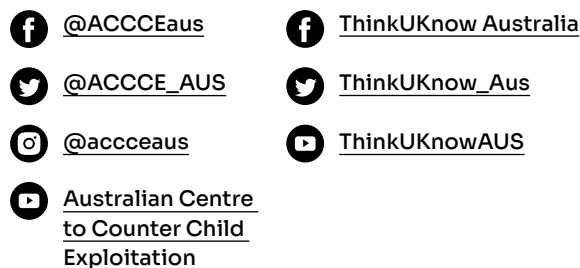
- > [Post image](#)

Hashtags

#sextortion
#ACCCE
#SextortionIsACrime
#OnlineSafety

Connect with us

Please follow our ACCCE and ThinkUKnow social media channels to stay up-to-date:



Where to report online child sexual exploitation

The AFP-led ACCCE provides a centre of expertise and specialist skills to coordinate a national response to online child sexual exploitation and abuse in Australia.

The ACCCE is here to protect children and young people under 18 from online sexual exploitation so it is important to know that a victim won't be blamed.

Printable resources

A4 poster: Sextortion



A4 poster: Sextortion trend



You can report online child sexual exploitation, including sexual extortion, via the Report Abuse button on the [ACCCE](#), [AFP](#) or [ThinkUKnow](#) websites.

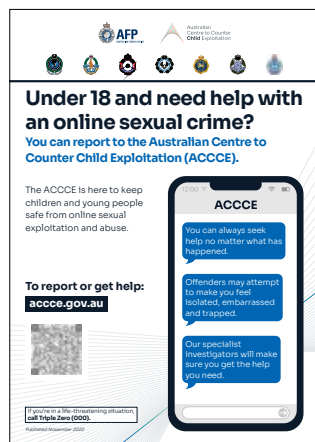
Report abuse

If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, contact Triple Zero (000).

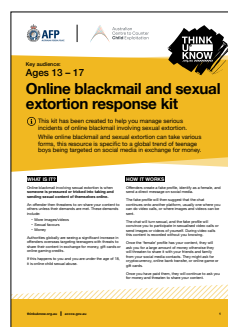
For non-emergency situations requiring a timely response, contact your local police station or call 131 444.

Learn how to identify, respond to and get support for sexual extortion

A3 reporting poster



Sextortion Response Kit



Our sincere thanks

for playing a role in keeping children and young people safer online