

SOCIAL MEDIA AGE RESTRICTIONS – HOW PARENTS AND CARERS CAN HELP.



Start talking with your teen now about the new social media age-limit laws beginning on 10 December. Some under-16s may feel upset or confused and could become more secretive about their online use, making them less likely to seek help if problems arise.

How Will This Work?

To keep young people safe, the age restrictions will apply to platforms that:

- the sole purpose, or a significant purpose, of the service is to enable online social interaction between two or more end-users
- the service allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other end-users
- the service allows end-users to post material on the service.

With the law covering all major social media platforms, parents can feel confident their child's health and wellbeing is being protected without the fear of them 'missing out' — everyone under 16 is in the same boat.

What Will Age-Restricted Platforms Be Expected To Do?

Age-restricted platforms will be expected to take steps to:

- find existing accounts held by under-16s, and deactivate those accounts
- prevent under-16s from opening new accounts
- prevent workarounds that may allow under-16s to bypass the restrictions
- have processes to correct errors if someone is mistakenly missed by or included in the restrictions, so no one is removed unfairly.

Will There Be Penalties?

There are no penalties for under-16s who access an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers. This law is about protecting young people, not punishing or isolating them. The goal is to help parents and carers support the health and wellbeing of under-16s.

Age-restricted social media platforms may face penalties if they don't take reasonable steps to prevent under-16s from having accounts on their platforms.

You can find helpful advice on the [eSafety](https://www.esafety.gov.au/) website. Update your skills and knowledge by watching one of the many free [eSafety Webinars](#) for parents and carers.

Source: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

