



Australian Government  
Office of the Australian  
Information Commissioner

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

# Children's Online Privacy Code Worksheet

Years 7–12  
High school-aged children

*Have your voice heard*



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We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – Australia. They were the first people to live on and use the land and waters.



***We are the Australian Government's privacy regulator, and our goal is to protect the personal information of Australians.***

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## Who are we?

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) wrote this worksheet. When you read the word 'we', it means the OAIC.

We are the Australian Government's privacy regulator, and our goal is to protect the personal information of Australians. You can think of us as like 'privacy police'. We are responsible for writing the Children's Online Privacy Code.

When we refer to 'young people' we mean people under the age of 18. This document is for young people in Years 7–12 (12–18 year olds).

You can ask for help to read this worksheet. A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you.

# About the Code

## What is the Children's Online Privacy Code?

This Code is a special set of rules we are making to help protect the privacy of young people when using the internet. It makes sure that organisations who run apps, websites and games that young people might use take care of their personal information (like their name, age and what they like to do online).



## Why do we need a Children's Online Privacy Code?

We are writing the Code to help make the internet a place that recognises the importance of children's privacy and takes steps to protect the privacy of young people. The Code is different from the social media age restrictions that say young people under 16 shouldn't be allowed to use social media.

This Code isn't about keeping you off the internet. It's about making sure websites, apps, games and social media follow rules to help keep your personal information private and protected.

## When will we finish writing the Children's Online Privacy Code?

The Code will be ready and in place by **10 December 2026**.

## Where can I see a copy of the Children's Online Privacy Code?

When the Code is in place, you will be able to see it on our website: [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au).

## How can I help?

We have set out two activities in this worksheet for you to complete and submit your answers to us!

## How do I submit my responses?

Submit your answers by emailing this completed worksheet to [copc@oaic.gov.au](mailto:copc@oaic.gov.au) or answer the questions through one of the online forms which you can access from the [Children's online privacy code consultation](#) page on our website.

The due date for this worksheet is **30 June 2025**.

We might publish your response on our website. It will be anonymous: this means that no one will know who you are or what responses you submitted. Please do not include any personally identifying information in your submission.

## Activity 1

# Introduction to privacy

**Privacy is a right that everyone has to keep certain information or aspects of their lives to themselves.**

In real life, you might want to keep some things private, like your diary or your thoughts. Your friends, family and other people should respect that, and so should apps and websites when you're online. This means that apps and websites should ask before they take information from you.

Online privacy is like having a private room on the internet where you can keep your thoughts and personal information safe. Only the people you trust can come in, and you decide what stays private.

Just like you don't want someone going into your bedroom and looking through your drawers without asking, you don't want apps or websites taking your personal information, like your name, photos or opinions, without permission.



Think about the following questions and write down what you think in the space below.

### Question 1

Think of a time when your friend or parent shared something about you that you considered to be private.  
How did that feel?

How do you want to feel when you're sharing information online?

### What do you think?

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## Question 2

If your personal information (like your name, birthday or address) were kept under lock and key, who do you think should have the key to unlock it, and who shouldn't?

## Your answer



## Key terms

<b>Apps</b>	a computer program or software that has been created for a particular purpose, like a reading skills app that you download onto a mobile device, like a phone, iPad, or laptop.
<b>Privacy settings</b>	who can contact you or see your profile.
<b>Location tracker</b>	technology that shows your location.
<b>Notifications</b>	a digital message from an app or website to the person using it.
<b>Parental controls</b>	a feature of a device, app or website that allows parents to monitor or restrict what their children see or do online, including the ability to control how their child's data is shared.
<b>Personal information</b>	information about who you are or what you do.
<b>Privacy policy</b>	explains what the app or website does with your data
<b>Data</b>	a collection of facts or information, like your favourite tv shows or how many siblings you may have.
<b>Data sharing</b>	the process of making data available to other users, websites, apps or businesses.

## Activity 2

# Scenario-based exercise

### Scenario brainstorm

Below are some real-life situations that could happen online. Read them, and then answer the questions at the end of each scenario.



## SCENARIO 1

### The creepy ads – are they reading my mind?

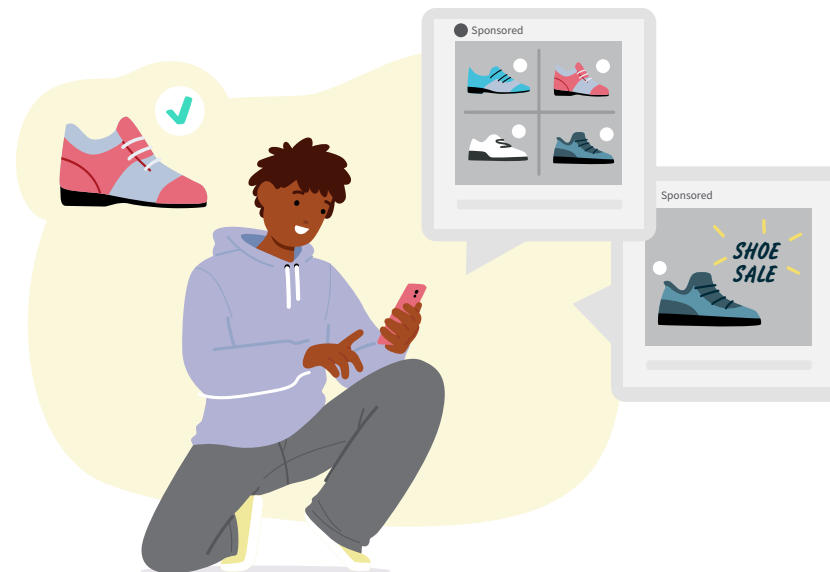
You search the internet for a pair of sneakers that everyone has been talking about at school. A few days later every website you visit, every game you play online, and even your social media feed is filled with ads for these exact sneakers. This is called targeted advertising: organisations make money from tracking your behaviour online, including things you search for and click on, to build profiles about you and customise advertising.

### Questions

Do you think organisations should be allowed to use your personal information for profiling to show you ads? Why do you think this?

How do you think organisations could do a good job of explaining to you what they do with your personal information?

*When we talk about “profiling”, it means how organisations collect and analyse information about people, including children, to understand their interests, behaviours, and habits, and then use this data to target them with ads.*



### What do you think?

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## SCENARIO 2

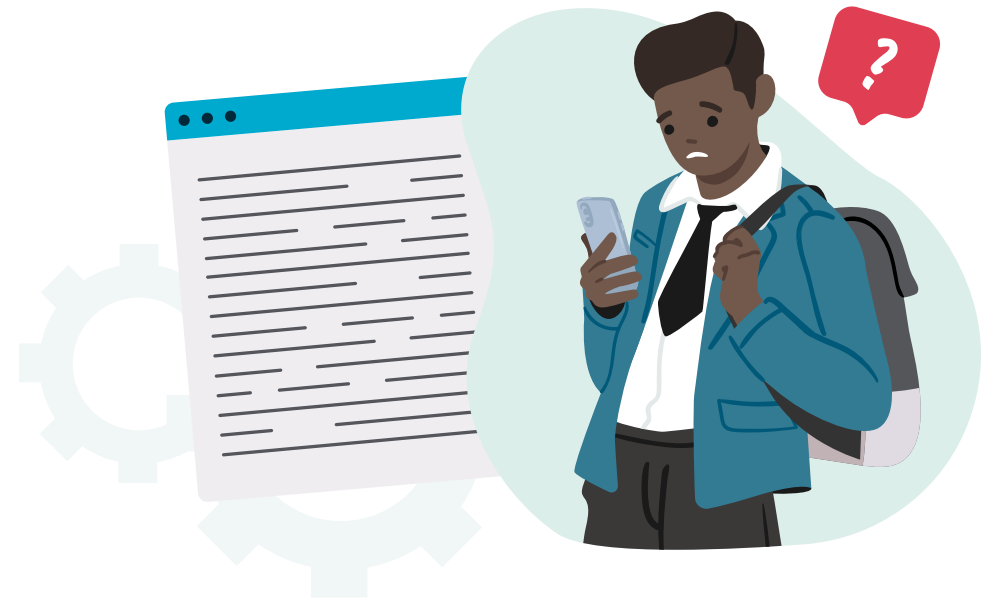
### The secret settings – why is this so hard?

Privacy settings are controls that let you decide what information you share online and who can see it. You are scrolling through your social media feed and decide that you want to change your privacy settings so that strangers can't view personal information on your account. But when you go to the privacy settings, it's confusing, with lots of tricky words and small buttons hidden in menus. It takes so long to figure out that you just give up.

### Questions

How can organisations make privacy settings easier to find and understand?

How could organisations make themselves more friendly so that you can ask for help to understand your privacy rights?



### What do you think?

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## SCENARIO 3

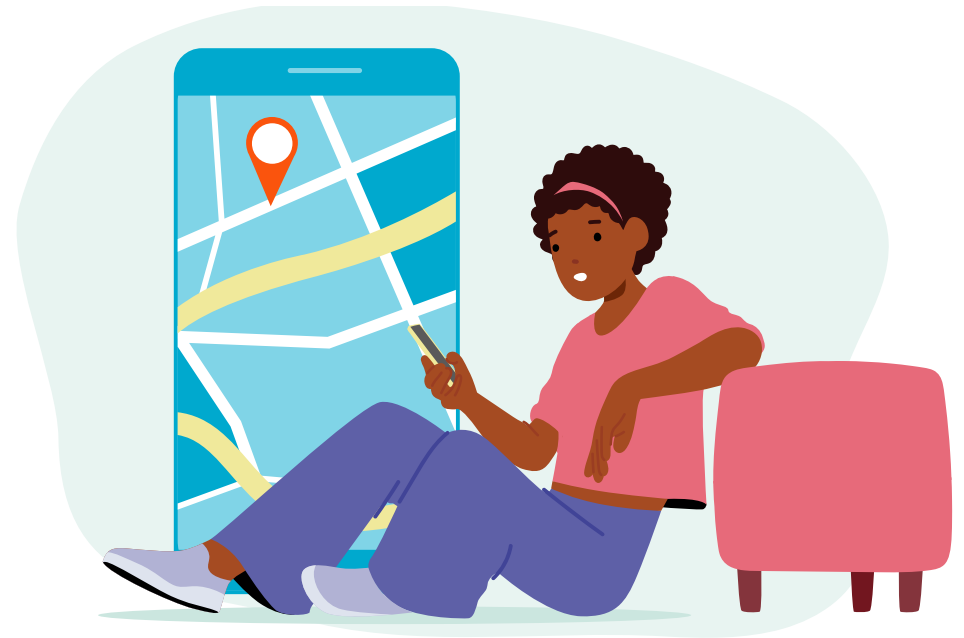
### The sneaky tracker – where am I?

You and your best friend are talking about a social media app you both use. Your friend tells you that they could see on the app that you did not go away on the weekend and that you were at the movies with another friend. Your friend is upset with you. You check your settings and realise it's true. The app has been tracking your movements: all your friends can see where you are, and you didn't even know!

### Questions

Should apps or websites be allowed to track where you go?

How should apps or websites notify you to help you understand when and why they are tracking your location?



### What do you think?

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## SCENARIO 4

### **The internet never forgets – help! I want it gone!**

A few years ago, you made a funny video with your friend and posted it online. But now you're older, and it's embarrassing! You try to delete it but it's still on other people's pages and even pops up in searches. Someone even sent it to you on a group chat, and it's now being shared to other group chats. People you don't even know are watching this video. It feels like you've lost control of your own information.

### *Questions*

How can organisations help young people to understand what personal information is held about them?

How can organisations make it easier for young people to update or change the data held about them?



### *What do you think?*

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## SCENARIO 5

## The impossible terms and conditions – can someone explain this?!

You visit a website to buy a new jumper. Something pops up on the website and tells you that you will need to accept something called “cookies” if you want to enter the website. You have no idea what this means, and you can’t seem to bypass this pop-up text box. You click on the button that says, “find out more”, and it takes you to something called a privacy policy but it is SO long and full of long and unclear words, it makes no sense! So instead of reading it, you just click on the “accept all cookies” button and quickly order your jumper without knowing what you have just agreed to. Little did you know, you have just agreed for the website to sell your personal information to others.



## Questions

Should companies be required to write shorter, easier-to-understand privacy policies?

How can they make it clearer for young people to know what is happening with their personal information and data?

*What do you think?*



## Other privacy concerns

You can also include any other ideas about online privacy in the textbox below.

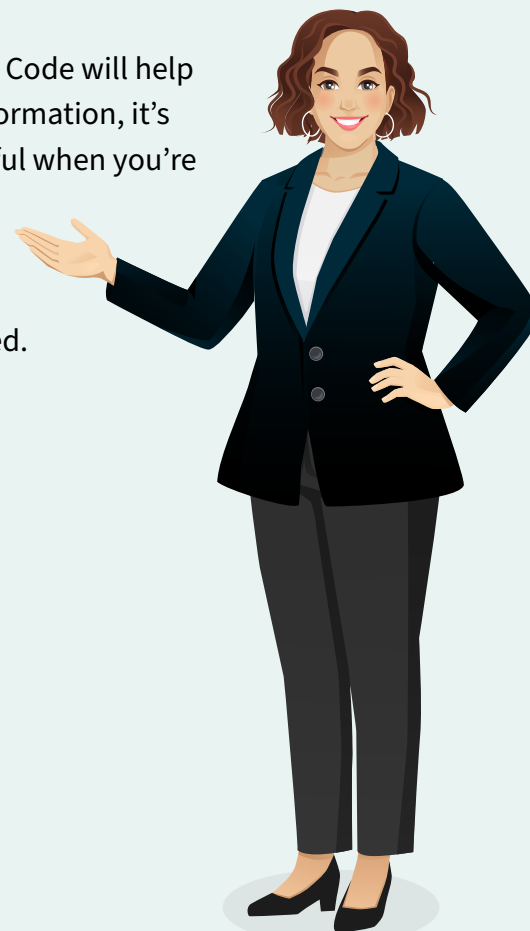
### Other concerns...



## Submit your answers to us

Now that you have filled out the textboxes under the scenarios above, you can submit it to the Privacy Commissioner by emailing it to [copc@oaic.gov.au](mailto:copc@oaic.gov.au).

And remember, while the Code will help protect your personal information, it's still important to be careful when you're online. Always talk to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right or if you are confused.





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## How to get help

If you want to speak to someone about anything you read here, you can call [Kids Helpline's Counselling Service](#) on [1800 55 1800](#). It is free and confidential, meaning that they won't know who you are.

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