

# MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland  
Family & Child  
Commission



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## Safer Internet Day highlights online respect

Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) is urging parents to seek support and information to keep children safe online in the lead up to Safer Internet Day tomorrow.

The international day, which is co-ordinated by The Office of eSafety Commissioner in Australia, is aimed to engage the community to better understand how to make the online world safe for all users.

The 2018 theme “Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you”, encourages the safe use of digital technology.

QFCC has created a suite of resources to provide parents with the latest information and tips including a QFCC Facebook Q&A event to address questions from the community.

QFCC Principal Commissioner Cheryl Vardon said the Q&A Facebook event included a panel of experts to respond to online safety questions from the public.

“We teamed up with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, Queensland Police Service and Department of Education to launch an interactive forum aimed to shed light on the issues affecting young people online,” Ms Vardon said.

“The event has received a tremendous following thanks to the professional advice from industry authorities.”

Ms Vardon said online safety is one the largest issues facing young people today and poses many challenges for both children and parents.

“Education is the key for parents and families to help prevent exploitation, online predators, cyber bullying and all the other associated dangers online,” she said.

“As soon as your child starts using a tablet, computer or mobile phone, it’s important to teach them how to behave and stay safe online.

“It’s important for parents to talk about the online world and teach children how to use technology safely and respectfully.

“Speaking to children about socialising online and explaining why it’s important to protect their privacy and identity is essential for safety. Parents can also ask children about the websites they visit, who they’re chatting with and what sort of information they’re sharing about themselves.”

To view the QFCC Q&A Facebook event visit: <http://bit.ly/2mZyKUy>

For information and tips about Safer Internet Day and online safety visit: <https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sid2018>

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