

NetAlert

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NetAlert is very proud to partner with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) through sponsorship of Library and Information Week 2004.

The internet offers an enormous range of opportunities for today's children. Instant communication, information discovery and online publishing, open up a world of excitement for children of all ages. Ease of access, affordability and mobility makes the internet an everyday part of their lives.

News spreads quickly through the media when a serious incident happens to a child on the internet and parents concerns are justifiably heightened. However, parents should keep this in perspective and remember that with a sound grounding in internet safety, children will develop techniques that will help to protect them from many online hazards.

Parents need to be aware of potential dangers and to be equipped with solutions to help their children enjoy the internet.

Who is NetAlert?

NetAlert Limited (NetAlert) is Australia's internet safety advisory body, established in 1999 by the Australian government as part of its commitment to educate communities about managing access to online content. NetAlert's primary objective is to promote a safer internet experience, particularly for young people and their families. NetAlert is a not-for-profit community organisation providing free advice, information and resources on internet safety to Australian families.

A key focus for NetAlert is to provide users with helpful and reliable advice and information about potential problems, dangers and threats present on the internet and ways in which users can act to avoid these problems. NetAlert is about empowerment — in particular, empowering families to manage their access to the internet.

NetAlert's goals are:

- To educate the community about current and emerging internet safety issues, including content matters and matters relating to contact in cyberspace, particularly contact which may result in harmful or exploitative contact in the real world.

- To provide advice, particularly via the website or helpline, to those who contact NetAlert or, where the matter is outside of the core business of NetAlert, refer them, in a professional and helpful manner, to an appropriate agency.
- To consult with educational bodies, law enforcement and child protection agencies to assist with internet safety, particularly prevention issues.
- To consult with industry bodies on internet safety and to promote ongoing industry compliance with Australia's online scheme.
- To establish a range of partnerships, both nationally and internationally, to maximise efficiency and effectiveness and leverage existing initiatives in this area.
- To commission relevant research into filtering and other technological solutions, internet usage patterns and behaviours and other relevant matters.

How can NetAlert help?

One of the key areas where children and parents access the internet is at the library. NetAlert has a range of services which libraries can access free-of-charge including:

Internet safety help line: The national help line advises the community on internet safety related issues. If you do not know where to start with internet safety, or you have a problem and do not know who to call, ring NetAlert and we can offer advice. Free call 1800 880 176 or enquiries@netalert.net.au.

http://www.netalert.net.au — filled with advice on resources on internet safety. Read advice online or download information sheets or reports on internet safety. The website also contains an internet safety directory [<http://www.netalert.net.au/internet-safety-directory.asp>], which catalogues many internet safety pages.

Netty's world (<http://www.nettysworld.com.au>): NetAlert's children's website — an online resource for young children to learn how to use the internet safely in a safe and fun environment. Includes online internet safety story-book with Netty, fun and games, and membership to the Netty Club.

Internet safety newsletter (<http://www.netalert.net.au/00380-Newsletter.asp>) — a free monthly e-newsletter that is distributed to the community.

Information materials — educational materials are available on request. These include posters, information sheets and brochures on internet safety. 1800 880 176 or enquiries@netalert.net.au.

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