



# small screen

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No. 365 July 2019



## EDITORIAL

*Children's privacy online is in need of urgent action and greater protection, writes*  
**BARBARA BIGGINS**

## WORLD NEWS

*Are smart speakers really safe for children, asks* **TECH RADAR**



### BASIC CYBER SAFETY MESSAGES BEING IGNORED BY YOUNG PEOPLE, STUDY FINDS

UNIVERSITY students are ignoring basic cyber safety messages when it comes to sharing personal information online, a new Flinders University survey has found.

The survey also found many of the participants considered it a joke to access a friend's social media site.

The research, carried out by the university's Dr Mubarak Rahamathulla, surveyed a "cross section" of more than 500 students from Flinders and UniSA.

"What we found was that a lot of young people are taking risks when using social networking sites, such as sharing their personal details – we were actually surprised by the result," the College of Medicine and Public Health adjunct senior lecturer told *The Advertiser's* Rebecca Baker.

The survey also found those who had more friends or followers on a platform took bigger risks online.

More than 20 students also admitted to logging into their friend's social media site to leave a message or post.

"This survey clearly showed cyber safety education (in our schools) may be having some effect but it is not enough ... and not working all that well in the long-term," Dr Rahamathulla said.

"I think we have to get kids to understand social media platforms are all businesses and that your data is their product – the information you disclose becomes their property."

The research is now being peer reviewed and Dr Rahamathulla is creat-



ing an eight-stage lesson plan he hopes to get into schools.

eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant told *The Advertiser* it is easy for both kids and parents to have a false sense of security at home.

"Sadly, our investigative teams do see constant evidence of this, whether it is pre-teen victims of 'sextortion', or through the proliferation of coerced self-produced child sexual abuse content," she says.

### EXPERT: ACMA GOES SOFT ON CHRISTCHURCH SHOOTING COVERAGE

A MEDIA expert has accused the country's broadcasting regulator of going "soft" on networks for showing violent footage during the March 15 Christchurch massacre.

Senior research fellow at the Centre for Advancing Journalism at the University of Melbourne, Denis Muller, right, says the Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA) has raised "serious questions" about whether they breached TV codes of practice, but would not make definitive findings.

ACMA reviewed 200 hours of coverage from March 15 to 17 of the shooting. Their report was released this month.

It found no material had been broadcast showing a person being shot, injured or killed.

But footage did show people being shot at, gunned-down victims and a scene inside the Al Noor mosque, where most of the victims were killed.

Seven, Nine, Ten and Sky all used footage from the terrorist's bodycam on air and on their websites.

"The report is open to the interpretation that the threshold for violence acceptable for broadcast in these circumstances is footage that does not show

someone actually being shot," Mr Muller says in his article, posted to *The Conversation*.

"That is likely to be a central point of discussion between the ACMA and the television industry in the discussions that the report says will now take place.

"Of course there was a very strong public interest case here. However, ethically speaking, a test of necessity is also required: how much and what level of violence is it necessary to show in order to convey to the audience a comprehensive account of what has happened?"

At the very least, the stations should be told that the mistakes identified in the report will attract a penalty if repeated in the future, Mr Muller says in the essay.

"Of course this was a difficult story to cover and mistakes were made," he says. "The ACMA is wrong to say that it was uniquely difficult. "The genuinely unique feature of it was the use of the bodycam by the terrorist to propagandise his atrocity."



### CRACKDOWN ON FACEBOOK, GOOGLE TO BETTER PROTECT KID'S PRIVACY

SOCIAL media giant Facebook and web tech company Google will have to be more transparent about collection of personal information online, if the Federal Government adopts findings in the ACCC's long-awaited Digital Platforms inquiry. The ACCC has made 23 recommendations in its 623-page report.

Some of the proposals include greater disclosure on what personal information will be collected by tech giants, high penalties for privacy breaches and tougher rules around gaining consumers' consent when accessing their information.

*Continued page two*

TAKE OUR NEW SURVEY NOW ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM [HERE](#)



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## EDITORIAL

### Children's online privacy needs more protection

The ACCC has produced a very comprehensive report as an outcome of its Digital Platform inquiry (see page 1, with many recommendations for reform). However, ACCM wonders how many of these recommendations will be of real benefit to the child and adolescent internet, gaming and app users.

Chapter 7 of the report *Digital platforms and consumers* includes discussion of privacy issues, resulting in Recommendation 18.

This says that: *an enforceable code of practice should be developed by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), in consultation with industry stakeholders, to enable proactive and targeted regulation of digital platforms' data practices (DP Privacy Code). The code should apply to all digital platforms supplying online search, social media, and content aggregation services to Australian consumers and which meet an objective threshold regarding the collection of Australian consumers' personal information. The DP Privacy Code should be enforced by the OAIC and accompanied by the same penalties as are applicable to an interference with privacy under the Privacy Act. The ACCC should also be involved in developing the DP Privacy Code*

*in its role as the competition and consumer regulator. The DP Privacy Code should contain provisions targeting particular issues arising from data practices of digital platforms ...*

The one issue that is specific to children in the list that follows is 4. *Children's data: additional restrictions on the collection, use or disclosure of children's personal information for targeted advertising or online profiling purposes and requirements to minimise the collection, use and disclosure of children's personal information.*

It remains to be seen what these "additional restrictions" will be, and whether they will go any way to alleviating the basic problem that the business model of social media, along with many apps and games is to track and gather personal information often for the purposes of on-selling that data to advertisers, and usually without the knowledge of the user or player.

This issue will be the subject of one of the keynote addresses at the **Digital Environments and Developing Minds conference** in Sydney on October 28.

Serge Egelman of the International Computer Science Institute will present his research on the ways in which children's apps track

and collect children's data even while claiming that they are COPPA-compliant (the US Children's Online Privacy Protection Act). It's an eye-opener to the many dubious practices in use.

Dr Sandra Peter and Dr Kal Riemer of the U of Sydney Business School address these issues in a very interesting op-ed piece in *The Australian* 1/8/19.

*They say the real concern here is not just with the need to curb the impact of these [social media] giants on the media and in the marketplace, but rather with the very business models that have led to their enormous success. That is the ways in which digital platforms organise their income generation, through targeted advertising made possible by the sale of their users' privacy... the recommendations treat the symptoms by accepting the existence of the underlying condition.*



**Barbara Biggins**  
OAM Hon  
CEO

### NSW SCHOOL SWAPS iPADS FOR TEXTBOOKS

REDDAM House's primary and junior high school classes have used e-textbooks for the past five years.

But, according to Jordan Baker of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the consistent feedback from students was that they preferred pages to screens.

Ms Baker writes the teachers too found the iPads were distracting and did not contribute to the students' technology skills. The school then decided to announce digital textbooks would be dumped, in favour of hard-

copy versions.

"We hadn't completely gone away from hard copy," principal Dave Pitcairn told Ms Baker.

"We kept year 11 and 12 hard copy. When [students] got to year 11, and now had the comparison between digital and hard copy, they preferred the hard copy. "The ease of navigation through the textbook was easier with the hard copy. I believe they learn better the more faculties they use, the more senses they use in research and reading."

### Crackdown on Facebook, Google

*From page one*

In order to improve privacy, the ACCC says the Privacy Act should be updated to enable people to have better control over their information.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's final report, led by chairman Rod Sims, identified "many adverse effects" flowing from the market dominance of Google and Facebook.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

## ADVERTISING

Agaku, IT; Odani, S; Homa, D; Armour, B; Glover-Kudon, R

**Discordance between perceived and actual tobacco product use prevalence among US youth: A comparative analysis of electronic and regular cigarettes**

*To investigate electronic cigarettes (e-cigarette) and cigarette descriptive norms and measure the associations between overestimation of e-cigarette and cigarette prevalence and tobacco-related attitudes and behaviours*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

Galimov, A; Hanewinkel, R; Hansen, J; Unge, JB; Sussman, S; Morgenstern, M

**Energy drink consumption among German adolescents: Prevalence correlates and predictors of initiation**

*Energy drinks (EDs) have become popular worldwide. Despite growing concerns about negative health effects of ED, they are increasingly popular among adolescents, yet little is known about the context and patterns of ED use in adolescents. This study examined the prevalence and correlates of ED use as well as initiation rates and predictors among German adolescents over a one-year period.*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

## APPS AND GAMES

Jonlin Chen, BS; Masraru Ishii, MD, PHD; Kristin L Bater, BA

**Study says Tinder, Snapchat users are more okay with cosmetic surgery**

*Users of certain social networks and phoyo editing apps were more accepting of cosmetic surgery generally, and more likely to consider getting plastic surgery themselves, according to a study from Johns Hopkins researchers published Thursday in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

Business Insider Australia  
News piece by Kate Taylor

**Instagram is Gen Z's go-to source of political news**

*About 65% of respondents said they checked Instagram daily, with many Gen Zers citing it as a major source for political news specifically.*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

Interactive Games and Entertainment Association

**Digital Australia 2020**

*The Interactive Games & Entertainment Association (IGEA) has today released new research into the power and impact of video games in Australia, revealing that over*

*two-thirds of Australians play video games and 91 per cent of households own a video game device. Digital Australia 2020 is the latest study of 1,210 Australian households and 3,228 individuals. The research was conducted by Bond University.*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

Zendle, D; Meyer, R; Over, H

**Adolescents and loot boxes: links with problem gambling and motivations for purchase**

*Loot boxes are items in video games that can be paid for with real-world money but contain randomized contents. Many games that feature loot boxes are played by adolescents.*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

## SEXTING

Milton, AC; Gill, BA; Davenport, TA;

Dowling, M; Burns, J; Hickie, IB

**Sexting: Web based risks and safety in two representative national samples of young Australians - Prevalence, Perspective and Predictors**

*The rapid uptake of information and communication technology (ICT) over the past decade-particularly the smartphone-has coincided with large increases in sexting. All previous Australian studies examining the prevalence of sexting activities in young people have relied on convenience or self-selected samples. Concurrently, there have been recent calls to undertake more in-depth research on the relationship between mental health problems, suicidal thoughts and behaviors, and sexting. How sexters (including those who receive, send, and two-way sext) and nonsexters apply ICT safety skills warrants further research.*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

## MEDIATION

Notley, T; Dezuanni, M

**Advancing children's news media literacy: learning from the practices and experiences of young Australians**

*Social media use has redefined the production, experience and consumption of news media. These changes have made verifying and trusting news content more complicated and this has led to a number of recent flashpoints for claims and counter-claims of 'fake news' at critical moments during elections, natural disasters and acts of terrorism. Concerns regarding the actual and potential social impact of fake news led us to carry out the first nationally representative survey of young Australians' news practices and experiences. Our analysis finds that while social media is one of young people's preferred sources of news, they are not confident about spotting*

*fake news online and many rarely or never check the source of news stories.*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

D'Angelo, JD; Moreno, MA

**The effect of parental technology rules on early teen social media use and sleep**

Abstract: [Link here](#)

Neshteruk, C; Tripicchio, G; Lobaugh, S; Vaughn, AE; Ward, DS

**Parent screen time practices and association with child television viewing and weight related outcomes**

Abstract: [Link here](#)

## SCREEN TIME

Mortazavi, S; Motlagh, M; Qorbani, M; Mozafarian, N; Heshmat, R; Kelishadi, R

**Association of Screen Time with Sleep Duration in School-Aged Children; a Nationwide Propensity Score-Matched Analysis: The CASPIAN-V Study**

*A matched case-control study. Methods: This nationwide study was conducted in 2015 among 14,274 students aged 7-18 years, and one of their parents who lived in 30 provinces in Iran. Data collection was performed using questionnaires and physical examination. Watching television and working with computer were categorized into two groups.*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

Padmapriya, N; Aris, IM; Tint, MT; Loy, SL; Cai, SR; Tan, KH; Shek, LP; Chong, YS; Godfrey, KM; Gluckman, PD; Lee, YS; Saw, SM; Yap, F; Kramer, MS; Bernard, JY; Muller-Riemenschneider, F

**Sex-specific longitudinal associations of screen viewing time in children at 2-3 years with adiposity at 3-5 years**

*Screen-viewing in late childhood has been associated with adiposity and blood pressure (BP), but evidence is lacking at younger ages. To investigate the prospective associations of total and device-specific screen-viewing at age 2-3 years with BMI, sum of skinfold thicknesses and BP among Singaporean children at age 3-5 years.*

Abstract: [Link here](#)

**Digital environments  
& developing minds  
October 28, 2019  
Sydney Masonic  
Centre, Goulburn St,  
Sydney NSW**

## WORLD NEWS

### FRANCE BANS CHILDREN UNDER 15 FROM USING PHONES, TABLETS, SMART WATCHES AT SCHOOL

**BUSINESS INSIDER:** France has implemented strict new rules preventing students under the age of 15 from using phones, tablets and smartwatches while at school.

The devices can't be used during classes, at lunchtime and even while students are taking breaks, Business Insider reports.

It'll be up to individual schools to determine whether to extend the ban to students older than 15.

The new law is intended to address concerns that students are becoming too dependent on their phones and similar devices. They're also proven to be a distraction.

"Being open to technologies of the future doesn't mean we have to accept all their uses," said French President Emmanuel Macron, a key backer of the new rules.

Students must now either turn off their phones or place them in a locker during the school day.

Exceptions can be made for students with learning disabilities who rely on the devices to help them learn.. Link [here](#)

### PROFESSOR ANGELA CAMPBELL ON PROTECTING CHILDREN'S PRIVACY

**THE HILL:** On July 9, Professor Angela Campbell, who directs the US' Institute for Public Representation's Communications & Technology Law Clinic, testified before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in a hearing on "Protecting Innocence in a Digital World, chaired by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC).

In her oral and written testimony, Campbell told the committee of recent work of the clinic 1) asking the FTC to investigate whether the Google Play Store was engaging in unfair and deceptive practices in marketing apps for children and 2) whether YouTube was violating privacy law with respect to children.

On behalf of clients, Campbell and the Georgetown Law clinic have filed 14 requests since 2012 asking the FTC to investigate violations of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

But the FTC has not acted, at least publicly, in response to any of these requests, Campbell said.

"So many of the problems that families are struggling with today — such as how to protect their children's privacy, how to prevent exposure to inappropriate

content and to limit the amount of time children are spending online on digital devices — are the direct result of two things," Campbell said.

"First, the business models of the dominant tech companies [are designed not] to protect children or nurture children, but to attract [a] large number of users, including children, and to keep them online as long as possible, so they can maximize revenue by collecting valuable data about the users and delivering targeted marketing to them.

[LINK TO TESTIMONY HERE](#)

### IS YOUR CHILD ADDICTED TO SCREENS? HERE ARE SOME NEW GUIDELINES FROM CANADA

**THE CONVERSATION:** The Canadian Paediatric Society recently published guidelines for promoting healthy screen use. Whereas their 2017 guidelines focus on screen time for children under the age of five, these new 2019 guidelines address this issue in school-aged children and adolescents.

[LINK TO GUIDELINES HERE](#)

### ARE SMART SPEAKERS REALLY SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

**TECH RADAR:** *Smart speakers with A.I. assistants are constantly listening to the world around them, waiting for commands while soaking in whatever dialogue is within earshot—some of which is actually screened by employees at Google and Amazon.*

*Unfortunately, that means Alexa, Google Assistant and Siri are constantly recording the conversations of users of all ages, including your kids.*

*As you might expect, that doesn't sit well with a lot of people. Parents and advocacy groups have voiced their issues with the ability of Alexa and her ilk to record kids without explicit consent, not to mention the lack of an easy ability to purge that data at will. In June, a lawsuit was filed in Seattle federal court that alleges that Amazon specifically is violating child privacy laws in at least eight U.S. states by capturing audio from millions of children.*

*Amazon, for its part, denies any wrongdoing. And the company has gone a bold step further by recently releasing a new Echo Dot Kids Edition, a candy-coated, rainbow-plastered version with extra parent-pleasing perks*

*such as a free subscription to its FreeTime content service and replacements for damaged units.*

*As appealing as that might sound for parents, are devices like the Amazon Echo and Google Home really as kid-friendly as their makers want you to believe? Tech Radar asked a couple of kids' tech experts for their take.*

*By their very nature, smart speakers have to constantly be listening with their far-field microphones to be useful. If you had to go up to your Echo and press a button every time you had a question, needed to set a reminder, or wanted to ask about the weather, would you even use it half as much? Would you even need it at all, given the myriad smart-phones, tablets, and computers that might be in your home? It's part and parcel of owning a smart speaker, but according to Dr. Pamela Roggeman, academic dean of the University of Phoenix College of Education, many parents aren't adequately aware of the unseen downsides of that kind of unfettered data collection.*

*"Parents have been inundated with advice on how they should nurture a healthy relationship between their kids and technology for years now, but not much of that discussion has included technology that kids are accessing without their parents' consent, or even awareness such as smart assistants/speakers that quietly 'listen' to the room," says Roggeman. "They collect information that can be helpful in carrying out demands for which the devices were intended, but it is important to understand that this information can be stored hacked."* Link [here](#).



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