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Out of the public eye: Australian kids embrace online privacy

Australian children and young people are taking steps to protect their privacy when they use the internet and social media, according to [research](#) released today by the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

'The majority of 12 to 17-year-olds are setting their social networking profiles to private and the proportion who are doing so increases with age,' said ACMA Deputy Chairman, Richard Bean.

'Young people are taking steps to protect their privacy like using privacy settings, deleting tags and comments as well as thinking twice before posting things they may regret.'

Key findings from the report include:

- > Seventy per cent of eight to nine year olds have not posted any personal information online
- > Fifty eight per cent of 14 to 15-year-olds have their profiles fully private; and a further 21 per cent are partially private
- > Sixty six per cent of 16 to 17-year-olds have their profiles set to fully private, with a further 26 per cent partially private
- > The use of private messaging is becoming increasingly commonplace, especially among older teens, with 89 per cent of 16-17 year olds surveyed reporting they had sent private messages in the last four weeks.

'Even the youngest internet users need to be aware of the potential impact of not managing their online privacy, now and as they grow up,' Richard Bean added.

'It is important we take this message to all young people.'

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