



**Chatterbox**

## Friendships and relationships

**Making new friends online is fun – but it can turn nasty if you're not careful.**

- More friends online mean more people can see everything you put on your profile.
- Never forget that the person you're talking to is a real person with real feelings: if you wouldn't say it face to face, don't say it online.
- Sending or forwarding mean or humiliating things about other people can cause real hurt – and in some parts of Australia, it's against the law.
- Making other people's private information public (like posting a phone number or address online) can put them in danger.
- If you know someone else is being bullied, tell someone. The person being bullied might not have the courage to find help for themselves.
- If someone is giving you a hard time, don't respond or reply. Lots of people will give up if they don't get a response. But don't ignore it either – tell a trusted adult and ask them to help you.
- Save nasty messages, texts or emails (or copy and paste Instant Messaging chats to Notepad) so you can show an adult if you need to.
- Most chat sites, Instant Messaging software and phones will let you block communication from people you don't want to hear from.

Sealer

Aborigine



