Safeguarding Update to Schools

DIOCESE
OF
BALLARAT
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
LIMITED

AI Deepfake Information for Schools

Main Points:

- There are growing risks associated with deepfake technologies. School leadership must be familiar with this information to support and advise staff and their school community effectively.

Summary:

Background: What Are Deepfakes?
- Deepfakes are highly realistic but false media—including images, video, audio, or text—created using artificial intelligence. First developed in 2017, deepfake technologies have rapidly proliferated and are now widely accessible through AI-powered apps and online tools.
- Deepfakes are now recognised as a form of image-based sexual abuse and AI-facilitated abuse, causing significant emotional, reputational, and psychological harm

Legal Context: Offences and Jurisdictions Victoria
- In 2022, Victoria introduced criminal offences prohibiting: The production, distribution, or threatened distribution of intimate images of adults—including sexually explicit deepfakes.

Trends in Schools

- The eSafety Commissioner reports a dramatic increase in non-consensual deepfake abuse targeting students and school staff, particularly female students.

- Reports of AI-generated image-based abuse have more than doubled in 18 months.

- Schools are being urged to treat these incidents as serious criminal matters, requiring police involvement and mandatory reporting.

School Responsibilities and Actions

1. Reporting Obligations

- To report all deepfake abusive incidents involving students:
  [Follow mandatory reporting requirements- Protocols for Responding to Student Sexual Offending](#)
- To report all deepfake abusive incidents involving staff, volunteer, contractor, visitor or parents:
  [Follow mandatory reporting requirements- Protocols for Responding to Incidents, Disclosures and Suspicions of Child Abuse](#)

2. Use the eSafety Toolkit

- A step-by-step incident response guide: [Respond 3A – Guide to responding to image-based abuse involving AI deepfakes](#)

3. Staff Awareness

- Ensure relevant staff are familiar with child protection policies and mandatory reporting obligations
- Register with the [eSafety Champions Network](#) for ongoing updates and [resources](#)

4. Community Education

As partners in Catholic education and open to God's presence, we pursue fullness of life for all.

- Promote eSafety's August webinar series**: "AI-assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat".** <u>Date:</u> Thursday 21 August <u>Time:</u> 12:30pm to 1:15pm (AEST)