

# Social media age restrictions

## What you need to know

**From 10 December 2025 Australian young people under 16 will not be allowed to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms.**

Delaying account access allows more time for young people to build digital literacy and greater resilience.

### How will it work?

Under the law, the responsibility lies with the age-restricted platforms to find and deactivate existing accounts held by under-16s and to prevent under-16s from creating new accounts.

**There are no penalties for under-16s** who access an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers.

### Social media platforms

Online services are constantly evolving but at this stage the restrictions are likely to apply to **Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube**, among other platforms.

**Online gaming and standalone messaging apps** are among a number of types of services that have been excluded under the legislative rules.

### Teens will still have online access

**Under-16s will still be able to see publicly available social media content that doesn't require being logged into an account.** For example, most content is currently available to view on YouTube without holding an account.

Having an account increases the likelihood that they'll be exposed to pressures and risks stemming from design features which encourage children to spend more time on screens, while serving up content that can harm their health and wellbeing.



For more **information and resources** to help you prepare, visit **eSafety.gov.au**