

### Overview

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner is taking the lead on tackling image-based abuse in Australia. In October 2017, the Office introduced an image-based abuse portal, to provide tangible support for Australians who have had their intimate images or videos shared without their consent.

### What is image-based abuse?

Image-based abuse is when a person's intimate image/video is taken, shared, or threatened to be shared without their consent. The issue is growing and pervasive, with [research](#) revealing 1 in 5 Australians have had an intimate image/video taken or shared without their consent.

Victims of image-based abuse often experience anger, depression, anxiety and feelings of humiliation when they find their intimate images online.

Colloquially known as 'revenge porn', we use the term 'image-based abuse' because it more accurately reflects the serious nature, scope and impact of the issue.

### About the portal

The image-based abuse portal helps victims regain control by providing helpful resources, a reporting tool, and referrals to support services and legal help.

### Portal features:

#### Resources

- Links, videos and information on how to report images and request removals from social media services and websites.
- Quick links to counselling support services such as 1800 Respect, Lifeline, eHeadSpace, Kids Helpline, QLife, Mensline and Beyond Blue.
- State and Territory-specific information on relevant legal services and options for victims of image-based abuse.
- Information on collecting evidence and tips on how to report image-based abuse to the police.

- An online template containing the questions police and lawyers are likely to ask a person experiencing image-based abuse.
- Advice on managing the impacts of image-based abuse, including sextortion..

#### Reporting

- An easy to use online form where people can report:
  - intimate images that have been shared without their consent online;
  - threats made to share intimate images online (including sextortion); and
- The Office will work with social media services, websites and search engines to help facilitate the removal of reported image-based abuse material. At times, our efforts to remove material may be constrained by where the website is hosted and the website host's willingness to comply with the request.

#### Real life stories

- De-identified accounts of Australians who have been affected by image-based abuse, so that others know they are not alone.

#### Research

- Up to date research about the extent of image-based abuse in Australia, including its impact on victims, the pathways taken to find redress and the behaviour of bystanders.

