



New partnership to help tamariki stay safe online

Netsafe and the Alannah & Madeline Foundation launch Digital Licence+

Schools around the country are introducing a world-first education tool that helps teach students how to protect themselves from online harmful content.

Netsafe has partnered with Australian not-for-profit, the Alannah & Madeline Foundation, the DQ Institute and the Accenture Foundation to launch the eSmart Digital Licence.

The specially designed program is for students aged 10-14 years. It puts children into an interactive environment where they complete milestones they need for a 'digital licence.'

Netsafe CEO Brent Carey says it's a fun way for kids to learn the fundamentals of online safety without feeling like they are being lectured.

"When children become early teens, they are exposed more often to online harm due to their increased use of technology. This program will provide kids the knowledge they need to utilise all the advantages of technology safely."

Digital Licence+ has been created alongside New Zealand's curriculum to support different learning levels and assist teachers. It has previously been rolled out around the world and features materials that can be used in both remote and blended environments.

It is currently available and free of charge for all government schools in New Zealand. The program is based around building "digital intelligence," a concept created by the DQ Institute that represents a comprehensive set of skills needed for young people to thrive in the digital age.

Alannah & Madeline CEO Sarah Davis says "ensuring the online safety of all young New Zealanders is essential to their development. "

"It is critical that we build digital intelligence in children and young people in schools and families."

"Digital technologies bring many positive opportunities but those who can't access their resources or information safely may be excluded from basic educational and career opportunities." she said.

"We want every student to have access to our comprehensive suite of New Zealand curriculum-aligned and evidence-informed eLearning programs, so they are empowered with the skills to use technology effectively and safely, today and in the future."



Carey says the launch is a significant step forward in protecting future generations from being exposed to potentially life-threatening harm.

“Technology is only going to continue become a more prominent part of schooling life. It’s important to get out in front and give kids the tools they need before something happens.”

-ENDS-

About Netsafe

Netsafe is an independent non-profit organisation with an unrelenting focus on online safety. We keep people of all ages safe online by providing free support, advice and education. Visit netsafe.org.nz for free resources and to report incidents of online harm.