Sexting
Risks and Consequences
Upper Secondary Lesson plan
What is ‘sexting’?

‘Sexting’ is the sending of provocative or sexual photos, messages or videos using a mobile phone.
Case study

• Dave and Kelly have been together for a while

• Dave asks Kelly to send him a sexy photo

• She says ‘You first!’

• He sends her a funny naked photo of him only wearing his footy boots

• She sends him funny naked photo of her wearing only a chef’s hat
What happens to the pictures if they fight and break up?

• Kelly finds out that Dave has shared her photo with his best friend Sam.

• Dave finds his photo on Kelly’s Facebook page.
• Sam gets mad with Kelly about her breaking up with Dave and sends her naked photo to a few friends with an abusive email message about her

• When those friends send it to their friends, three texts later and friends of friends of friends of friends = 1,296 people

• It’s gone viral—and soon Kelly’s parents, the school and her friends know about it or have seen it
• Kelly’s ‘friends on Facebook’, over 300 of them have seen Dave’s naked photo and know his name and school
• Dave’s football team have seen the photo
• Kelly’s parents know too, after a friend’s mother told them
• Everyone at school is taking sides... both Kelly and Dave receive abusive emails and are bullied
• The school knows. Both Kelly and Dave and their parents are called to a meeting with the Principal

What are some of the cybersafety issues raised?
Consequences

Social

• Invisible viewership—can be forwarded to *anyone, anywhere, anytime*.

• If images are posted online it can be almost impossible to remove them or to control access to them.

• Images may be used for bullying or harassment

• Impact on your digital reputation—now and into the future.
Consequences

Legal

Nude and sexual images, videos and text messages of people under the age of 18 are considered child pornography and it may be a criminal offence under the Commonwealth of Australia and State legislation.
Consequences

> Legal

> If convicted of creating or distributing child pornography you may be listed as a sex offender.
Child Pornography Offences

Child pornography includes:

Images that show a person under 18 years of age who is engaged in, or appears to be engaged in, a sexual pose or sexual activity or is in the presence of a person who is engaged in, or appears to be engaged in, a sexual pose or sexual activity.

Source: sayno.net.au
Child Pornography Offences

You could be charged if:

• You take a nude or semi-nude photo of a person under 18, even if it is your self or they agree to the picture being taken—the sender and receiver can both be charged

• You take photos or video of a person under 18 involved in sexual activity or posing in an indecent sexual manner (or even if it looks like they are)

• You put a photo or video on your phone and forward it to someone.

Source: sayno.net.au
Maximum penalty

ACT - 5 years
NSW - 10 years
NT - 10 years
QLD - 5 years
SA - 10 years
TAS - No maximum term
VIC - 5 years
WA - 5 years
What could happen at school?

• Mobile confiscated
• Discipline, including suspension or expulsion
• Bullying and social exclusion
Think first

• Is this moment of ‘fun’ worth a criminal record? Being registered as a sex offender? Or public humiliation?

• Even if you have second thoughts and delete the image, there is no telling who has already copied that photo and posted it elsewhere

• Think before you send. Remember things can be forwarded and posted online very quickly.
Taking Action

• If you regret sending an image to someone, ask them to delete it and not forward it on to others.

• If it’s already ‘out there’, speak to a trusted adult to assist you in taking action.

• If a sexting photo is sent to your phone, delete it immediately.
Taking Action

• Never forward a ‘sext’. It makes the problem worse and impacts negatively on the relationships and reputations of yourself and your peers.
• Ask the sender not to send any more images—you can get in trouble legally even if you didn’t want to receive the image
• You may have to block the sender’s number or seek advice form police if the sending of sexting images continues.
Taking Action

• Help is available:
  • Support friends—let them know if there is an image of theirs being shared around and support them.
  • Seek advice from the school, a counsellor, teacher or a trusted adult such as parents, older sibling or aunty/uncle
Taking Action

• Seek confidential advice from the Kids Helpline
  1800 55 1800

• Seek confidential advice from the Cybersmart
  Online Helpline for Kids