

Life Behind Screens

By David Knuckey

Children in Australia report the second highest rate of cyberbullying in the world – behind only the US.

- 24% of Australian children have been cyberbullied – compared with 17% of children globally.
- Australian children and parents both say that posting on social media can lead to bullying and abuse at a rate 9% higher than the global average.

“Responses from girls were the strongest, as were responses from teens aged 15 and up.”

Australian children use mobile devices at an early age just as children in other nations and they continue to increase their smartphone usage largely in step with the rest of the world.

Australian smartphone use, at a young age, actually trails well behind the international average.

Concern and Frequency of Cyberbullying

- Globally, 57% of parents worry about bullying and abuse – while 49% of children hold the same worry.
- In Australia, 66% of parents worry about bullying and abuse – while 58% of children hold the same worry.

Gender Protection Bias

Globally, girls receive more protection and oversight online – markedly so in Australia – yet boys experience more online threats.

- On computers, 45% of Australian girls have parental controls, compared to 35% of boys.
- On mobiles, 34% of girls are protected, compared with 25% of boys.

“This is most notable for girls aged 15 to 16, their parents are more likely to check their calls and texts at 31%, with boys at 28%. Checking on the websites and apps their child visits or uses showed bias as well at this age. 51% of parents said they do so for girls and only 42% for boys.” ■

Source: Life Behind The Screens Of Parents, Tweens and Teens. The 2022 McAfee Connected Family Study – Australia.



“Australian smartphone use, at a young age, actually trails well behind the international average.”