



Australian Government  

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Attorney-General's Department

# STOPPING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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Child sex tourism is an appalling crime and as a community we must do all we can to prevent it.

Recent changes have strengthened the laws against child sex tourism.

**The new laws ensure that Australians who travel overseas to sexually abuse children will not escape the tough penalties they would have received if the offences were committed at home.**

Under the new laws:

- Australians who sexually abuse children overseas can be jailed for up to 20 years.
- Australians who exploit a position of trust or authority or take advantage of a child's mental impairment to commit sexual abuse overseas can be jailed for up to 25 years.
- Australians who engage in sex with a child over a sustained period overseas can be jailed for up to 25 years.

The new laws also make it a crime to prepare for or plan to commit a child sex tourism offence. That means police can intervene before a child is harmed. Under the new laws:

- Australians who prepare for or plan to commit child sex tourism offences can be imprisoned for up to 10 years (e.g. arranging a trip for the purpose of child sex tourism).
- Australians who groom or procure a child for sexual activity overseas can be imprisoned for up to 15 years (e.g. by using the internet to contact a child for the purpose of sexual activity).

The new laws also increase penalties for child pornography and child abuse material whether this occurs in Australia or overseas.

- People who use the internet or a mobile phone to deal with child pornography or child abuse material will now face up to 15 years in jail.
- People who are part of an online child pornography network will face up to 25 years in jail.
- It will also now be illegal for adults to use the internet or a mobile phone to communicate indecently with a child, or to use them for sexual activity with a child (e.g. via a webcam).

**These changes ensure that Australia continues to lead the way in protecting children from sexual abuse—wherever it might happen.**

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) actively monitors child sex tourists both within Australia and overseas. It works with international law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute child sex offenders.

Contact the AFP on **1800 813 784** if you have information relevant to child sex tourism or online child sexual exploitation.

Copies of this brochure and further information about the AFP's activities are at **[www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au)**.



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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE