Safer Engagement with Social Media: issues for Schools, Staff & Students

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Legal obligations and duties arising due to social media misuse by students and School staff

While online social media provides tools that can be used for the pursuit of education ideals of creativity citizenship and diversity, these can also be used to harass and disturb others - including fellow students and education providers.

Part 1 - Applicable Legislation (Civil & Criminal)

Australian & New Zealand Legal Framework and obligations

Review of various Commonwealth and State requirements for safety and health of students and standards.

Discussion of: Privacy; personal and sensitive information. Information related to and provided by minors.

Review of legal requirements and some emerging trends.

Emerging Best Practice for monitoring of online student behaviour in Australia, New Zealand and overseas

Part 2 - :Liability for school staff and administration

What does safety in Social Media mean?

Can use of Social Media be monitored effectively?

Review of Current events as social media misuse and consequences

Discuss how legal obligations have impacted recent incidents of social media misuse--both in courts and outside and actions taken.

Part 3 - Duty of Care & Duty to Report

Cases have been brought seeking to extend the scope of school's duty to address bullying such as: school identified sites on third party pages (fan pages, etc.) Discuss expansion of duty of care as not confined to School premises or school hours.

Part 4 - Adopting a Social Media Policy for your school

Emphasis: schools should not develop unattainable social media policies. Schools must expect there will be access to social media regardless. Consideration of Negligence is particularly important.

Review of online tools available to school: physical tracking of student location; tracking of student internet activities; engaging with law enforcement.

Discussion of current and emerging social media.