

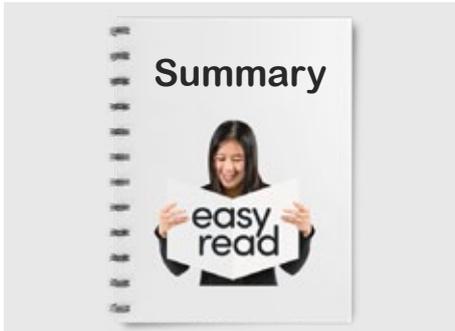


Report

Technology abuse of women with intellectual disability



About this report

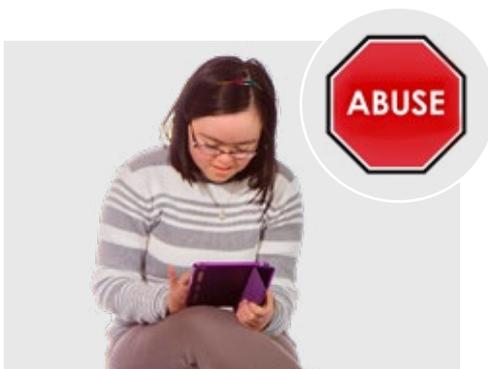


This is a summary of a big report.

Summary means that we only talk about the most important things from the big report.



Queensland University of Technology wrote a report for eSafety.



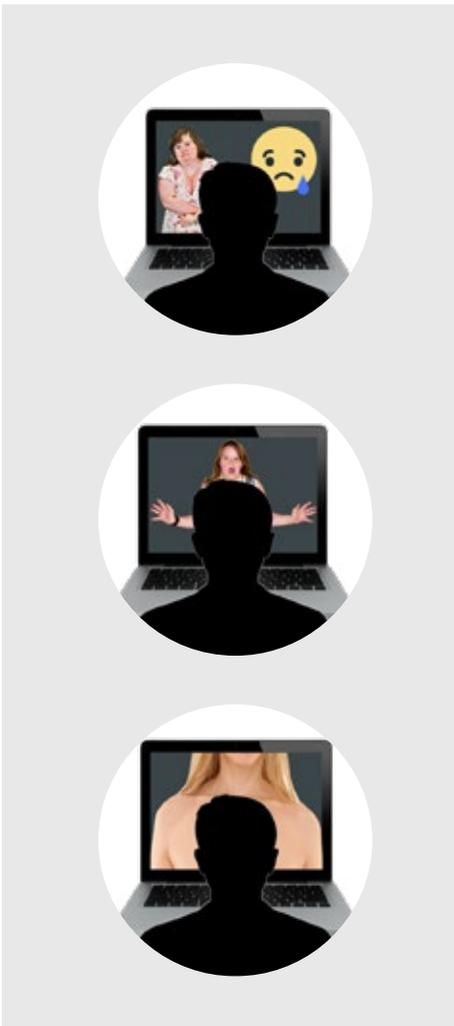
It is about how technology can be used to hurt women with intellectual disability.



Technology means things like computers, laptops, tablets or mobile phones.



Technology abuse means someone uses technology to do bad things to another person.



Abuse can be when someone

- Bothers or bullies a woman online
- Makes a woman do things she does not want
- Tricks a woman into doing things



eSafety will use the report to help people stay safe online.

We will give information to support workers and the women they help.

How we did this report



Women with disability are abused and hurt more often than other women.



They also get more easily abused with technology.



The report wanted to find out

- When does abuse happen most
- Who does the abuse
- What kind of support do women need



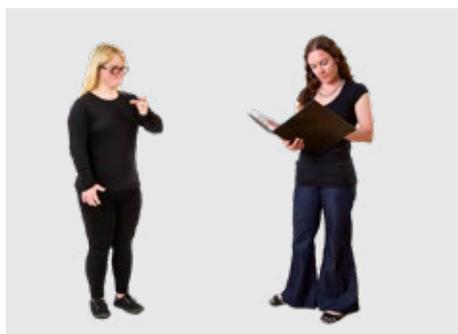
For the report we talked to 6 women with intellectual disability.

20 - 40

The women were between 20 and 40 years old.



All of the women were abused with technology.



We talked to all of the women alone.



We also talked with the women in groups.



Because of Covid we could only talk with women in Queensland.



We also talked to 15 workers from support services.

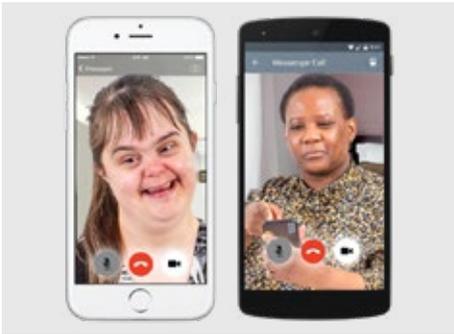


These support services help women with intellectual disability who were abused.



We would like to thank everyone who took part in the report.

What we found out



Technology is very important for many women with intellectual disability.



They use technology to stay in touch with other people.



This could be

- Their family, friends or partner
- Their support workers
- Their service provider



Many women use social media like Facebook, TikTok or Instagram.



Some women use technology to play online games like Minecraft or Candy Crush.



They also use dating websites and apps to find a partner.



Some use technology to help them with

- Things at home
- Banking and money
- Travel

Who does the abuse



Many women know the person who does the abuse.

It is often their partner or ex partner.



It could also be a family member, carer or support worker.



It is often someone who can get to the computer or phone used by the woman.

They might know the passwords.



Sometimes it can be someone the woman does not know very well.

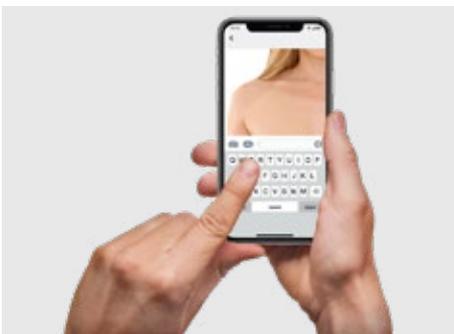


This could be someone they met online.

Types of technology abuse



There are many ways abuse can happen with technology.



Someone might make the woman send nude or sexual photos of herself.



Someone might scare the woman by saying they will share nude or sexual photos of her online.



Someone might send the woman sexual photos or videos that she does not want.



Someone might send the woman bad and hurtful messages or post them online.

The messages could also be about her family and friends.



Someone might get into her social media accounts without asking her.

They might see or do things she does not want.



Someone might use a tracker to check where the woman is going.

They might hide it in her wheelchair, car or pram.



Someone might use technology to control things in her home like the lights.

Why women do not tell others about the abuse



Sometimes women do not tell anyone if it is their partner who does the abuse.

Some women are scared their children will be taken away.



Their partner might also be their carer.

They need their partner to look after them.



The person who does the abuse might trick the woman into thinking no one will believe her.



Lots of support workers and doctors do not know about technology abuse.

They think the women make it up or use technology the wrong way.



Many women are afraid that their technology will be taken away.

They are scared because they need their technology.



Many women do not know who to tell about technology abuse.



They do not know about the support services they could talk to.



This makes it hard for them to get support.

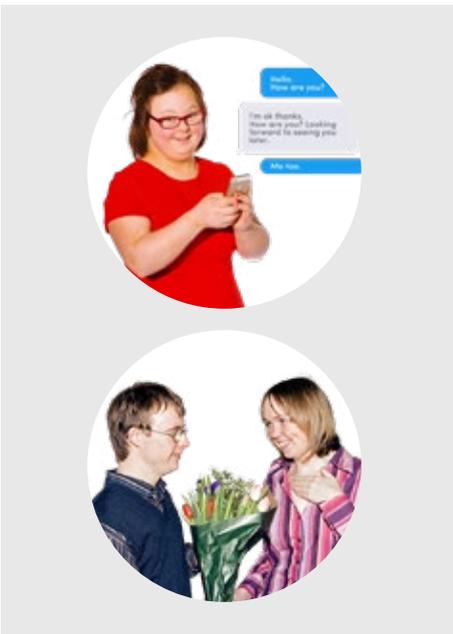
What needs to change



Most women want to learn how to use technology in a safe way by themselves.



They would like more information in a way they can understand like Easy Read or videos.



The information should be about

- How to use technology in a safe way
- Good and bad relationships



Social media sites and apps should have information that says what to do if abuse happens when people use them.



The information should be in Easy Read or with pictures.



Support services must work together.

They need to talk to each other to find the best way to support women who are abused.



People need to learn about abuse that uses technology.



This could happen through Government services like Centrelink.



People who know a lot about being safe online could talk at support groups for women.



They could tell the women how to be safe with technology.



They could also teach support workers and service providers.



That would help support workers to better support women to use technology safely.

Contact



If you know about someone who is in danger right now call the police on **000**.



If anything in this report made you sad or scared you can contact

- 1800 Respect on **1800 737 732**
- Lifeline on **13 11 14**
- Beyond Blue on **1300 224 636**



If you want to find out more about this report email **research@esafety.gov.au**.



For more information about being safe online go to **esafety.gov.au/women**.

CID made this document Easy Read. You need to ask CID if you want to use any of the pictures. Contact CID at **business@cid.org.au**.