

Collaborative Indigenous Research Initiative (CIRI)

Indigenous Children Cyber-Safety Framework

Project Rationale

This project aims to promote e-Safety of Indigenous children through effective parental interventions. This intervention is facilitated by a tested Information technology (IT) framework that will align with the socio-cultural context of Indigenous communities. Previous research by investigators has identified several issues in children's online behaviour such as excessive time spent online, accessing harmful online content, creating untrustworthy relationships, and cyberbullying. The study argues that parents can intervene to assist their children if parents are aware of the issues and have appropriate strategies to work with their children. Previous research has also alerted to the fact that parents of marginalised communities have inadequate understanding of cyber-threats faced by children. Current awareness programs do not adequately account for cross-cultural issues that impact vulnerable communities.

This study has a dual purpose:

1. To understand culturally appropriate strategies for an IT intervention by ascertaining Indigenous parents' knowledge about online risks to Indigenous children.
2. Develop and design IT-based Children e-Safety Framework (ICeSF) to enhance Indigenous parents' knowledge.

Objectives

The overarching aim of the project is to promote eSafety of Indigenous children through effective parental interventions. This will be achieved by:

1. Conducting a comprehensive literature review on traditional indigenous ways of knowing and prior knowledge sharing interventions
2. Exploring the views of parents/elders in indigenous communities on the problem of eSafety for children
3. Design and development of Indigenous Children e-Safety Framework (ICeSF) following design science and indigenous research method.

Alignment with UC's Strategic Plan

This research is built on years of cross-disciplinary collaboration and engagement of researchers from Information systems, health, education, and indigenous researchers. It is expected that this project will expand the foundation for indigenous training and opportunities for indigenous HDR students. The follow-up program includes several grant applications involving UC Indigenous HDR students and/or Indigenous early career researchers.

The research is consistent with the theme of the newly established cross disciplinary Research Cluster of Digital Inequality and Social Change (RC-Disc) and will be a pioneer project under the umbrella of RC-disc. This research is expected to create a critical mass of a robust multi-disciplinary expert group, which is vital to embark onto large project grants.

More information

www.canberra.edu.au/rc-disc

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Bridging digital inequality for a better and inclusive society