

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free nationwide programme brings together global experts, community leaders and everyday New Zealanders to tackle the country's biggest online challenges

Artificial intelligence. Online scams. Digital abuse. Gaming. Misinformation. Youth wellbeing.

These are just some of the issues taking centre stage during Netsafety Week 2026, as Netsafe launches its biggest programme yet to help New Zealanders build a safer and more positive online future.

Running from 17–21 August, the free week-long series of online events will bring together international technology leaders, academics, frontline practitioners, policymakers and community advocates under the theme "Online safety is a team sport – play your part."

More than a dozen sessions will explore the online issues shaping life in Aotearoa today – from protecting children in an AI-powered world and responding to sophisticated scams, to supporting women in leadership, empowering rangatahi, strengthening online communities and understanding the rapidly evolving digital culture influencing young people.

Netsafe Chief Executive Brent Carey says online safety is no longer an issue that belongs to one organisation or one generation.

"Every New Zealander spends part of their life online. Whether we're parents, employers, teachers, community leaders, young people or simply internet users, we all have a role to play in creating safer digital spaces.

"The online world is changing faster than ever. AI is transforming how we learn and communicate, scammers are becoming more sophisticated, and young people are navigating digital experiences previous generations never encountered. Netsafety Week is about bringing together the people, ideas and practical tools that can help New Zealand respond together."

This year's webinar programme features experts from New Zealand and around the world. Among the many panellists are partners and representatives from Roblox, One New Zealand, Snap Inc., the University of

Canterbury, Massey University, Spark, TrendLife, the Mental Health Foundation, Burnett Foundation Aotearoa and Safe Space Alliance, also supported by TikTok and Meta.

Highlights include:

- [Scamscape Aotearoa](#) – an inside look at today's scams and how New Zealanders can protect themselves.
- [AI and Online Safety in Aotearoa](#) – exploring how artificial intelligence is reshaping both online opportunities and emerging harms.
- [Raising Safe and Resilient Kids Online](#) – practical advice for parents navigating gaming, social media, AI and digital wellbeing.
- [Young Changemakers of Aotearoa](#) – celebrating rangatahi leading positive change online.
- [Free to Lead Online](#) – addressing the impact of online abuse on women in public life and leadership.
- [From the Manosphere to Dark Romance](#) – helping parents and educators understand the online communities shaping young people's beliefs, relationships and identities.
- [Holding the Line](#) – examining the challenges of moderating online communities while protecting wellbeing and social cohesion.

Rather than focusing solely on risks, Netsafety Week has been designed to equip people with practical knowledge, confidence and strategies they can use in everyday life.

Brent Carey says that approach reflects the reality of online safety in 2026.

"People don't need more reasons to feel anxious about technology. They need practical advice, trusted information and confidence to navigate an increasingly connected world.

"Our goal is for everyone who joins Netsafety Week to leave with a better understanding of today's online challenges – and, more importantly, practical actions they can take to help themselves, their whānau and their communities."

All sessions are **free and open to the public**, with specialised events tailored for parents, educators, businesses, community organisations, policymakers, youth workers and online professionals.

Registrations are now [open](#)

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About Netsafety Week

Netsafety Week is Netsafe's annual awareness initiative, bringing together experts from across New Zealand and around the world to share knowledge, practical skills and solutions that help create safer, more inclusive online experiences for everyone.