



## Social Media and Online Networking

Information sheet for Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation members using social media and online networking.

1. Carefully consider your use of social networking before signing up. Think about which networks you are contemplating joining, why and what happens with your information, images and data.
2. Remember you are a regulated health professional. Your social networking is not necessarily private and privacy settings on your device may not prevent others you 'trust' from re-posting your pictures or words.
3. Images and words placed online endure. Consider your future – do you want your boss, your mother or your children to see or read your posts?
4. Give thought to your options before posting photos or information of, or about, people in your professional care. Consider the need to transmit from your device to your workplace or from your workplace to your device. This includes attachments to emails. Remember all regulated health practitioners have professional obligations in relation to privacy and consent.
5. Use work computers and mobile devices only in accordance with workplace policies.
6. Understand that cookies, locations services and many apps track your habits, whereabouts and upload your personal data, information and images.
7. Avoid criticising or commenting about workmates, colleagues, employer, people in your care and professional associates.
8. Keep your personal life and professional life separate, but understand others may not.
9. Be respectful and polite. Avoid discriminatory, indecent, obscene, vulgar, offensive, abusive or vilifying language, material, information and images. Carefully consider the tone and content of items you choose to post or re-post.
10. Avoid inviting or accepting people in your professional care as 'friends'.
11. Remember the laws of defamation apply to messages, images or other items that can be posted online, or that may be re-posted by other individuals.

*endorsed june 2014*