

Green flags for online youth spaces

TIPS BY AND FOR REGIONAL YOUNG PEOPLE

Green flags are positive signs that can help you decide if you feel safe. For more tips, visit: YACVic.org.au/Green-Flags

When you join: look for clear safety protocols

Do you have to become a member?

'Joining' doesn't have to be complicated or for a fee. Membership processes let organisers check everyone is who they say they are.

Do they check that you're a human?

A safe online space asks screening questions - why you're joining or if you're the right age group, for example.



Are there group rules and moderators?

What are the standards everyone's being held to? What are the privacy expectations? What options do you have if someone isn't playing nice?

Does the platform suit you?

Check if you can participate in a way that feels safe for you. For example, can you turn your camera off? Is there a chat function? Can you message the moderator privately if you feel unsafe? Do you have to link your social media account?



When you're in: who's welcome?

Does the group accommodate a diverse group of people?

Some ways they may do this include thoughtful Acknowledgment of Country, pronoun rounds, or accommodating different access needs.

When's the group online?

The best online group for you is one that fits your schedule. 'Good timing' is not only an hour that suits you, but a time of day you actually feel up to doing whatever the group activity is.

Are young people making decisions?

A safe group is one where your input matters. The group may have a youth committee, do polls, or ask informally for your feedback.

Is it relevant to where you live?

A place-based group is still useful online. It means the people you meet can be familiar local faces, understand what's important to you, or are working with the same kind of internet access as you.

