



Rotary District 9520 Youth Exchange Program **Social Media Policy**

Rotary District 9520 Youth Exchange Program has its own rules about social media usage, in addition to Australian Laws and the laws of the student's host country if away on exchange.

Social media is online media that allows for interaction and/or participation.

Some of the things discussed here, like sexting, may be crimes and not something over which Rotary has any discretion. The penalties are severe and may be lifelong.

For the purpose of this policy, social media is defined as *'any conversation or activity that occurs online, where people can share information or data'*.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- social networking and micro-blogging sites like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Bebo, Foursquare, Tumblr, Pinterest, Snapchat, Instagram, WhatsApp
- video and photo sharing sites like Flickr and YouTube
- online forums and discussion blogs.

District 9520 Youth Exchange Program prohibits students engaging in online content that is:

- malicious, misleading or unfair
- obscene, defamatory, threatening or discriminatory to an individual or organisation
- sexting or harassment using any form of social media
- comments that you would not say directly to another person and students must consider how other people might react before you post.

District 9520 Youth Exchange Program prohibits students engaging in conduct which includes:

- making discriminatory, harassing, or bullying representations
- using offensive language
- inappropriately sharing information
- issuing threats or insults
- posts of a sexual or lewd nature
- posting, sharing, or liking offensive material privately on social media, whether or not publicly viewable.

Students who engage in these banned practices will be subject to severe penalties including reduction of privileges, possible police action and being sent home.

If in any doubt, a useful resource for students may be "The Naked Truth" a Smartphone app that contains plain English explanations of relevant laws;

http://www.lawsocietysa.asn.au/LSSA/newsfeeds/New_App_The_Naked_Truth.aspx

See also <http://lawstuff.org.au> for an explanation on the consequences of sexting in each state.

Rotary District 9520 covers parts of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. The laws in each state are different, but national law also applies.

Laws about abuse of social media also exist in the countries with whom Rotary District 9520 exchange. Those countries will have their own rules about social media usage. Students are advised to familiarise themselves with those rules.