

# Grandparents: What the Study Found

## About the grandparents

All were grandparents of children aged 10- 13 years that they regularly cared for and represented the diversity of family life in Australia.

## Key findings about grandparents

### **1. Grandparents as Secondary Caregivers and the Negotiation of Rules**

The study reveals that grandparents generally tried to follow the parents' lead when it comes to their grandchildren's online safety. However, the dynamics shifted when the grandchildren were under their care. Grandparents often adopt a more relaxed approach, allowing for increased screen time or different usage patterns. This flexibility stemmed from various factors, including the desire to create a fun and enjoyable environment for their grandchildren, generational differences in attitudes towards technology, or simply the challenges of replicating the parents' rules in a different home environment. The physical layout of the grandparent's home, for instance, made it difficult to enforce the same level of supervision and control over device usage. While grandparents respected the parents' overall approach to online safety, they tended to adapt those rules to fit their own context and priorities, leading to a more permissive environment when the grandchildren are in their care.

### **2. Intergenerational Communication and Support**

The study highlights the importance of open communication between parents and grandparents regarding technology use. Parents often turn to their own parents for advice and support, sharing their concerns and discussing strategies for managing their children's digital lives. Grandparents, in turn, offered insights and perspectives based on their own experiences as a parent. This intergenerational dialogue fostered a collaborative approach to raising children in the digital age.