**[Risk of Confrontation](https://youtu.be/VovLlrmlyNw)**

**Narrator:**

This Vignette concerns Social Risks.

Interviewees will be discussing the Risk of Confrontation, Disagreements or Upsetting others.

This risk perception compromises of issues around anti-social behaviour, anonymity, social media context blurring, risks online, trolling and harassment. It manifests through an unwillingness to use social media in particular and in general participation in discussions online.

In this section, you will hear a number of video vignettes extracted from interviews with older Australians.

We first hear from Graeme, aged 70, discussing why he doesn’t use social media and the abuse which goes on these platforms.

**Graeme:**

I don't take a lot of notice of social media. I don't know if you do or not, because a lot of time it's some idiot just wanting to let off steam without having to identify himself, and most occasions they don't know anything, they just want to let people know how stupid they are and abuse people who they don't know. They don't understand the circumstances.

**Narrator:**

Next Marilyn, aged 78, talks about discussing divisive topics in certain groups and her concerns for arguing with others on social media.

**Marilyn:**

If I'm in a group and they're talking about an issue, a moral issue that I've got really strong feelings about and they don't. Like say abortion, I've got really, really strong feelings about abortion, and I'm in a group who has an opposing view of... Somebody made a comment that Trump was the only one of the two people who's anti-abortion, because they were saying why do people vote for Trump? And I would say because the policies of his party are anti-abortion, he walked with them and talked at their conference and stuff and that probably motivated their voting. And they were saying why don't those people who are anti-abortion go through and stop the death penalty and those states where it's still there? And I let it go at that stage because I don't want to get into... I don't speak my own mind, my own beliefs if there's going to be controversy over it.

**Narrator:**

Our final interviewee, Paulina, aged 59, further expands on Marilyn’s position, discussing how these interactions can be personally damaging, even if the other person is right.

**Paulina:**

Or say things out of... And other people start giving their opinions or saying something which is out of context. So it can be damaging on what you say sometimes. So yeah, that sort of thing.

**Narrator:**

These vignettes were developed by the Shaping Connections Research Program at RMIT University’s School of Economics, Finance and Marketing.

Our research develops insights on social inclusion and technology use among older Australians.

Please find additional information about these vignettes in the video description below.

You can get more information about the project by visiting www.shapingconnections.org. if you have any questions, comments or feedback please use the contact us section of the website and we will get back to you.