

Safety Tip of the week

18/06/2021

Incognito/ Private Browser

What is Incognito Mode?

Incognito Mode is an online privacy feature that prevents your browsing history from being stored. When you browse the web in a regular window, the browser stores the URL of every page you visit and retains that information even after you've closed the window down. This means you can easily access the same pages at a later date without too much trawling about.

The browser will also store cookies. Cookies are small text files that save site login details, collect information about the pages you visit and create customised web pages and ads tailored to your online preferences.

However, when you enable Incognito Mode, any cookies that a site tries to upload onto your computer will be blocked or deleted and there will no record of your browsing on your local search history. Essentially, whatever you do when using this setting will be forgotten.

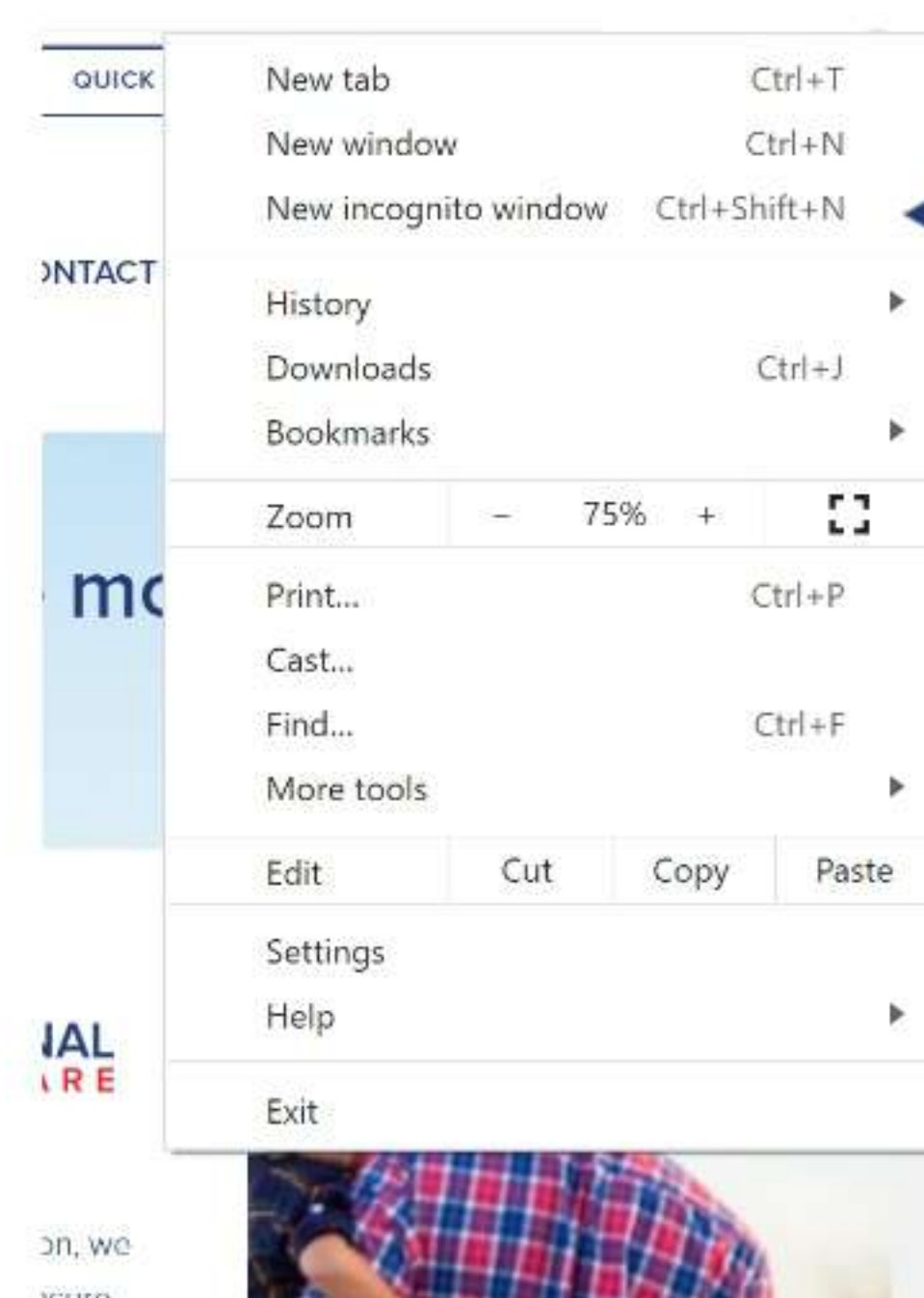
What Browsers have Incognito Mode?

All major web browsers offer a feature that provides a private browsing window and deletes the browsing history on your computer after you close it. Depending on what browser you're using, it may be called Incognito Mode, Private Browsing or InPrivate Browsing.

Google Chrome

When Incognito Mode is activated on Google Chrome, the browser won't save your browsing history, cookies, site data or any information submitted on forms. However, it will keep any files you've downloaded and your bookmarks.

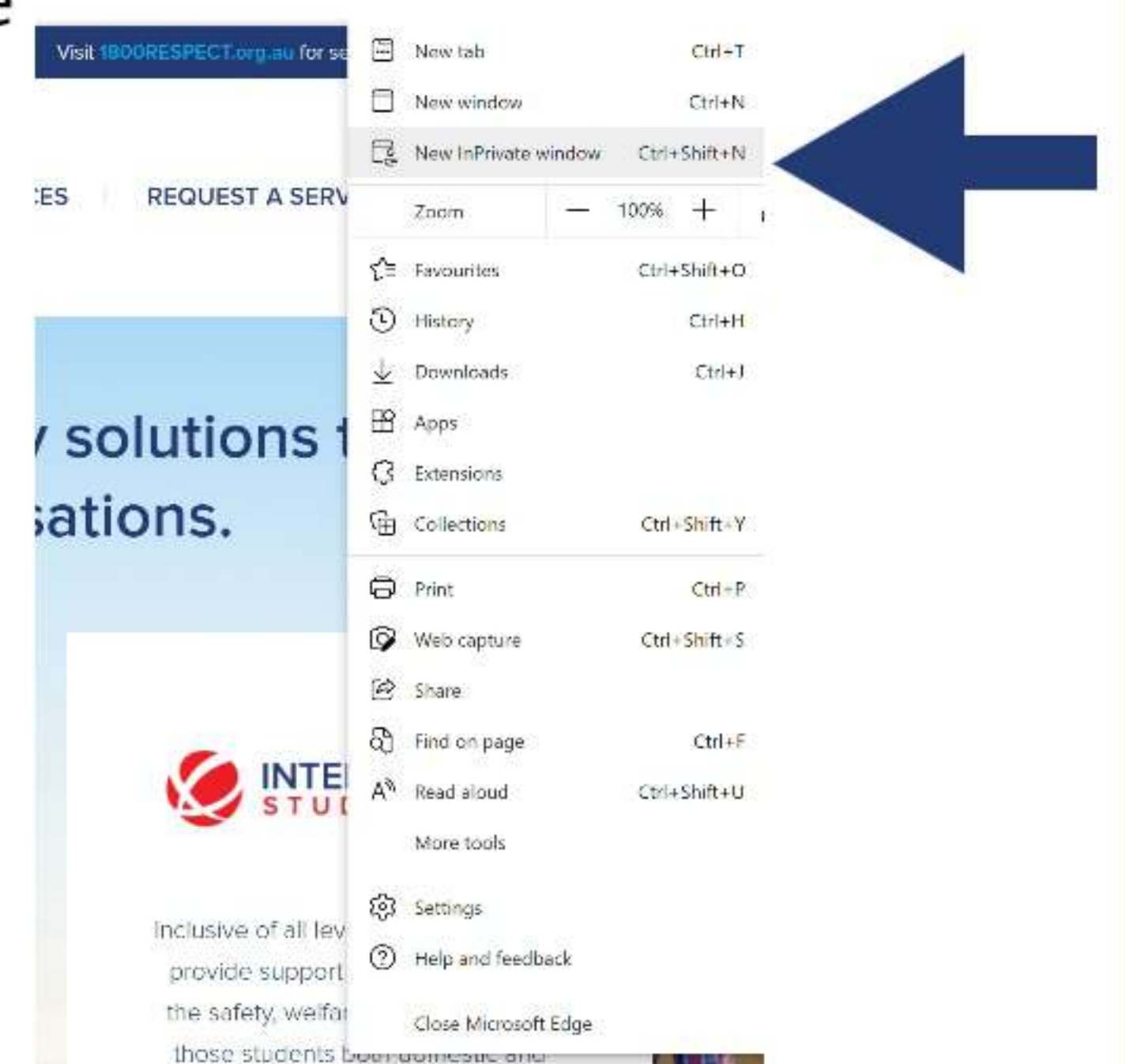
To go Incognito on Google Chrome, start Chrome and click the menu in the top right corner of the window. Click New Incognito Window and start browsing. Alternatively, you can press Ctrl+ Shift + N.



Microsoft Internet Explorer & Edge

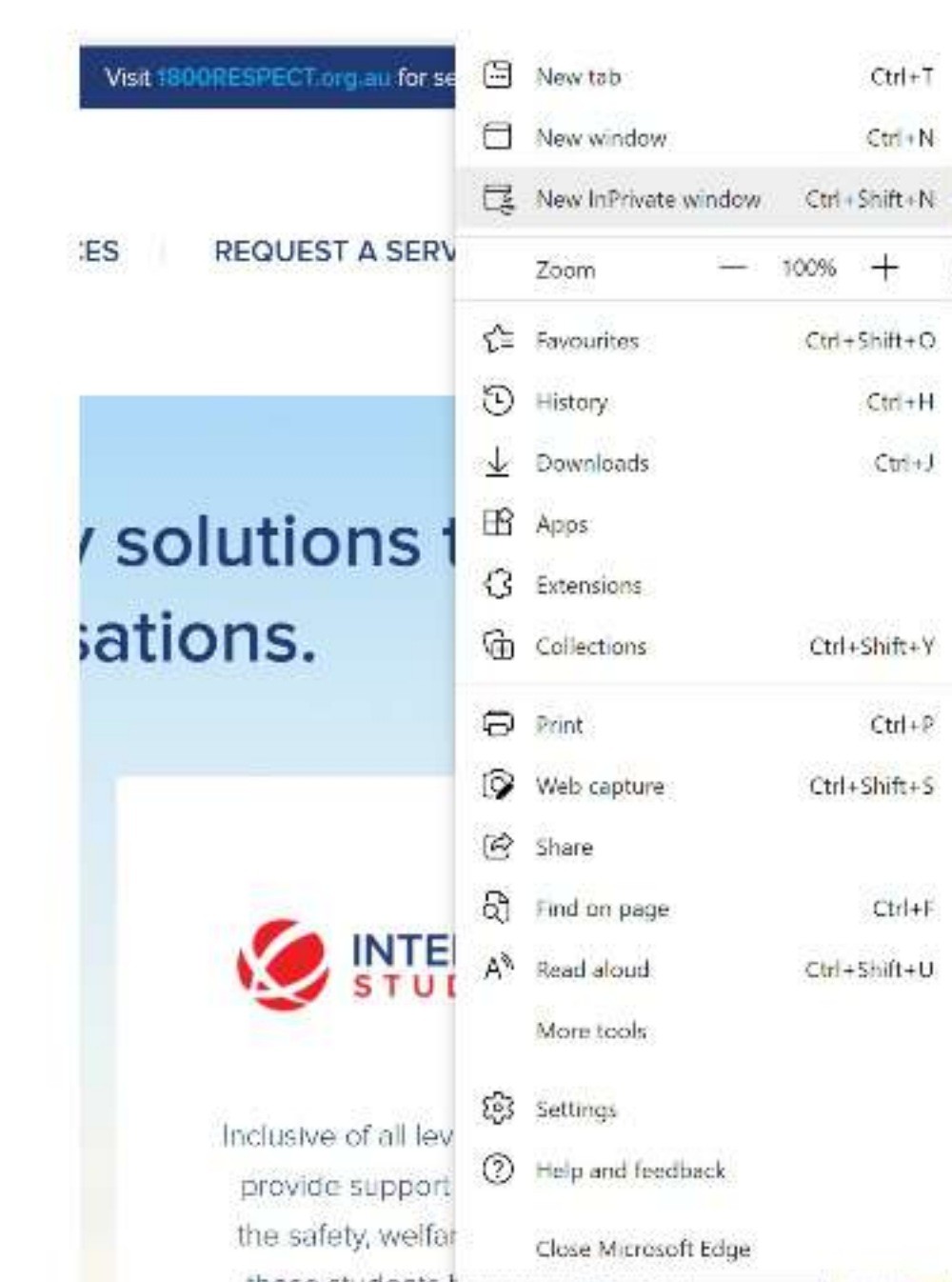
Microsoft's InPrivate browsing window provides similar protection to Chrome but will also disable toolbars and extensions. To enable InPrivate browsing on Microsoft Internet Explorer, click on Settings- Safety- InPrivate Browsing. You can also launch it using the keyboard shortcut Ctrl+Shift+P.

To enable InPrivate browsing on Microsoft Edge, click the menu in the top right corner of the window and select New InPrivate window. Again, the shortcut Ctrl+Shift+P can be used, or you can right-click on the Edge taskbar icon and select New InPrivate window.



Mozilla Firefox

Mozilla's "Private Browsing" mode is similar to the other browsers but offers additional tracking protection. To launch private browsing in Firefox, click on the three lines at the top right and select New Private Window. You can also just use the Ctrl+ Shift + P shortcut. To tell if you're browsing privately, look for a purple mask icon in the top-right corner of the window.



Apple Safari

Safari's "Private" window removes browsing history, form data, cookies, and also deletes temporary files.

To enable Private browsing, choose File, New Private Window, or switch to a Safari window that's already using Private Browsing.

