



Submission to Inquiry into Social Media and Online Safety

January 2022

Dear House Select Committee on Social Media and Online Safety,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the inquiry into Social Media and Online Safety.

This is an issue that is both professional and personal to me.

My name is Sall Grover. I am the founder and CEO of Giggle, a social networking app for women. Giggle - aka the collective noun for a group of girls - was launched in 2020. It was inspired by a conversation between me and my mum and a desire to keep women safe online. The Giggle app has many different features. On Giggle, women aged 16 and up can post comments & start conversations on a women-only public feed, find female roommates, give & get freelance work, or connect in private conversations for support. Giggle is currently used in 88 countries around the world, welcoming women of every race, region, religion and culture.

Every day, we achieve the goal of providing women with a refuge, a safe place away from the misogyny and abuse found on many social networking platforms, giving women an opportunity to enjoy a relaxing time online and we will continue to do so.

However, there are certain male demographics of Internet users who are not happy about the existence of Giggle, due to the app's status as "an app for females". Many of these males claim that the existence of Giggle causes "harm", simply because we do not allow them onto the platform.

In reaction to Giggle's status as an app for females, Giggle receives App Store and Google Play pages frequently receive "one star reviews" full of misogynistic slurs, abuse and blatant lies. The goal of the posters is to discourage women from using an online female space and/or to have the female space removed from the market completely.

Giggle HQ does not remove the negative and abusive reviews from our App Store and Google Play pages, as we believe that they tell a story. We believe that every day these Internet abusers prove why female spaces are necessary. Giggle is a place away from these Internet users.

giggle

the female app

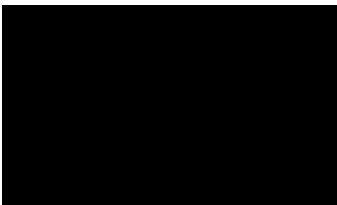
In addition to the abuse towards Giggle, I personally receive online abuse due to my status as the founder and CEO of Giggle and for taking a public stance to protect female-only (single sex) spaces.

I started using Twitter in mid-2020, as a way to have a voice amongst the lies the “trolls” were spreading about Giggle. Due to me speaking up in defence of my own company and my own sex-based rights, I have received death threats, rape threats, general threats of violence and countless instances of misogynistic abuse.

I don’t believe that there is a way to successfully “police the Internet” or control human behaviour, and so online abuse is a problem that is here to stay. However, it is important that it is reported on honestly, victims of it are listened to, perpetrators are punished as they would be “in the real world”, and “online safe spaces” exist for people to have an abuse free Internet experience.

Online safety is what I focus on every day of my life, ensuring that there is at least one place where it exists for women.

Regards,



Sall Grover
Founder & CEO
Giggle For Girls Pty Ltd