

**Communications and the Arts**

Inquiry into Social Media and Online Safety

ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

IQ22-000001

**Division/Agency:** DIV - Online Safety Media and Platforms

**Topic:** Basic Online Safety Expectations (BOSE)

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written (01 February 2022)

**Mr Tim Watts MP asked:**

1. The Basic Online Safety Expectations determination came into effect on 23 January 2022 at the same time as the Online Safety Act 2021 (Online Safety Act) commenced.
2. Has a report of the public consultations on the BOSE been provided to the Minister?
  - a. If yes, so this inquiry will not form part of that report?
3. Will a report on these consultations be made public? If not, why?
4. Why didn't the Department delay the commencement of the BOSE to ensure it is informed by the hearings and final report of this inquiry?

**Answer:**

2. Yes. The Department provided advice to the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts on issues raised in consultation on the on the draft Online Safety (Basic Online Safety Expectations) Determination (BOSE).
- 2a. The House Select Committee's Inquiry on Social Media and Online Safety did not form part of the Department's advice on the BOSE consultation as the Inquiry was not concluded.
3. Briefing to the Minister on consultation outcomes will not be made public. The final BOSE reflects the Government's response to the issues raised through consultation.
4. Timing of the commencement of the Online Safety (Basic Online Safety Expectations) Determination 2022 (BOSE) was a decision of Government made well before the Inquiry was established and was intended to provide industry with greater certainty about the implementation of the Act.

As the BOSE is a legislative instrument, it is at the discretion of the Minister to amend the BOSE. For example, the BOSE could be updated to reflect outcomes of this inquiry.

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**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

IQ22-000002

**Division/Agency:** DIV - Online Safety Media and Platforms

**Topic:** Dis/Misinformation

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written (01 February 2022)

**Mr Tim Watts MP asked:**

7. Your submission states:

“In June 2021, ACMA provided the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts with a report on the code development process, the adequacy of digital platforms’ measures and the broader impacts of misinformation in Australia. The Minister is considering this report.”

Why has it taken more than six months for the Minister to consider this report? Is misinformation and disinformation not a priority for the Department or the government?

8. Will this report be released before the election?

9. Will the government’s response to this report be implemented before the election?

**Answer:**

7. Combatting disinformation and misinformation is a priority for the Government. ACMA provided the Minister with a comprehensive report which has required careful consideration and analysis. The report does not just cover the voluntary code development process, but also the adequacy of digital platforms’ measures and the issues of disinformation, misinformation and news quality more generally in Australia. Since June 2021, the Department has sought additional advice and briefing from ACMA to further inform its analysis of the issues canvassed and advice to the Government. The Minister is currently considering the report.

8. The Minister is currently considering the report. A decision on the timing of the report’s release is a matter for the Government.

9. The Minister is currently considering the report. Decisions on further actions in response to the report are a matter for the Government.

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**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

IQ22-000003

**Division/Agency:** DIV - Online Safety Media and Platforms

**Topic:** Hate Speech

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written (01 February 2022)

**Mr Tim Watts MP asked:**

10. The Committee has heard from a number of witnesses who have been subject to group based abuse. They've described online hate speech or dehumanizing language against people that identify with a particular group – such as race, religion, sexuality – as gaping hole in the online safety framework.

In your submission you state:

“At the G20 Rome Summit in October 2021, leaders agreed to take forward work during Indonesia's 2022 G20 presidency to improve internet safety and counter online abuse, hate speech, online violence and terrorism, recognising the responsibility of digital service providers.”

Given this, what is the Morrison Government doing to tackle online hate speech?

11. Why wasn't group based abuse covered in the Online Safety Act? Did the Department provide any advice on this?

**Answer:**

10. The Australian Government believes all people are entitled to respect, dignity and the opportunity to participate in society regardless of their personal attributes, and recognises that to enjoy human rights on an equal basis with others, people need to be able to do so free from discrimination. The Government has no tolerance for racism and there is no place for hate speech, including online.

Australia has a range of civil and criminal provisions in State, Territory and Commonwealth law that seek to prevent and address violence, abuse and discrimination based on race, including online hate speech and cyber-racism.

- The federal *Racial Discrimination Act 197* prohibition of racial hatred includes online racial hatred.
- The Commonwealth Criminal Code contains a number of offences which may apply to online hate speech. In particular, Division 474 contains offences for people who use a carriage service to menace, harasses or causes offence, and for international service providers that fail to remove or refer abhorrent violent material. Division 80 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code contains offences for people who intentionally urge another person to use force or violence against another group or member of a group distinguished by race, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, or political opinion. Offences at Division 80 are not limited to conduct that occurs online.
- Under the *Online Safety Act 2021*, in determining whether material is 'cyber-abuse material targeted at an Australian adult', the Commissioner may consider the context in which the abuse occurs, for example whether a person has been targeted because of their cultural background, gender, sexual orientation, disability, mental health condition or family or domestic violence situations. The intention is also for the Commissioner to consider the ordinary meaning of 'menacing' and 'harassing'.

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These provisions aim to strike a balance between ensuring that Australians are protected from discrimination and vilification and enabling traditional rights and freedoms such as the right to freedom of speech.

11. The Department provided advice to Government about the scope of the *Online Safety Act 2021* (the Act) and on feedback received during the consultation period for the exposure draft to the Online Safety Bill. This advice included consideration of whether groups and dehumanisation material would be captured under the Act.

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IQ22-000004

**Division/Agency:** DIV - Online Safety Media and Platforms

**Topic:** Online harms coordination mechanisms

**Proof Hansard Page:** 26 (28 January 2022)

**Mr Tim Watts MP asked:**

Mr WATTS: This committee's heard extensive complaints during this inquiry about the duplication and lack of coordination of policymaking with respect to online harms under the current government. Your submission highlights the number of coordinating mechanisms across government dealing with online harms, and I'd like to dig into those a little bit more. You cite the Agency Heads Committee on Online Safety, which brings together heads of agencies across the Commonwealth that are involved in or have an interest in online safety. How often has that committee met this year and last year? Who attended those meetings? Were all principals present? Which ministers were briefed about those meetings? I'm happy for you to take that on notice. I appreciate that that's a lot of minute taking. If you could come back to the committee on that I would be appreciative.

Mr Windeyer: Certainly.

Mr WATTS: Could you also do that for the eSafety Advisory Committee?

Mr Windeyer: Yes.

Ms Gannon: We can, Deputy Chair. The eSafety Commissioner and eSafety run that body. I'm sure they won't have any concerns with providing that information to you, but the department itself doesn't have that information.

Mr WATTS: Okay. I'm just asking about the mechanisms that you've highlighted in your submission.

Ms Gannon: Of course.

Mr WATTS: The Cyber Security and Safety Communication Working Group—can I have that one too?

Mr Windeyer: Yes. We can do it for all of them if that would be helpful.

Mr WATTS: Yes. For all the ones listed in your submission that would be great. What I'm trying to get to here is: who is actually in the room for these? Are these meetings informed or are the actual principals sitting around the desk coordinating things here?

**Answer:**

Details on the meeting dates in 2021 and 2022 and attendees for the online harms coordination mechanisms listed in the Department's submission are at [Attachment A](#).

The Department does not brief the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts as a matter of course on these coordination mechanisms. Whether other Ministers are briefed on these meetings is a matter for those departments.

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**Attachment A**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
<p>Agency Heads Committee on Online Safety</p> <p>(Information provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC) as chair)</p>	10 March 2021	<p>DITRDC</p> <p>Simon Atkinson, Secretary</p> <p>Richard Windeyer, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Pauline Sullivan, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Treasury</p> <p>Roxanne Kelley, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs)</p> <p>Marc Ablong, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&amp;C)</p> <p>James Chisholm, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>eSafety</p> <p>Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner</p> <p>Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER)</p> <p>Elizabeth Kelly, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Attorney-General's Department (AGD)</p> <p>Sarah Chidgey, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)</p> <p>Tony Sheehan, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE)</p> <p>Alex Gordon, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Australian Cyber Security centre (ACSC)</p> <p>First Assistant Director-General</p> <p>Australian Federal Police (AFP)</p> <p>Deputy Commissioner</p> <p>Department of Social Services (DSS)</p> <p>Teena Blewitt, Group Manager</p> <p>Department of Health (Health)</p> <p>Charles Wann, Chief Operating Officer</p>
<p>eSafety Advisory Committee</p> <p>(Information provided by eSafety as chair)</p>	<p>18 May 2021</p> <p>1 September 2021</p> <p>16 December 2021</p>	<p>eSafety</p> <p>Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner</p> <p>Rebecca Razavi, Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Toby Dagg, Executive Manager</p> <p>Sharon Trotter, a/g Executive Manager</p> <p>Maria Vassiliadis, Executive Manager</p>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>DESE Maria Jolly, First Assist Secretary Rachel O'Connor, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DFAT Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technologies Cameron Archer, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Home Affairs Hamish Hansford, First Assistant Secretary Ciara Spencer, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DITRDC Pauline Sullivan, First Assistant Secretary Bridget Gannon, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DISER Sara Goldsworthy, First Assistant Secretary Geoff Mason, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>PM&amp;C Michelle Dowdell, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DSS Shane Bennett, Group Manager Greta Doherty, Branch Manager</p> <p>Academic representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macquarie University</li> <li>• University of New South Wales</li> <li>• Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology</li> <li>• Western Sydney University</li> </ul> <p>NGO, community organisation representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yourtown</li> <li>• Headspace</li> <li>• Alannah and Madeline Foundation</li> <li>• Kids Helpline</li> </ul> <p>Industry representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications Alliance</li> <li>• Facebook</li> <li>• Google</li> <li>• Microsoft</li> <li>• Telstra</li> <li>• TikTok</li> <li>• Twitter</li> </ul>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
<p>Cyber Security and Safety Communications Working Group</p> <p>(Information provided by Home Affairs and DITRDC as Co-chairs)</p>	2 February 2021	<p>Representatives at EL2 level and below from the following agencies attended these meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Affairs</li> <li>• DITRDC</li> <li>• Australian Signals Directorate</li> <li>• AFP</li> <li>• Australian Security Intelligence Organisation</li> <li>• eSafety</li> <li>• Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)</li> <li>• Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC)</li> <li>• DFAT</li> <li>• PM&amp;C</li> <li>• DESE</li> <li>• Office of the Australian Information Commissioner</li> </ul>
	2 March 2021	
	6 April 2021	
	4 May 2021	
	14 June 2021	
	12 July 2021	
	9 August 2021	
	13 September 2021	
	11 October 2021	
	8 November 2021	
	13 December 2021	
<p>Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) Prevention Awareness Working Group</p> <p>(Information provided by the ACCCE as chair)</p>	28 April 2021	<p>Representatives at varying levels from the following organisations attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFP</li> <li>• ACCCE</li> <li>• Daniel Morcombe Foundation</li> <li>• Bravehearts</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch Australasia</li> <li>• Carly Ryan Foundation</li> <li>• Act for Kids</li> <li>• Yourtown</li> <li>• National Association for Prevention of Child abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)</li> <li>• A21</li> <li>• Crime Stoppers Australia</li> <li>• eSafety</li> <li>• Home Affairs</li> <li>• National Office of Child Safety</li> <li>• DITRDC</li> </ul>
	28 November 2021	<p>Representatives at varying levels from the following organisations attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACCCE</li> <li>• AFP</li> <li>• Daniel Morcombe Foundation</li> <li>• Bravehearts</li> <li>• Act for Kids</li> <li>• NAPCAN</li> <li>• Crime Stoppers WA</li> <li>• Yourtown</li> </ul>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alannah and Madeline Foundation</li> <li>AMD</li> <li>Cystic Fibrosis Queensland</li> <li>University of Queensland</li> <li>Edith Cowan University</li> <li>World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights</li> <li>IFYS Limited</li> <li>eSafety</li> <li>Home Affairs</li> <li>PM&amp;C</li> <li>DESE</li> <li>DSS</li> </ul>
Preventing Terrorist and Violent Extremist Exploitation of the Internet  (Rotating chair)	12 February 2021 (Chair: Home Affairs)  21 April 2021 (Chair: eSafety)  21 May 2021 (Chair: DITRDC)	Representatives at EL2 level and below from the following agencies attended the meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home Affairs</li> <li>Australian Federal Police</li> <li>AGD</li> <li>eSafety</li> <li>DITRDC</li> <li>PM&amp;C</li> <li>DFAT</li> <li>DISER</li> </ul>
Cyber Security Band 3 Interdepartmental Committee  (Information provided by PM&C as co-chair with Home Affairs)	24 February 2021	PM&C Caroline Millar, Deputy Secretary Carolyn Patteson, First Assistant Secretary  Home Affairs Marc Ablong, Deputy Secretary Hamish Hansford, First Assistant Secretary  Finance Matt Yannopoulos, Deputy Secretary  AFP Tony Alderman, Manager  Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) Peter Alexander, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) Abigail Bradshaw, Head ACSC  AGD Sarah Chidgey, Deputy Secretary  DITRDC Richard Windeyer, Deputy Secretary

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>Services Australia Charles McHardie, Deputy Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Defence Zoe Cameron, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DFAT Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technologies</p> <p>Office of National Intelligence (ONI) Paul Taloni, Deputy Director-General</p> <p>ACIC Matt Rippon, Executive Director</p> <p>ASIO Deputy Director-General</p> <p>DISER Elizabeth Kelly, Deputy Secretary</p>
	18 May 2021	<p>PM&amp;C Caroline Millar, Deputy Secretary Carolyn Patteson, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Home Affairs Marc Ablong, Deputy Secretary Hamish Hansford, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Finance Matt Yannopoulos, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>AFP Chris Black, National Manager</p> <p>DTA Peter Alexander, Deputy Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) Abigail Bradshaw, Head ACSC</p> <p>AGD Sarah Chidgey, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DITRDC Tristan Kathage, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Services Australia Maria Milosavljevic, General Manager</p>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>Defence Celia Perkins, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DFAT Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technologies</p> <p>Office of National Intelligence (ONI) Paul Taloni, Deputy Director-General</p> <p>ACIC Matt Rippon, Executive Director</p> <p>ASIO Deputy Director-General</p> <p>DISER Mary Wiley-Smith, Deputy Secretary</p>
	4 August 2021	<p>PM&amp;C Caroline Millar, Deputy Secretary Carolyn Patteson, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Home Affairs Marc Ablong, Deputy Secretary Hamish Hansford, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Finance Geoff Painton, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>AFP Ian McCartney, Deputy Commissioner</p> <p>DTA Peter Alexander, Deputy Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) Abigail Bradshaw, Head ACSC</p> <p>AGD Sarah Chidgey, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DITRDC Richard Windeyer, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Services Australia Maria Milosavljevic, General Manager</p> <p>Defence Zoe Cameron, Assistant Secretary</p>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>DFAT Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technologies</p> <p>Office of National Intelligence (ONI) Paul Taloni, Deputy Director-General</p> <p>ACIC Matt Rippon, Executive Director</p> <p>ASIO Deputy Director-General</p> <p>DISER Mary Wiley-Smith, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DESE Karen Sandercock, First Assistant Secretary</p>
<p>Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce</p> <p>(Information provided by the Australian Electoral Commissioner (AEC) as co-chair with DoF)</p>	<p><b>Board</b></p> <p>2021 – 5 meetings</p> <p>2022 – 1 meeting (as at 3 February)</p> <p><b>Working level meeting</b></p> <p>2021 – 15 meetings</p> <p>2022 – 2 meetings (as at 3 February)</p>	<p>The EIAT Board is comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEC – Deputy Electoral Commissioner</li> <li>• AFP – Deputy Commissioner Investigations</li> <li>• AGD – Deputy Secretary, Integrity and International</li> <li>• ASD – First Assistant Director-General, Partnerships, Engagement and Programs</li> <li>• Finance – Deputy Secretary, Governance and Resource Management</li> <li>• DITRDC – First Assistance Secretary, Content Division</li> <li>• Home Affairs – Deputy Secretary, Social Cohesion and Citizenship / Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator</li> <li>• ONI – First Assistant Director-General, Intelligence Coordination, Integration and Engagement</li> <li>• PMC – Assistant Secretary, Parliamentary and Government Branch</li> <li>• PMC – Assistant Secretary, Homeland Security</li> </ul> <p>The EIAT Board is supported, as needed, by the national intelligence community.</p> <p>Representatives at EL2 level and below attended the meetings. The Taskforce comprises the following agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEC</li> <li>• DoF</li> <li>• PM&amp;C</li> <li>• DITRDC</li> </ul>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGD</li> <li>• Home Affairs</li> <li>• AFP</li> </ul> <p>The Taskforce is supported, as needed, by the national intelligence community.</p>
Meetings with ACCC regarding Digital Platforms Services Inquiry  (Information provided by DITRDC and ACCC)	10 March 2021	DITRDC Bridget Gannon, Assistant Secretary  ACCC Kate Reader, Joint General Manager Morag Bond, Joint General Manager
	23 August 2021	DITRDC Various staff at EL2 level and below  ACCC Kate Reader, Joint General Manager
	27 October 2021	DITRDC Various staff at EL2 level and below  ACCC Kate Reader, Joint General Manager Morag Bond, Joint General Manager
	8 December 2021	DITRDC Kerstin Wijeyewardene, Assistant Secretary Adam Carlon, Assistant Secretary James Penprase, Assistant Secretary  ACCC Kate Reader, Joint General Manager Morag Bond, Joint General Manager
Digital Economy Strategy Interdepartmental Committee  (Information provided by PM&C as chair)	16 February 2021	Treasury Jessica Robinson, Assistant Secretary  DISER Elizabeth Kelly, Deputy Secretary Narelle Luchetti, First Assistant Secretary  DITRDC Richard Windeyer, Deputy Secretary Gayle Milnes, First Assistant Secretary  Department of Finance (DoF) Nathan Williamson, Deputy Secretary  Health Daniel McCabe, First Assistant Secretary  DTA Jonathon Thorpe, General Manager

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) Rosemary Deninger, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DSS Sarah Guise, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DESE John Dardo, Deputy Secretary Rena Houston, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DFAT Caroline McCarthy, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>National Indigenous Authority Agency (NIAA) Ryan Bulman, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Australian Tax Office (ATO) Ramez Katf, Second Commissioner</p> <p>PM&amp;C Simon Duggan, Deputy Secretary Lyndal Groom, a/g First Assistant Secretary Marc Vickers, a/g Assistant Secretary</p>
	16 March 2021	<p>Treasury Meghan Quinn, Deputy Secretary Jessica Robinson, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DISER Narelle Luchetti, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DTA Scott Cass-Dunbar, General Manager Juleigh Cook, Branch Manager</p> <p>Health Daniel McCabe</p> <p>DITRDC Richard Windeyer, Deputy Secretary Gayle Milnes, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>AGD Sarah Chidgey, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DoF Shannon Frazer, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DAWE Christine Mulhearn, Assistant Secretary</p>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>DSS Teena Blewitt, Group Manager</p> <p>DESE John Dardo, Deputy Secretary Katerina Lawler, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DFAT Caroline McCarthy, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>NIAA Senior Adviser (EL2)</p> <p>Services Australia Michael McNamara, Chief Information Officer Charles McHardie, a/g Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>ASD First Assistant Director-General</p> <p>PM&amp;C Simon Duggan, Deputy Secretary Michelle Dowdell, First Assistant Secretary Marc Vickers, a/g Assistant Secretary</p>
	15 April 2021	<p>Treasury Kate O'Rourke, First Assistant Secretary Jessica Robinson, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Home Affairs Hamish Hansford, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DISER Tim Bradley, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DTA Peter Alexander, a/g Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Health Rowena Sierant, a/g Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DITRDC Gayle Milnes, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>AGD Julia Galuccio, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Austrade Kelly Ralston, General Manager</p>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>DoF Shannon Frazer, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DAWE Joanna Stanion, First Assistant Secretary Christine Mulhearn, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DESE Katerina Lawler, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Services Australia Charles McHardie, a/g Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>ASD First Assistant Director-General</p> <p>PM&amp;C Michelle Dowdell, First Assistant Secretary</p>
	16 July 2021	<p>Treasury Meghan Quinn, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>Home Affairs Greg Miller, a/g Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DISER Mary Wiley-Smith, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DTA Jonathan Thorpe, General Manager</p> <p>Health Penny Shakespeare, Deputy Secretary Daniel McCabe, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DITRDC Stephanie Werner, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>AGD Julia, Galluccio, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Austrade Philippa King, Deputy CEO Lynne Ashpole, Head of Policy Development and Coordination Christie Sawczuk, Deputy Head</p> <p>DoF Shannon Frazer, First Assistant Secretary</p>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>DAWE Nick Blong, a/g Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DSS Matthew Flavel, Deputy Secretary</p> <p>DESE Nadine Williams, Deputy Secretary Renaë Houston, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DFAT Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technologies Caroline McCarthy, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>NIAA Debbie Mitchell, a/g Deputy Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Services Australia Liz Bundy, General Manager</p> <p>ASD First Assistant Director-General</p> <p>PM&amp;C Michelle Dowdell, First Assistant Secretary Andrew Lalor, Assistant Secretary</p>
	26 August 2021	<p>Treasury Kate O'Rourke, First Assistant Secretary Jessica Robinson, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Home Affairs Hamish Hansford, First Assistant Secretary Kavita Kewal, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DISER Tim Wyndham, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DTA Jonathon Thorpe, General Manager</p> <p>Health Daniel McCabe, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DITRDC Gayle Milnes, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>AGD Andrew Walter, First Assistant Secretary</p>

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Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>Austrade Lynne Ashpole, Head of Policy Development and Coordination Sam Palmer, General Manager Christie Sawczuk, Deputy Head</p> <p>DoF Shannon Frazer, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DAWE Christine Mulhearn, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DSS Mary McLarty, Group Manager</p> <p>DESE Rena Houston, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DFAT Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technologies</p> <p>NIAA Jane Christie, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Services Australia Liz Bundy, General Manager</p> <p>ASD First Assistant Director-General</p> <p>PM&amp;C Michelle Dowdell, First Assistant Secretary Matt Sedgwick, a/g Assistant Secretary</p>
	15 December 2021	<p>Treasury Kate O'Rourke, First Assistant Secretary David Pearl, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Home Affairs Brendan Dowling, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DISER Geoff Mason, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DTA Jonathon Thorpe, General Manager Lisa Jansen, Branch Manager</p>

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**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

Group	Meeting	Attendees
		<p>Health Jeremy Sullivan, a/g Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DITRDC Pauline Sullivan, First Assistant Secretary Kerstin Wjeyewardene, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>AGD Autumn Field, Assistant Secretary Michael Johnson, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>Austrade Sam Guthrie, General Manager Dan Curtis, Head of Regulatory and Delivery</p> <p>DoF Anna Harmer, First Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DAWE Allison Curran, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DSS Libby Cremen, Branch Manager</p> <p>DESE Anthony Millgate, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>DFAT Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technologies Caroline McCarthy, Assistant Secretary</p> <p>NIAA Senior Adviser (EL2)</p> <p>Services Australia Liz Bundy, General Manager</p> <p>ASD Assistant Director General</p> <p>PM&amp;C Michelle Dowdell, First Assistant Secretary Shane Johnson, a/g First Assistant Secretary Louise Talbot, Assistant Secretary Matt Sedgwick, a/g Assistant Secretary</p>

**Communications and the Arts**

Inquiry into Social Media and Online Safety

ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

IQ22-000005

**Division/Agency:** DIV - Online Safety Media and Platforms

**Topic:** Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill 2021

**Proof Hansard Page:** 26 (28 January 2022)

**Mr Tim Watts MP asked:**

Mr WATTS: That's probably a timely point to ask about the Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill 2021. Can you confirm that this is an exposure draft and policy process owned by the Attorney-General's Department?

Mr Windeyer: Yes, that's correct.

Mr WATTS: When did you first become aware the government was considering this legislation?

Mr Windeyer: Late last year. Somewhere in the last quarter of last year.

Mr WATTS: Can you come back to me on notice with a specific time for when you were engaged on that bill.

Mr Windeyer: We can take that on notice, yes.

**Answer:**

DITRDC staff first time met with officers in the Attorney-General's Department to discuss the proposed defamation reforms on 18 October 2021.