

## Consultation on Online Safety

### December 2019 to February 2020

- A 10 week public consultation period was held from 11 December 2019 to 19 February 2020. The announcement was supported by a Keynote address by the Minister at the National Press Club, a national media release and detailed information posted on the Department's website.
- 86 submissions were received, 46 of these were made public.

### Industry Forums

- The Minister hosted two industry forums to discuss the proposals:
  - ISPs and device manufacturers – 31 January 2020 in Melbourne.
    - Invitees were: Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, TPG, Huawei, Samsung, Apple, Boost Mobile, MEDION Mobile, Vocus Communications, Communications Alliance and the Australian Mobile Telephone Association.
  - Digital platforms and gaming industry – 17 February 2020 in Sydney.
    - Invitees were: Twitter, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft, Google, DIGI, Communications Alliance and the Interactive Games & Entertainment Association (IGEA).

### Civil Society Forums

- During the consultation period, 58 stakeholders with an interest in online safety were invited to participate in the Department's roundtables. 24 organisations attended civil society roundtables or one-on-one meetings as part of the consultation process.
  - Attendees at the Civil Society Roundtables in Melbourne on 6 February 2020 were:
    - Youth Support Organisations: Alannah and Madeline Foundation, Project Rokit, Reality and Risk, Child Wise and Beyond Blue.
    - Adult Support Organisations: PartnerSPEAK, InfoXchange, Digital Rights Watch, Electronic Frontiers Australia and Domestic Violence Victoria.
  - Attendees at the Civil Society Roundtables in Canberra on 11 February 2020 were: Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) and the Australian Library and Information Association.
  - Attendees at Civil Society Roundtables in Sydney on 18 February 2020 were:
    - Youth Support Organisations: eChildhood, Youth Law Australia and Foundation for Young Australians.
    - Adult Support Organisations: Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, Everymind, Women's Safety NSW and Scarlet Alliance.
    - Consumer Rights Organisations: Responsible Technology Australia.
  - The Department also met with Yourtown on 11 February 2020 and the Centre for Inclusive Design on 21 February 2020.

## December 2020 to February 2021

- An 8 week public consultation period was held from 23 December 2020 to 14 February 2021. The Announcement was supported by a press release.
- The Department received 408 submissions on the Exposure Draft of the Online Safety Bill.
  - 376 submission were received before public consultation closed at 5pm on Sunday 14 February 2021.
  - Of these, 154 submissions were received by close of business 12 February 2021.

## Themes in the submissions

- On Tuesday 16 February, the Minister was briefed on the 376 submissions received by the 14 February deadline, including
  - 333 of the submissions received before close of consultation were from private citizens.
  - 18 submissions were made by members of online industry and industry peak bodies, including Twitter, Google, Twitch, DIGI (online industry peak body), and Communications Alliance (communications sector peak body).

## Who we contacted

- The Minister wrote to State and Territory first Ministers, and industry members who participated in industry forums in January – February 2020 to inform them of the consultation period.
- The Department sent an email to 159 interested industry, civil society, government stakeholders and individuals that expressed an interest in online safety to advise them of the consultation period.

## Who we met with

- The Government did not hold forums for industry or civil society groups in this round of consultation, instead the Department conducted meetings by request. We met with:
  - The Australian Muslim Advocacy Network – 22 January 2021;
  - Match Group – 29 January 2021 ;and
  - The Interactive Games and Entertainment Association (IGEA) – 10 February 2021.