

12 January 2015

Committee Secretariat
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senators

Re: Inquiry into 'Enhancing Online Safety for Children Bill 2014'

Thank you for inviting NAPCAN to comment on the *Enhancing Online Safety for Children Bill 2014*.

NAPCAN supports the proposed legislation and are satisfied that key recommendations from our submission in the consultation phase have been incorporated in the Bill.

We support the role of the e-Safety Commissioner and its functions as specified in the Bill. In particular that the e-Safety Commissioner provides timely, clear and effective assistance to children, young people, their families and Online Service Providers who have concerns regarding online material directed at children.

We recognise that there is a significant role for a centralised point of communication for the public and industry, which can coordinate activity across the Federal Government Departments and State and Territory Governments.

In this Bill it is proposed that ACMA's Online Content Scheme be administered by the e-Safety Commissioner (Part 2; S12 (c)), we note that although this function may have synergies with other functions of this new body it could also distract the e-Safety Commissioner from a dedicated focus on the online safety of children.

NAPCAN welcomes the emphasis of the e-Safety Commissioner's role, as specified in Part 2; S15, 1 (f), *to support, encourage, conduct, accredit and evaluate educational, promotional and community awareness programs that are relevant to online safety for children*; as we believe building the capacity of children, young people, their families and communities is essential in creating a sustainable preventative initiative.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the development of this policy.

Yours Sincerely

Richard Cooke
Chief Executive Officer