



THE SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTERFERENCE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

MEDIA RELEASE

28 July 2020

The Senate's [Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media](#) will be holding two public hearings to inquire into the risk posed to Australia's democracy by foreign interference through social media, with particular reference to:

- a. use of social media for purposes that undermine Australia's democracy and values, including the spread of misinformation;
- b. responses to mitigate the risk posed to Australia's democracy and values, including by the Australian Government and social media platforms;
- c. international policy responses to cyber-enabled foreign interference and misinformation;
- d. the extent of compliance with Australian laws; and
- e. any related matters.

The first public hearing is scheduled for **Friday, 21 August 2020**.^{*} This hearing will feature international and domestic experts. The Committee has also invited representatives from TikTok Australia to appear.

The second public hearing will occur in **September 2020**. The Committee has invited representatives from Facebook, Twitter, Google and WeChat to appear.

The Committee will be reporting in March 2022 and anticipates holding a number of further hearings before then. Information about those hearings will be made available in the usual course.

For more information about this Committee, you can visit its [website](#). On the site, you can make a submission to an inquiry, read other submissions, and get details for upcoming public hearings. You can also track the Committee and receive email updates by clicking on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner of the page.

For media comment contact the office of Senator Jenny McAllister, Committee Chair, on 0436 632 388

For information about the inquiry process, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 3585 or foreigninterference.sen@aph.gov.au

This media release was amended on 28 July 2020 to reflect that WeChat has also been invited to attend.

^{*}The hearing of 21 August 2020 has been postponed until 25 September 2020. This amendment was made on 18 August 2020.

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