

The Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

To the representative of the Government

The above amendments to the age of consent to have access to social media is not one that the government should be involved in. While there are many reasons for this, below are three main points that definitely explain why this is a bad idea.

I have been in the IT industry for over 30 years and have been responsible for the education of many people in this industry. While I agree that there needs to be control to some degree on what our children can watch (I have 6 children BTW) it is not up to the government to regulate this, it is the responsibility of the parents. So if you need to stop this then help the parents and spend the money on educating these parents.

Reason this is a bad idea.

1. It is not the governments job to be the parents of the children in society and you would be stepping into areas of beliefs and morals of the individual parents. As well as trying to draw a line as to what is good and educational and what is bad for a child's Psyche. Children now days use the internet for a lot of research and education. For example 1 of my children is very heavily in to Physics and Quantum theory and has been for the last 4 years. While he is now 17, he was 13 when this first started, such legislation would have severely limited his passion to learn. Much of the information came from You tube and scientific papers, along with alternative ideas and relevant information that come from the likes Wikipedia. Youtube alone would fall under the social platform and Wikipedia has far more content that can be classed as bad and misleading. So would this also be included? This is not your decision it is mine as the parent, and as a parent I say stay out of my right to educate my Offspring.
2. This is a backdoor to limiting and indoctrinating our future generation to believe the government has the right to control its citizens, which is so far from the truth it is ridiculous. Please keep in mind that you are a representative which means you represent US the people. You work for us and do not control us. This legislation that you are putting forward "is in excess of the power" that we grant you and can easily be challenged on that ground alone.
3. Thirdly and most importantly how would you implement such a ban. With 30+ years as a programmer and network engineer I can only envisage that you or the companies that were to enforce this idea would have to break so many laws (along with the trust of the people) just to even monitor the traffic coming from each person's home. To do this you would have to start to implement the following all of which is an invasion of privacy to say this least.
 - a. Force a user to identify themselves at login and say every 30 seconds to make sure some one else is not now in the seat.
 - b. Must provide a valid Digital ID to prove who they are and record the details (even thought that is only voluntary at this stage)
 - c. Literally add spy ware the person computer to operate the camera and take pictures every 5 second to use AI photo recognition software to Identify the person at the keyboard.

- d. Add spyware to report the typing style (rate, speed, Words, Errors, Capitalization frequency) for AI to analyse as well as monitor Mouse movements. So as to identify the user at the keyboard.
- e. Use system specific programs like Microsoft Copilot to take snapshots of the screen contents to see what is being viewed and time stamps so you can match it with other intel and then transmit this data to secured servers.
- f. **Monitor and decrypt and store IP traffic** from all Australian internet connections no matter whether it private or corporate (bring your kid to work day)
- g. Turn on Microphones in the building to hear any chatter that may happen near the device.
- h. Install software on the buildings Wifi devices to literally track movement in the building (This is not fiction the software already exists)
- i. Disable any VPN software so it can't run and insure a user's privacy

And this is just what comes off the top of my head. There is no way you could enforce this law on the social media companies or the individual operator with out asking them to break many of the already in force laws. Privacy laws, Extortion laws, Surveillance Laws, are just a few that come to mind here.

It is technically impossible to implement and convict some one or company for this with out asking a court for a surveillance warrant and what would be your proof that you need it.

1. Well that households IP address visited Facebook
 - a. Oh really and which DEVICE in the house did this?
2. A phone with MAC address AD:EF: we believe it is the 12 year olds son's Phone
 - a. Who is the owner of the phone?
 - i. The father
 - b. How do you know the son accessed this social media site?
 - i. He posted a picture of himself
 - c. Did he post it or did his father What proof do you have?
 - i. It was a selfie and the phone says it was at these coordinates at the time which is what the picture shows.
 - d. And what proof do you have that someone else who is over 16 years old did not post it?
 - i. Uhmhhh

And I rest My Case..... How many millions of dollars would be spent on investigating this not to mention the stress and cost to the parents over such a bullshit concept. Yes PORN, Gruesome Acts of Violence should not be seen by young eyes that are not equipped to handle it. But it is the parents job to censor this Not Yours.

This bill is a waste of Time Money and Effort. Put that money towards an education program for Parents Instead,

I do not Consent to the passing of this bill.

Vincent Pannell