

Submission regarding the:

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

This ill-begotten, immature, vague and dangerous legislation must be stopped.

It is the start of a “social credit score” like the Chinese Communist Party has.

We are playing with fire.

This will silence whistleblowers and victims. It will stop Australians from speaking up, hearing and sharing information which is critical to the health of any democracy.

The title of this legislation is deceptive misinformation

Clearly the real aim and impact of this legislation is to force all adults to use a digital ID which is the only way a platform can be sure participants are old enough to use their services.

In the name of saving children from bullying on Facebook and X, we’re going to risk giving them a totalitarian dystopia.

Mandatory ID makes dissent so much more difficult, and that’s the point.

Now whistleblowers or government critics will have to first put their faces on camera, or give up their identity. It will be so much easier for the government to track and collate all your comments, and probably guess how you vote.

When hackers steal the data, which they will, then employers, the CCP, insurance companies, and marketing teams will be happy to buy the details for the right price.

This will open Australians up to extortion and blackmail.

Viral newsfeeds allow millions of Australians to “like” or share the key issues of the day. Effectively this process filters and amplifies the most important issues to millions of minds, so the key concepts that matter can rise to the top above the fog of distraction and clutter. These laws will cloud up, reduce, and impair that filter as many people sit it out instead of participating.

Great thoughts and wicked jokes will disappear like a drop of rain in a desert. Unliked, and unshared, and mostly unheard.

This law doesn’t add any choices, it just reduces them. It gives more power to the government, and takes it away from the people.

It doesn’t make sense that every citizen has to lose anonymity, suffer the tyranny of more protection for the corrupt and powerful and less protection for the working poor.

Societies without free speech inevitably get poorer, more corrupt, and some get gulags and death camps as well. We will be one step closer to the gates of hell.

The sole benefit of these laws is just so a few parents don't have to face the wrath of a 14 year old who says "but my friends can use facebook". It's not worth the risk.

While Australians might superficially want more restrictions on Under 16s, few would understand the major impact this will have on free speech online. Both Labor and Liberal members should be ashamed and disgusted at their lack of honesty, and the lack of public discussion, and the ridiculous speed they are pushing these far-reaching and dangerous changes.

Sincerely,

Joanne Nova

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