



The Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Communications and Minister for Sport
Member for Lilley

Ref No: MS25-002877

Ms Jodie Belyea MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
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Dear Ms Belyea

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 October 2025 regarding Petition EN7830 concerning the social media minimum age legislation.

Keeping Australians safe online is a top priority for the Australian Government. The Government is focused on positive solutions to issues of national concern, and the risk of harm to children and young people from social media is at the top of that list.

The social media minimum age requires age restricted social media platforms to prevent Australians under 16 years from having accounts. The legislation reflects Australians' expectations for a strong regulatory response to harms experienced by children and young people on social media platforms, including problematic use, social isolation, poor mental health, and exposure to harmful content.

Compatibility with human rights

As part of developing the Bill that introduced the social media minimum age, the Government undertook an assessment of the impacts on human rights. A Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights is published with the Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill, and affirms that to the extent the laws impact human rights, those impacts are reasonable, necessary and proportionate to achieve the legitimate aims of the social media minimum age.

Privacy protections under the social media minimum age

I also note the concerns raised in the petition about privacy risks and wish to reassure the signatories that the Government takes the privacy of Australians seriously. The legislation incorporates strong protections for information collected by platforms for age assurance purposes, with serious penalties applicable for breach of these requirements.

Importantly, platforms must not use information collected through age assurance methods for any other purpose, unless explicitly agreed by the user. This agreement must be voluntary, informed, current, specific and unambiguous – this is an elevated requirement, beyond what is required by the *Privacy Act 1988*, that precludes platforms from seeking consent through preselected settings or opt-outs.

The legislation is clear that no Australian will be forced to use government identification (including Digital ID) for age assurance on social media. The legislation specifies that platforms must not collect government-issued identification or require the use of Digital ID (provided by an accredited service, within the meaning of the *Digital ID Act 2024*), unless a reasonable alternate means is also offered.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Anika Wells

27 November 2025