

Submission to the Consultation on a Bill for a new Online Safety Act by Heath Vigus

I am gravely concerned about several aspects of the bill and the possibility for unintended consequences, regardless of the best intentions of the Bill's drafters.

Specifically:

The potential threat of requirements to weaken and/or undermine encryption presents numerous risks to both individuals whose safety requires on privacy, as well as the underpinnings of e-commerce.

The Bill provides insufficient accountability, oversight and appeals processes regarding the unilateral power to decide what is, and is not, acceptable, and whose standards are being imposed.

No provision for any expected review of performance or outcomes of the Bill, or the amendment thereof, should the stakeholders find that its consequences are ineffective — or, even worse — damaging or dangerous.

I believe the Bill should be withdrawn and re-submitted after being re-written taking into account the numerous issues it contains in its current form.