

To whom it may concern,

I am an Australian resident who uses the internet for a multitude of things such as socialising, following adult content creators, keeping in touch with friends all over Australia and I am also the partner of a sex-worker. I also am part of the LGBTQIA+ community and feel the discrimination from online platforms and current legislation. I highly value my freedom, privacy & anonymity whilst using the internet.

My concerns over the proposals in the Online Safety Bill are as follows:

- Adult content is natural and safe for consenting adults. It is part of general wellbeing to be able to express one's sexuality, removing the freedoms around these things will cause more issues than it solves.
- Damning adult content as dangerous or abhorrent is in of itself dangerous to society because it is part of our nature and condemning part of human nature is extremely damaging to people's mental health.
- Sex education could be deemed abhorrent by the e-Safety commissioner. Important information surrounding consent, sexuality, sexual health & pregnancy/abortion rights is barely covered currently in Australian schooling and removing access to this information could see a spike in sexually transmitted disease, unwanted pregnancy and rape.
- The employ of a sole e-safety commissioner is concerning as how can you be sure with this bill that the individual will pass judgement without allowing their own preferences, experiences and personal opinions to affect the decisions they make.
A clause declaring that a board of people whom the bill would affect (consisting of online content creators, LGBTQIA+ community members, adult industry professionals, sex worker organisations) should be the ones making a standard for the review of content online.
- I personally know more than a few people who depend on their income from various kinds of sex work services to support themselves and their families and would be in dire straits if this bill were to be put into action as is.
- Current legislation and TOS on internet platforms already targets sex workers and the LGBTQIA+ community by lumping in sex and sexuality with violence, drug use and gambling. Sex is simply not violence, however restricting it is systemic oppression.

When SESTA/FOSTA was implemented in the US, both my partner and I felt the effects of it in Australia. My mental health suffered because my partner's mental health and income being compromised. I recall her coming home crying because she had been forced into bookings with difficult clients as well as working more hours than she had agreed to (11-12 hour shifts) just to make ends meet. These things happened because websites like Backpage and Craigslist had been deleted due to SESTA/FOSTA, reducing her income and raising her overhead fees drastically.

The Online Safety bill could be positive for Australians. However, in its current state it will be extremely damaging to the Australian economy, already marginalised communities and breach personal freedoms that every human should have.

I hope you consider my letter thoughtfully as I think this is of great importance to myself and vulnerable people that already do not receive the amount of support that they sorely need.

Kind regards.

M.