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**RE: Consultation on a new Online Safety Act**

Dear Director

We understand the need to regulate online content so as to protect Australians from harms such as cyberbullying, child abuse images and terrorism related content. Many Parts of the Online Safety Bill 2020 help achieve this goal.

Touching Base Inc is an Australian organisation developed out of the need to assist people with disability and sex workers to connect with each other, focusing on access, discrimination, human rights and legal issues and the attitudinal barriers that these two marginalised communities can face.

Touching Base plans to make a digital app to expand the availability and useability of our "Clearly Picturing Your Sexual Needs" AAC (*Augmentative and Alternative Communication*) resource. This resource needs to be openly and sexually explicit to enable free and clear communication between adults who may rely on AAC resources and technology to express their desires and consent

We fear that under new guidelines access to much needed resources, education and services will be restricted. The disability community uses sexual services just as any other community member would yet quite often, they face difficulty on many levels and to further restrict access is not only unjust- it's denying a basic human right. That to sexual expression.

Part 9 of the Online Safety Bill 2020 seeks to regulate online content including online pornography by giving the E Safety Commissioner the power to take down online adult content. Part 9 presents a threat to the Australian disability community and their sexual lives. We therefore oppose Part 9 and call on Part 9 to be removed from the Online Safety Bill 2020.

Yours sincerely

Touching Base Committee Board