



Queensland
Family & Child
Commission

Telephone: 07 3900 6000
Reference: PAL – TF18/474 - D17/17965

Director, Online Content and eSafety Section
Department of Communications and the Arts
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Dear Director,

Thank you for providing the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) with an opportunity to respond to the Reviews of the *Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015* and the Online Content Scheme. The QFCC is an independent statutory authority with an objective to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people in Queensland. The following comments reflect opportunities for collaboration on areas of common interest between the QFCC and the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner currently has powers and functions to promote online safety, support and encourage the implementation of measures to improve online safety for Australians, and coordinate the activities of Commonwealth Departments, authorities and agencies.

This could be enhanced by focusing on national and international influence to improve online safety. For example, the Office of the eSafety Commissioner could consider developing an industry code of practice for social media, while looking into platform restrictions for social media in Australia. The eSafety Commissioner's functions could be improved to empower the agency to have greater influence over the development of industry standards.

Community education programs are best coordinated by state and territory governments, to reflect different state and territory laws, and promote efficiencies working with schools and child-related services. However, the Office of the eSafety Commissioner can have a role in national coordination of online safety messaging through its membership of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians or through its partnerships with state and territory initiatives. For example, the eSafety Commissioner has been a member of the QFCC's Out of the Dark Steering Committee, which has guided online safety education in Queensland.

State partnerships can also be further strengthened for targeted purposes through the development of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). The QFCC looks forward to working closely with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, including consideration of an MoU, to strengthen online safety in Queensland.

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If you or your officers have any queries in relation to this matter they may contact Tracy Fogarty,
Director, Office of the Commissioners, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Vardon".

Cheryl Vardon
Principal Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child Commission

25 JUL 2018