

## Sample – Campaign 5

Dear Secretary

Submission on the Social-Media Minimum Age Bill 2024

We are completely committed to the protection of children. However, we have some concerns about the above legislation as follows:

1. Rushed legislation without proper public consultation is historically flawed legislation. We ask that this consultative period be extended by a fair and reasonable time frame to enable widespread feedback.
2. There is no clarity with respect to how the verifying process will work for users over 16. This is particularly worrying at a time when privacy concerns, digital theft and lack of trust in government programs is at an all-time high.
3. The responsibility for the online activity of children should be a parental or guardians' role. There are already ample parental control tools available. This bill diminishes the traditional and proven role of family.
4. The responsibility of government should be to use filters at the Internet Service Provider level to block high risk sites/sources for children and others that may be vulnerable. Government have been lobbied to do this for two decades and refuse to fulfil their obligations in this respect.
5. Government should work with social media platforms to determine strategies where offenders can be quickly identified. Social Media groups are clearly experts with algorithms, these algorithms should be used to seek and identify offenders.
6. The government should also establish an easy to access 'dob in a predator' system along the lines of the 'dob in a tax cheat' system. This should be promoted throughout the community. This then ensures that the whole community are 'on-watch' for predatory behaviour online and have a place to report this behaviour.

There are also multiple other ways the government can reduce the vulnerability of children with respect to online activity without the restrictions imposed in this bill.

Restricting access is not the answer.

Yours sincerely,