



THE SENATE

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

4 March 2022

Public hearing: Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill 2022

On 10 February 2022, the Senate referred the Social Media (Anti-Trolling) Bill 2022 [Provisions] to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 24 March 2022.

The bill, if enacted, would protect Australians from online harm, including the harmful impacts of defamatory online comments posted anonymously.

On 10 March 2022, the committee will hold a public hearing in Canberra. At this hearing, the committee would like to hear from a panel of individuals who have experienced online harm.

If you are interested in sharing your experience of online harm at the hearing, you are invited to provide an expression of interest comprising a written overview of your experience, no longer than 250 words, by 5.00pm AEDT on Tuesday, 8 March 2022.

If you are invited by the committee to appear at the hearing, your appearance may be in person or via video- or teleconference. The hearing is a public event, which means members of the public and the media are free to attend the hearing in person or watch the hearing via the internet.

Please note that it is not the role of the committee to resolve or arbitrate individual matters. You should also be aware that if information provided to the committee reflects adversely on another party, the committee generally provides that party access to the information and an opportunity to respond. It is also open to the committee to decline to accept or decline to publish information that contains adverse reflections.

Information about the inquiry is available on the inquiry webpage at:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs/Anti-Trolling.

The committee's final report will be presented to the Senate and made publicly available, via the inquiry webpage, on **24 March 2022**.

For media comment contact the office of Senator the Hon Sarah Henderson, Committee Chair, on (03) 5221 5900.

For information about the inquiry process or making a submission, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 3560 or via email to legcon.sen@aph.gov.au.

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