

Criminal Code Amendment (Deepfake Sexual Material) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Universities Australia response to questions on notice:

QUESTION | The question I have is in relation to this issue of consent. Does the work which you undertake—and feel free to take this on notice—encompass the intricacies of giving and obtaining consent in the context of images which may be transmitted over the web, over the internet, through mobile phones et cetera?

ANSWER | Universities have policies on technology-facilitated abuse, covering all forms of abusive behaviour that occurs online or via technology. These policies educate students on what technology-facilitated abuse is and outline the reporting and support avenues available. Universities have webpages dedicated to online safety and these are regularly promoted to students and staff. Online safety and consent education are also covered in the suite of activities universities offer during orientation activities and in training programs, modules and webinars made available to students. Universities also participate in, and promote, Safer Internet Day. This global initiative, led by the eSafety Commissioner, raises awareness of online safety issues. Our members are best placed to speak to their own individual initiatives in more depth.

At a whole-of-sector level, Universities Australia has partnered with eSafety to combat online abuse and its impact on students and staff. The *Toolkit for Universities* aims to create safer online environments by raising awareness of online safety risks, providing guidance on preventing, preparing for and responding to online safety incidents, and supporting student and staff wellbeing. The Toolkit includes resources to help university communities stay informed about online safety risks, implement proactive safety measures and apply best practice responses to online safety incidents.

QUESTION | What's the pipeline that you'll use to inform students of this new law once it passes?

ANSWER | Universities Australia regularly communicates with its members about legislative changes that affect universities. We will closely monitor the passage of the Criminal Code Amendment (Deepfake Sexual Material) Bill 2024 and keep our members informed.

Individual universities decide how to communicate legislative changes to students, often through updated communication materials and initiatives such as information campaigns, awareness sessions and on-campus promotions.