

17 August 2021

Objection to “Restricted Access System (RAS)” proposal and related provisions in the Online Safety Act 2021.”

The proposed measures are onerous and morally objectionable to a reasonable adult. This is not an issue that governments should have any authority, the proposal gives wider powers to government to impose their will on their citizens.

Online content considered to be for mature audiences is still considered publicly available information and should not be the responsibility of government to police, despite the nature of the content. Parents are responsible for managing what their children view on the internet and this issue of immature viewers should be regulated by parents, if a parent is failing this responsibility then the existing government social welfare organisations could intervene for the welfare of the child. Beyond this, there should be no mandated measures that regulate what anyone can view online. This is a losing battle and would seem inequitable and difficult to police fairly. There is no evidence to suggest these measures would actually work, there are technologies easily available to by-pass government checks online which younger viewers may already be using.

The only thing these measures do is to impose on people’s freedoms and contributes to the erosion of democratic principles.

Anonymous submission.