

21 December 2023

Office of the eSafety Commissioner

**Feedback on draft Designated Internet Services Standard and Relevant Electronic Services Standard for class 1A and class 1B material.**

To whom it may concern,

I do not have any specific feedback on the draft standards as I have not had the time to review them, nor do I foresee myself having time in the coming weeks where an extension (if I were granted one) would allow me to do so.

However, I would like to raise serious concern with the short length of this public feedback period, and eSafety Commissioner’s insufficiency to properly apply the “Safety by Design” principles they enthusiastically profess to the standards like this and other outputs that they themselves are responsible for designing.

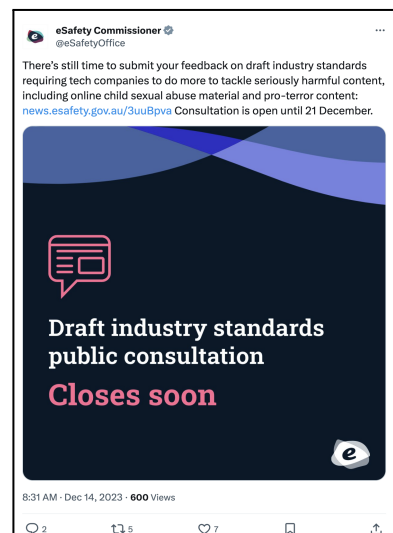
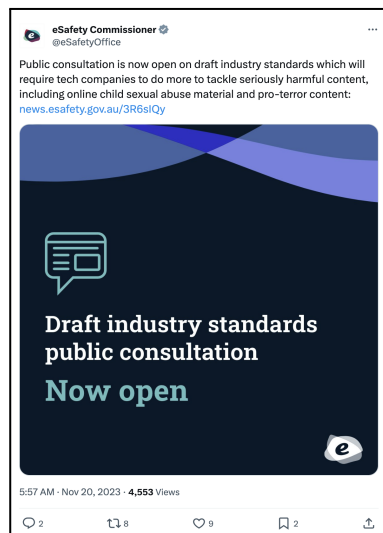
The feedback period was open from November 20th 2023, and closed on December 23rd 2023. This is a total of 32 days, 8 of which are days on weekends.

While short submission periods like this may unfortunately be standard in government, in no way could this be considered a sufficient amount of time for those even whose job is to examine the proposed standards, assess potential implications, and provide well-informed feedback, to do so, let alone people with a day job who exclusively have only weekends to do this.

This would already be the case alone, but when put alongside other related public feedback periods that the Federal Government currently has open it shows how this one was not “designed safely” with consideration of how it would be impacted by other public feedback periods (especially since its proximity to the traditional Christmas and New Year holiday period):

- Online safety draft industry standards – due 21 December
- Inquiry into the Digital ID bill – due 19 January
- Proposed mandatory industry codes for online scams – due 29 January
- Basic Online Safety Expectations Amendment – due 16 February
- Senate inquiry into Australian tech sector sovereign capability – due 23 February

Furthermore, I question how many regular Australian citizens that would be affected by these standards are genuinely aware that there is even a public feedback period open. For example, the post announcing the opening of the feedback period on X has only received 4,553 views, and a recent reminder of the feedback period closing has only received 600 views.



I am aware that extensions are available, however I would assume most people are not aware of this option, or if they are they feel they may not be granted one and instead produce a rushed, ill-considered, poor quality submission that results in the same qualities being passed onto the standards they are providing feedback on.

The eSafety Commissioner needs to ensure in the future that they fully live up to their own "Safety by Design" principles with design decisions that they are responsible for, like the length of this public feedback period.

Thank you,

Anonymous