

Monday 10/4/23: IPA & the Voice

News Corp – James Morrow

I was hoping to get comment from the commissioner's office, or the commissioner herself, on correspondence sent by the IPA concerned that because the 'yes' side of the upcoming referendum throws around charges of 'hate' and 'racism' in what they say is a 'vitriolic' fashion, the eSafety Commissioner might wind up stepping in on that basis to shut down 'no' voices'.

I've attached the letter for your reference -- the IPA also says that innocuous ads and statements have been censored on social media.

Will the eSafety Commissioner be taking a stance for free speech?



IPA Letter to eSafety
Commissioner FINAL (

Please quote a spokesperson for eSafety:

“Under the Online Safety Act, eSafety administers a complaints-based scheme dealing with serious adult cyber abuse targeting an Australian individual. The Act defines adult cyber abuse as material targeting a particular Australian adult that is both:

1. intended to cause serious harm, and
2. menacing, harassing or offensive in all the circumstances.

The dual prong objective test is applied impartially after a report has been made to the platform first, and then to eSafety.

A designation of ‘serious adult cyber abuse’ is reserved for the most severely abusive material intended to cause serious psychological or physical harm; the scheme is not an ‘online hate’ based framework, nor does it apply to political speech. Per eSafety’s regulatory guidance, it is not intended to constrain legitimate expression or robust debates online and we will take reports of serious online abuse and consider them objectively on either side of the Voice debate.

For more information on the serious adult cyber abuse scheme or to make a report, go to: www.esafety.gov.au/report