

Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Premier



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BIG TECH MUST PREVENT HATE AND KEEP KIDS SAFE

Labor will introduce nation-leading laws to keep AI and tech companies accountable and protect our kids.

The new laws will help families take on social media and AI giants and give victims of online hate a way to find out who is targeting them.

Unmasking anonymous online hate

Too many Victorians are being vilified online by anonymous users hiding behind a screen.

Labor will give VCAT new powers to make 'demasking orders' – forcing social media companies to reveal the identity of anonymous users accused of online vilification.

This delivers on the Premier's commitment to hold social media companies to account for online hate.

Making Big Tech accountable for hurting kids

Social media and AI platforms are designed to be addictive – and children are paying the price.

Right now, a family suing a social media or AI company for negligence causing psychiatric harm to their child must clear a high legal threshold before they can bring an action before the courts.

The threshold currently requires proof of a permanent impairment of 10 per cent or more.

Labor will remove that threshold for claims brought on behalf of minors against social media and AI providers, making it easier for families to hold them to account.

Courts overseas have already found platforms liable for designing addictive features aimed at children.

Whether the reform should extend beyond children to adults will be considered as the law is drafted.

Both reforms will be developed following targeted consultation with VCAT, the courts and other stakeholders.

Quotes attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

"Social media and AI companies design their platforms to be addictive, and our kids are paying the price."

"If a platform hurts a child, families should be able to take that company to court."

"Hiding behind an anonymous account online should never mean you can vilify someone and get away with it."

Quote attributable to Attorney-General Sonya Kilkenny

"These reforms will help victims of online hate find out who's really behind the keyboard."

Quote attributable to Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt

"We're taking action, because no one should have their mental health impacted by senseless online hate."

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