

AUSTRALIA'S MISGUIDED LAW

I understand the anxiety adults harbour regarding social media and its impact on young people. However, the proposed policy in Australia to ban all children under 16 from social media is a severe overreach that ultimately creates more danger than it resolves.

It is not a solution; it is an admission of failure in education and parenting.

Firstly, the proposed ban operates on a dangerously simplistic view of adolescence.

Digital literacy is cultivated through guided practice. It does not suddenly materialise upon reaching an appropriate age.

The ban denies younger teens the opportunity to develop these competencies.

A ban will not erase curiosity.

It will simply drive online activity underground, pushing younger users to create anonymous accounts and hide from the very adults who could offer guidance. It replaces potential supervision with guaranteed secrecy.

Critics rightly point to issues like cyberbullying, data privacy and child predators online.

However, addressing these complex problems requires refined solutions.

A wholesale ban is a policy of avoidance. It absolves policymakers and corporations of the work of making the digital world safer.

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