

The Digital Duty of Care Bill

What families need to know



On **15 October 2026**, the Australian Government introduced a new online safety bill to Federal Parliament. It builds on the under-16 social media law by focusing on how platforms are **designed**, not only who can access them. **It is not yet law.**

WHAT THE BILL PROPOSES

01 Safety by design

Online services, from social media to games and messaging apps, would have a legal duty to provide a safe online environment.

02 Protections for children

Platforms would need to protect children from bullying, harmful content and some harmful algorithm features.

03 More say over your feed

Users could choose whether to opt in to the algorithm and get tools to shape what is recommended.

04 Real accountability

Platforms that fail the duty could face penalties of up to \$109.2 million.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

15 OCT 2026

Bill introduced to the House of Representatives

NOW

Senate inquiry, with a report expected before the end of 2026

IF PASSED

The duty begins 12 months after the law is made

Laws can make platforms safer. Only families and communities can make homes more connected.

The most protective things in a young person's life are still close to home: conversation, presence and people who notice.

THREE CONVERSATIONS FOR THE DINNER TABLE

- If you could switch off the algorithm, would you? Why?
- What online makes you feel good, and what doesn't?
- Who would you talk to if something online upset you?