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COPC - Response
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For the Consultation of the Children's Online Privacy Code under the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner:

I have a lot of issues with the draft legislation, and I'd like to explain them in this email.

1. How are things like face scans and ID checks –very *sensitive* pieces of info– supposed to fix the issue of overt data collection on minors when that in itself is data collection? Even if subsection 2 applies, many malefactoring capitalists such as *Google*, *Meta*, and *Persona* would be happy enough at having a reason to insert inane verification, for they provide lucrative advertising sales and government contracts, especially in the wake of the AI market bubble.
2. An entity may not be 'required by or under an Australian law, or a court/tribunal order, to retain the information', but what about overseas entities? They can hold onto as much of a child's information as they want if they have no business interest within Australia.
3. It specifies that a child's **consent** is required for data collection, but would a child even understand *what* they would be consenting to? It would be unlikely that any child under 13 would understand, let alone be interested in privacy and cyber-law, and would probably consent to data harvesting without understanding the full implications because it's easier to skip over such inane things.
4. How would they understand *what* their best interests are? You can easily lie to a child and have them believe it's what they need. In fact it's the *whole point* of advertisements. Consider laws on sexual perversion with children. We understand that sex is not good for kids because they are immature and exploitable. Most kids don't understand this, and can be led to believe it is good. It's the same with data harvesting.
5. "In complying with Australian Privacy Principle 3.2, an entity must not collect personal information (other than sensitive information)"; Are we saying they can't collect information unless it's sensitive? That is not protective of children's privacy. Having a kid's private info be out there is not safe *at all!*
6. Behavioural marketing and algorithms are very much why the Internet is so plagued with data collection. None of the propositions in this draft stop the most of it. They all say "The entity can collect data if the child consents or if ts necessary", not "The entity cannot collect children's data or partake in its sale". If we want to preserve the privacy of children in a privacy preserving manner, we must restrict the obscene sale of user data of *ALL* people of

Australia.

I am also very concerned on the AI industry's effects on current worldwide privacy legislation. Meta, OpenAI, and Roblox has been found to have funneled many millions of dollars into shell organisations and hedge funds pertaining to age verification. Roblox, one of the beneficiaries of these sorts of laws, had an incident at their Developer Conference where a lead musician was raped by a game dev, which shows that age verification and face scans do not stop people from being molested over platforms. To take advice from any of these companies on legislation like this would be equivalent to doing nothing at all. A safer internet would be one not in the interests of shareholders and stock markets. Heed my advice, I implore you!

P.S., If possible, I'd like for this submission to be made public.