



## THE HON PETER MALINAUSKAS MP

PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear parent/caregiver

Today, the Federal Parliament passed laws to implement 16 years as the minimum age for access to social media.

### **This globally-leading reform was initiated here in South Australia.**

The State Government was determined to see reform in this area amid mounting concern and recognition from experts, clinicians, educators, parents and caregivers of the negative impacts of social media use on children's mental health, wellbeing and development.

Following substantial engagement with these stakeholders, it became clear to us that, on balance, a national minimum age for access to social media, is the right thing to do.

That's why here in South Australia, we commissioned former Chief Justice of the High Court, the Hon. Robert French AC, to conduct an independent legal examination into enforcing a minimum age limit for social media access.

His report outlined a path forward to legislate; however, our preference was always for a nationally consistent law, which is why I raised the matter at National Cabinet.

Now, through the work we started here in South Australia, our nation will be a global leader in keeping our next generation safe from the harms of social media.

When we see products doing children harm, whether it be drugs, cigarettes or alcohol, governments have a role to play. The addictive nature of social media is no different.

The national laws will commence following a 12-month implementation period and will establish a minimum age for platforms like Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok and Instagram. They will place the onus on social media platforms – not parents or young people – to take reasonable steps to keep kids under 16 years of age off their platforms.

In 2019, we announced that in Government, we would pursue a full mobile phone ban for students in South Australian Government schools. We've seen strong and positive outcomes from this pursuit and now every other state has implemented a similar ban.

From next year, all students in state government and Catholic schools will be taught about online safety and the dangers of social media through a strengthened curriculum, providing the tools to navigate the online world confidently and safely.

The new social media laws are another step in ensuring our kids live healthy, active lives – and that smartphones and social media are not the defining feature of their childhood.

We are proud that South Australia has led the way on this important reform that will ensure our children and young people are protected and well-equipped for the world they are growing up in.

Yours sincerely

Peter Malinauskas  
**PREMIER**

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Blair Boyer  
**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SKILLS**

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