

MEDIA RELEASE

Australians don't want a social media Wild West: advocates respond to Trump administration intervention

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Australians expect social media companies to abide by basic rules just like any other business, advocates say, as the US government attacks Australia for trying make social media work for people again.

Overnight the US administration called for US tech companies to be exempt from Australia's proposed Digital Duty of Care.

The Digital Duty of Care would give social media users more personal control over what they see in their feeds, and put more onus on tech giants to prevent the spread of harmful content like child sex abuse material.

"Australians don't want their social media feeds to be a lawless Wild West full of scams, misinformation and addictive or abusive content – but that's the way they've been going," said Democracy Counts Campaign Director Tom Mooney.

"What Australia and others around the world are proposing is not radical. It is governments catching up with a new type of service that people use, and putting in place some basic rules, just as we have for any other product or service.

"Other US businesses that make money off Australians are expected to ensure their products aren't harmful – tech companies should be no different."

Democracy Counts – an alliance of organisations that care about the state of democracy in Australia – are calling for the Digital Duty of Care to be [expanded to include deepfakes](#), and for all parties to articulate their plan to safeguard democracy in the face of threats posed by AI.

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