



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Communications

# Outcomes of National Roundtable on Online Dating Safety

On 25 January 2023 the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, and the Hon Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Social Services, convened the National Roundtable on Online Dating Safety (the Roundtable). Participants included members of Commonwealth and state and territory governments and representatives from the online dating industry; the family, domestic and sexual violence sector; diversity and inclusion organisations; and research bodies. Informed by the views and advice of participants, the Government identified the following outcomes.

Outcome <sup>1</sup>	Outcome owner
<p><b>Preventing exploitation of online dating services by perpetrators.</b></p> <p>Minister Rowland to write to the Commonwealth Attorney-General (and State and Territory Attorneys-General) to <b>provide the outcomes of the Roundtable and seek advice on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The availability of information about domestic and apprehended violence orders and relevant criminal histories to dating apps and users, so that users can make informed decisions about who they connect with online.</li> <li>Any other policy options that could support the Government's intent to prevent the exploitation of online dating services by perpetrators.</li> </ul>	<p>Minister for Communications to seek advice from the Attorney-General.</p>
<p><b>Supporting users who experience harm.</b></p> <p>Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner Micaela Cronin to consult victim-survivors and provide a report to Ministers Rishworth and Rowland.</p>	<p>Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner</p>
<p><b>Empowering users with information on safe and positive online dating practices.</b></p> <p>Industry and civil society to work together to develop and distribute information on sexual violence and positive dating behaviours to dating app users.</p>	<p>Dating app industry, family, domestic and sexual violence sector, eSafety Commissioner, DITRDCA, DSS</p>

<sup>1</sup> Sources:

Attachment A: Transcript of press conference, Sydney Wednesday 25 January 2023 "Albanese Government's National Roundtable for Online Dating Safety"

Attachment B: Transcript of radio interview of Minister Michelle Rowland on 2GB Sydney, Wednesday 25 January 2023.

Outcome <sup>1</sup>	Outcome owner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) to seek participants' agreement to circulate contact details to facilitate this cooperation.</li> <li>• Department of Social Services to ensure that work is informed by the National Plan to end Violence Against Women and Children 2022-23.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Greater uptake of technological solutions to prevent harm.</b></p> <p>Minister Rowland to write to dating apps asking for them to provide information on current safety practices, planned safety measures, gaps, and information on matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of complaints received from users;</li> <li>• handling and resolution of complaints;</li> <li>• escalation of matters to law enforcement;</li> <li>• measures taken to prevent recidivism; and</li> <li>• effectiveness of measures to prevent recidivism.</li> </ul> <p>Noting that, depending on the adequacy of the information received, the eSafety Commissioner may consider issuing a request for information under Part 4 (Basic Online Safety Expectations) of the <i>Online Safety Act 2021</i>.</p> <p>Further, depending on the information received, the government may consider regulatory intervention.</p>	Minister for Communications
Minister Rowland to report publicly on progress at the end of Q1 2023.	Minister for Communications