



**Police Federation
of Australia**

The National Voice of Policing

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The Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement
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Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Act 2019 (AVM Act)

The Police Federation of Australia (PFA) thanks the committee for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry.

The PFA is the national body representing the professional and industrial interests of Australia's more than 65,000 police officers, across all state, territory and the federal police jurisdictions and is acutely aware of the criminality of many of the issues appearing on the clear and dark web.

As a result, the PFA strongly supports the intent of the Act, which was introduced to address gaps in Australia's legislative framework to require internet and other hosting services to take immediate action to address abhorrent violent material available through their services, as soon as it is identified.

We are aware that the internet is increasingly being used to aid serious and organised crime types including the trafficking of illicit substances, child exploitation, terrorism and violent extremism. Once images are posted to such services, they can be very difficult for law enforcement to track and eliminate.

The PFA has liaised with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and is aware of the number of reports of abhorrent violent material that have been referred to them for investigation and the triage process that they have developed, in liaison with the eSafety Commissioner, for when matters are referred. We likewise strongly support their work and that process, acknowledging that a partnership between law enforcement and service providers is critical and that service providers have a responsibility for what is loaded onto their sites or passes through their systems.

The issues of live streaming, video sharing and the use of social media platforms will continue to pose an ongoing challenge for law enforcement. We support any moves the parliament can make which will assist the role of police in eliminating violent abhorrent material from the internet and other hosting services and more effectively protect the wider community.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Weber', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Weber APM
Chief Executive Officer
15 October 2021