

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
c/o [REDACTED] s 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED] @pm.gov.au

March 30, 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Defaulting to 'follower feeds' on social media platforms under the Digital Duty of Care #fixourfeeds

We write to you privately and as a collective to share our thoughts about the impact of the Digital Duty of Care on the design of social media feeds, and to request a meeting. We are grateful for your immense focus on improving the digital environment, and deeply supportive of your move to introduce a statutory Duty alongside the *Online Safety Act*.

Currently, all large social media platforms offer users the ability to view their feed based on the curated list of accounts they have *chosen* to follow. These follower feeds by definition contain less unwanted content, and are less likely to push people — especially young people — into addictive rabbit holes against their will. These follower feeds are already in operation at scale, and were developed in response to requirements under the EU's *Digital Services Act*.¹ However, platforms do not default users to these follower feeds, or allow them to make the choice to see follower feeds permanently, with the feed reverting to the recommendation algorithm each time a user reopens an app. Every time a user wishes to see their curated follower feed, they are required to actively 'swap' to this feed by changing their settings manually. *Every single time*. Further, the setting can be challenging to find and requires active engagement from the user. We believe this is an act of malicious compliance in response to the EU's *Digital Services Act*, and that the review of the *Online Safety Act* provides the Australian Government the

¹Article 38 of the DSA requires platforms to "provide at least one option for each of their recommender systems which is not based on profiling", i.e. a feed that is based on who users follow rather than inferences about what you are interested in. Further, Article 17.3 of the DSA requires platforms to "make available a functionality that allows the recipient of the service to select and to modify at any time their preferred option" for which 'algorithm' is displayed, that is directly and easily accessible from feed. What it does not explicitly say is that users must have a choice about which 'algorithm' their main feed defaults to, or that choices need to be remembered when a user logs out. Platforms have therefore taken a minimalist interpretation, to only let users choose their 'algorithm' *each and every time they log in*.

opportunity to perfect the regulation and make curated, follower feeds work for Australians (and showcase the solution to the rest of the world).

Requirements within a Digital Duty of Care could ensure that platforms have to:

- *Provide users with a choice about their recommender systems, including the ability to use a recommender system that is not based on profiling (i.e. user's behavioural data)*
- *Provide users with an easy and accessible way to select their preferred recommender system, and*
- *For the recommender system not based on profiling **to be the default setting**. This means that when someone opens an application, they are not bombarded with algorithmically recommended content unless they choose to switch it.*

This would maintain individual choice and maximise user empowerment, without subjecting users to toxic, addictive, and divisive algorithms every time they open an app. It also requires no new technical development, and harmonises with EU requirements but goes a step further to close loopholes.

We believe that this would fit neatly as a requirement within a broad, overarching Digital Duty of Care within the *Online Safety Act*. For the Digital Duty of Care to have maximum impact, and not be limited to a narrow set of 'content concerns'. We believe the Digital Duty of Care needs to replace the current Basic Online Safety Expectations in their entirety to achieve this.

We are requesting a meeting with you or an advisor to discuss this and to continue the discussion about how to best *Fix Our Feeds*, and the impact that a Digital Duty of Care could have. We would like to highlight that Teach Us Consent's *Fix Our Feeds* Open Letter to you has now been signed by over 10,000 everyday Australians and over 100 influential Australians and experts. It has received an overwhelming positive response from 600+ mainstream media mentions and across comments on social media. We are flexible on timelines to meet your busy schedules.

Yours faithfully,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Chanel Contos,
Teach Us Consent

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47F

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Lizzie O'Shea,
Digital Rights Watch