

Statement from a Meta spokesperson

"We aren't able to discuss active litigation; however we strongly reject the characterisation that Meta is reluctant to address youth safety or to cooperate with regulators. We are committed to complying with Australia's social media laws and our actions demonstrate that.

"Globally, we have invested billions in safety and security over the past decade. We built age-appropriate experiences like Teen Accounts, which come with built-in protections on who can contact teens and what they see, introduced parental supervision tools through Family Centre, and continue to develop new age assurance technology.

"In Australia, we were the first company to notify users and remove accounts in relation to the social media ban. We have now removed more than 750,000 accounts held by people we understand to be under 16, published regular compliance updates, and ran an on-platform campaign to educate parents on our measures and how to support young people impacted by the ban. Identifying age online is an ongoing process and we continue to learn and add additional measures to identify and remove underage accounts.

"We have engaged constructively with the Australian Government throughout this process, including through formal consultation, eSafety engagement and reporting, and appearances before parliamentary committees. While we believe there are more effective and privacy-preserving ways to protect young people online, we are committed to compliance with the law.

"On the question of how many accounts are held by people under 16 on our platforms — we remove accounts held by people under 16 when we become aware of them, which means there is no static number to report. Our compliance data demonstrates we are actively identifying and removing underage accounts at scale.

"We support effective regulation that delivers real outcomes for young people. We believe the most effective approach is mandatory age verification at the operating system or app store level, where a user's age is verified once and that signal is available to all apps, rather than requiring each platform to independently collect sensitive personal information."