



CYBERBULLYING

25 January 2022

To all Members,

Our message on the ACDS Website regarding social media reads in part:

Derogatory comments and discussion on a social media post can cause distress and disruption to individuals and the ACDS. We ask that you consider very carefully the consequences of your words, both online and in person. Social media is inappropriate as it gains momentum, often fed by people who are not members, and /or who do not compete in driving activities. Respect and consideration of others should be at the centre of our sport.

As of Sunday 23rd January 2022, the Federal Government has given the eSafety Commissioner more scope and powers under the Online Safety Act.

Online abuse is considered harmful content that is sent or shared using an online or electronic service or platform, including:

- social media services (including Facebook)
 - messaging services
 - email services
 - chat apps
 - interactive online games
 - forums
 - websites.
1. The person targeted: A person ordinarily living in Australia who is 18 or older.
 2. Threshold: It must be serious abusive online communication to or about a person that is menacing, harassing or offensive and intended to cause them serious harm.
 3. Who can report it: The person targeted, or a person who is authorised to report it on their behalf.
 4. Possible outcomes: removal of harmful content, fines or penalties for the person responsible if they don't remove the content (up to \$111,000), fines or penalties for services or platforms that don't remove content (administrators), further legal action.

Please be aware that any abuse may be considered serious, depending on whom is targeted and the effect it has on them, regardless of how trivial it may seem to the writer at the time.

Some breaches of the ACDS Code of Conduct and subsequently Clause 12 of our Rules (Disciplining of Members) may also be deemed to have contravened the Online Safety Act. In future, matters deemed to infringe the Online Safety Act will be passed to the eSafety Commissioner through the appropriate channels, by either the person targeted by the writer, or by Federal Council on behalf of the targeted person.

For and on behalf of Federal Council

Tom Dowling
Federal Secretary