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DP-REG Digital Technologies Working Group

10 August 2022, 10 am-10:45am

Attendance:

- ACCC – [REDACTED]
- Esafety – [REDACTED]
- OAIC – [REDACTED]
- ACMA – [REDACTED] Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes prepared by the ACCC

Meet and Greet / introductions

- ACCC commenced the meeting and all attendees introduced themselves

Review of the scope of the working group

- ACCC noted that there are three areas outlined in the internal work plan. The most relevant to this working group was exploring new and emerging digital issues, as well as agency coordination.
- ACCC noted that the working group will need to deliver against the communicate as well as the internal work program.

How will we work together

- Following a discussion yesterday between working group chairs, the working group have decided to use 'GovTeams' as their collaboration tool. Each agency will be an owner of the GovTeams community – with one community for all three working groups.
- ACCC suggested that meetings should be monthly ranging from an hour to an hour and a half in length and virtual, given that representatives are based in different states.

Initial thoughts

- **Algorithms** - Attendees agreed that there should be a standalone work stream on algorithms. A potential deliverable could be an interagency workshop that covered existing work in the area.
- **Tech trends report** - eSafety noted that they will have a *Tech Trends Report* due near year end and would like to share some of that work with the group.
- **News sharing** - The attendees discussed how the working group could share information on news review any international developments in the digital technology space.
- **Horizon scanning** –
 - The working group generally agreed to a workstream on horizon scanning. This could involve engaging experts and the working group brainstorming and discussing new issues.

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- ACCC raised the idea of using the group to complete short research projects on specific topics. This would involve understanding the relevant technology, how it is used and what competition, consumer, privacy or eSafety concerns could arise. From this the group would then identify if these topics need further or immediate attention. A template could be developed to structure this work. This could result in the preparation of short summary documents.
- The working group generally supported this approach, and the development of a standard template.
- **External engagement:** The working group discussed the best approach to external engagement, including potentially sharing information on existing engagements, identifying future events, and directly engaging with other stakeholders. The group discussed DP-REG led engagement with specific firms (e.g. TikTok) and discussed the need to be involved with different and diverse perspectives. The group also discussed potential engagement with academics, thinktanks, and institutions. This may be informed by the horizon scanning.

Summary of items arising from working group meeting:

- The work plan is to be circulated before the next meeting on 9 September 2022 and settled between working group participants before the steering committee on 16 September 2022. The workplan will reflect the discussion today regarding work on algorithms, horizon scanning and a template, and external engagement.
- The parties discussed external engagement. The ACMA flagged the potential need for more guidance from the steering committee.
- The working groups next meeting is to be scheduled on 9 September 2022.