



**JULIE INMAN GRANT**

# **Critical thinking, a critical skill**

ANZSOG  
Regulating Unreason 2020

# Regulating unreason

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Online  
bullying of  
children



Targeted  
online  
abuse



The spread  
of racism and  
hate speech



Sexual  
exploitation  
and abuse of  
children

# Section 230

How we got it wrong



Head of Global  
Privacy and Safety



Washington DC  
lobbyist

Section 230 of the  
Communications  
Decency Act





Est 2015

2020



Serious  
cyberbullying  
material



Illegal  
and harmful  
content



Image-  
based  
abuse



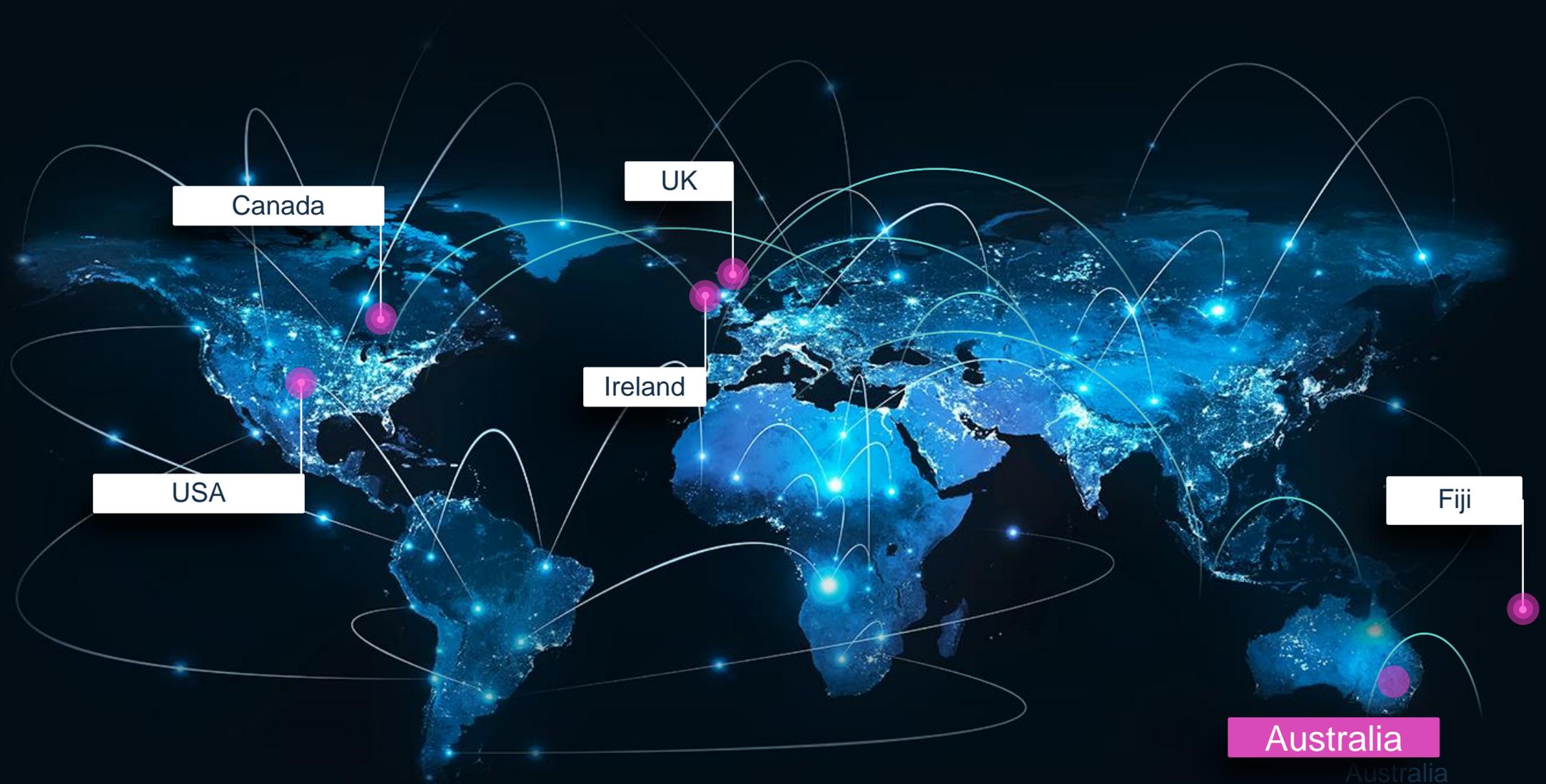
Adult  
cyber  
abuse



Abhorrent  
violent  
material

# We are not alone

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# The COVID-19 effect



## March – September 2020

Compared to same period 2019

**49%** ▲ Adult cyber abuse

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**32%** ▲ Youth-based cyberbullying

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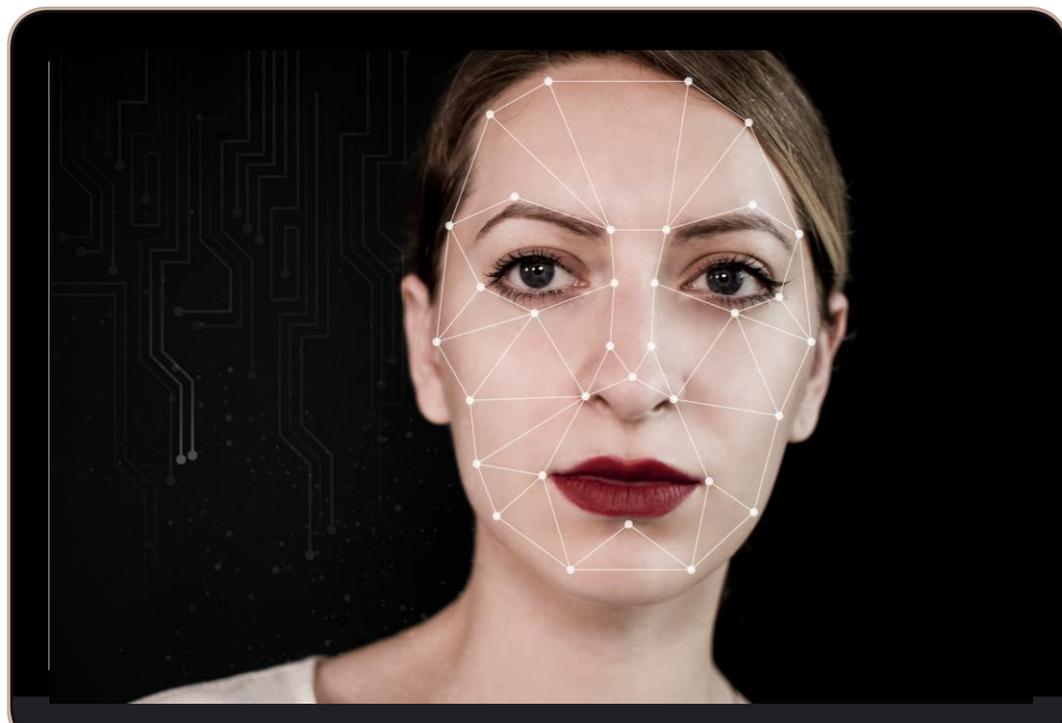
**123%** ▲ Illegal and harmful content

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**172%** ▲ Image-based abuse

# Harms are taking new forms

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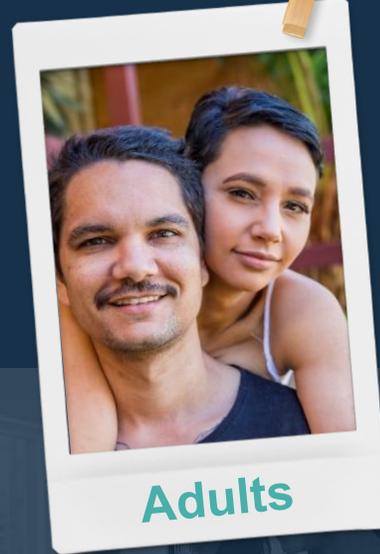
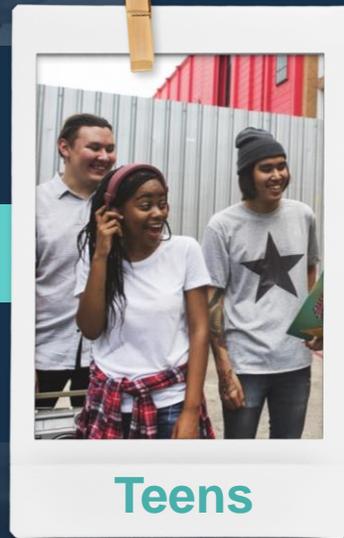
Phoenixing

Volumetric trolling

Image-based abuse

Deepfakes and other manipulated media

# Prevention



Preventing the harms from happening in the first place

# The 4 R's



RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

RESILIENCE

REASONING

# Misinformation is tough to budge

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COVID-19



US Election

Most people think others are more susceptible than they are

**“I don’t need help, but that guy does”**  
Hard to get people to take part in media literacy and critical reasoning education and training

# Proactive change

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- + Platforms have been weaponized over the past 25 years
- + Resources, the best minds and advanced tech should be anticipating a whole range of risks and harms
- + It's unreasonable that **Safety by Design** has not been incorporated



# Circling the wagons



Twitter and others are lobbying the EU promoting the hashtag

**#openinternet**

Harmful content includes a range of harms including CSAM but also...



- 🙄 Image-based abuse
- 🙄 Targeted abuse
- 🙄 Hate speech
- 🙄 Cyberbullying



Employing end-to-end encryption on Messenger and Android Messages

Social media giants

**Time for all of us to choose a new path and a new direction**



Thank you

esafety.gov.au

