



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 7.1

## **Update on Age Assurance Trial**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Australia



**ICT Security and Trust Steering Group  
Meeting  
Mexico City, Mexico  
10 September 2024**



**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

## **Update on Age Assurance Trial**

## Age Assurance Trial

- The Australian Government is providing **AU\$6.5 million** in funding in the 2024-25 financial year for an age assurance trial to examine options to protect children from harmful content online.
- Age assurance refers to various methods which are used to determine a person's age, which includes both age verification and age estimation technologies.
- Further information and background on age assurance is available on the [eSafety website](#). The eSafety Commissioner is Australia's independent regulator for online safety under the *Online Safety Act 2021*.
- The Department is responsible for the implementation of the trial.

## Objective of the trial

- The trial aims to determine the effectiveness of available age assurance technologies as an option for addressing both:
  - Access to pornography by those under the age of 18; and
  - Access to social media by children, including considering the right minimum age for access (13-16).

## Elements of the trial

- There are three key elements to the trial:
  - Technology trial – an independent assessment of age assurance technologies;
  - Consumer research into Australians' attitudes towards the use of age assurance technologies; and
  - Targeted stakeholder consultation.