
AUSTRALIA SUES TELEGRAM OVER ALLEGED FAILURE TO REMOVE TERRORIST VIDEOS

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Australias online safety watchdog has launched court action against the messaging platform Telegram over its alleged failure to remove videos of terrorist executions and mass shootings for weeks after Australian citizens reported them, according to local media Thursday.

eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said the civil proceedings followed a year-long investigation into whether Telegram met its obligations under the Online Safety Act, with breaches carrying penalties of up to A\$54.6 million (\$38 million), the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

The regulator alleges that Telegram failed to remove reported pro-terror material for as long as three weeks, did not shut down the accounts, channels and groups distributing it, and did not detect known material including the livestreamed 2019 Christchurch mosque shooting in New Zealand and the 2022 mass shooting in Buffalo, New York.

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