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Children and parents will not be penalized.

While Meta has begun closing teen accounts ahead of the ban, Snapchat and other platforms are exploring verification methods. Critics warn the ban may not fully prevent harm, could isolate teens, and raise privacy concerns due to large-scale data collection. Communications Minister Annika Wells acknowledged that the implementation may not be perfect, but the government says strong protections are in place for personal information, which must be destroyed after age verification.

Australia's move is unprecedented globally, with other countries considering similar measures. The ban aims to prioritize children's safety, limit exposure to harmful content, and foster responsible social media use, while sparking debate on the balance between digital access, privacy, and protection.

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