



New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Education and Workforce Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Kuranga, Take Hunga Mahi

54th Parliament
March 2026

Petition of Before16 Charitable Trust: Pass online safety legislation for children and ban social media until age 16

The Education and Workforce Committee has considered the petition of Before16 Charitable Trust, which was presented to the House on 19 November 2025 by Catherine Wedd, and transferred to us on 29 January 2026. The petition was signed by 44,416 people, and requests:

That the House of Representatives pass online safety legislation specifically for children that includes a minimum age of 16 for social media access.

We agree with the petitioner that this is an important topic. In June 2025, we opened our inquiry into the harm young New Zealanders encounter online, and the roles that government, business, and society should play in addressing those harms. We note that the petitioner provided both written and oral submissions on our inquiry.

We thank the petitioner for its advocacy in bringing this petition to the House and engaging with our inquiry. We would encourage anyone interested in this issue to read [our interim](#) and [final](#) inquiry reports, available on the Parliament website.

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Katie Nimon, Chairperson