I submit my views about the effectiveness of existing regulation and proposals for change, and ACCC action to address any behaviour that raises concerns under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

I used Oasis dating website from 2013 to 2015. It is free for users to join. Joining takes 30 seconds. Although it is against the site rules, users can change their location and profile photos as much as they like and can have multiple accounts with multiple identities. This accessibility creates many members, which attracts advertising dollars.

The owners, 3H Group in Bondi Junction, Sydney, NSW, only care about revenue and do not care about users' health, safety and well being. They do not care about the status of women or preventing domestic violence. Complaints about user behaviour are ignored.

There was so much abuse: men calling me ugly, criminals trying to fleece my money, immigrants who want to marry solely for a visa, perverts, and many dishonest and malicious time wasters.

Essentially, the company makes money attracting female users by leading them to think it's a bona fide dating site. The front page displays pictures of women in wedding dresses, claiming they met their husband on Oasis. Meanwhile, 3H Group advertises Oasis on sex websites: "it takes only 30 seconds to join". A stream of sexed-up men do so, and then talk to female Oasis users with the assumption they are participants in the sex websites.

One of the offensive trends was the use of fake photos. Male users would post a photo of a man who looked like he had attractive social characteristics and sensibilities. I would talk to him, only to conclude slowly the man I was talking to was not in fact the man in the photo. The man I would be talking to would have antisocial characteristics and sensibilities.

I attended a conference at Red Rattler Theatre in Marrickville, Sydney, in 2015, convened by feminist collective <u>Sexual Violence Will Not Be Silenced</u>, called "Stop Harassment of Women Online". The salient finding in the conference was that social media companies claimed they did not have the money to actively regulate the behaviour of their users, yet these companies are making billions of dollars.

Gambling is regulated. Gambling companies aren't allowed to state they are too busy making billions to regulate. Dating sites should be regulated as as the gambling industry is. As is with the liquor and the sex industry. If not, domestic violence and sexual violence will spread.

At the time I complained about 3H Group and Oasis to Michaela Cash, the then Minister Assisting the Prime Minister On the Status of Women. She didn't care.

Teresa