

Helping users communicate consent around NSFW images and expectations

Translating research findings into Hornet features

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Overview

In this work, I propose five changes to Hornet designed to improve user's experiences on the app.

They are based on findings from my PhD research which consistently found that participants wanted more ability to signal what they were looking for and whether they were open to receiving NSFW images.

[Link to the Figma file](#)

Methodology

My PhD research explores how the design of social platforms shapes the experiences of queer young men.

Participants were **18-28 and based in Australia** except for the design workshop participants who were based in the SF Bay Area and where there was no age restriction.

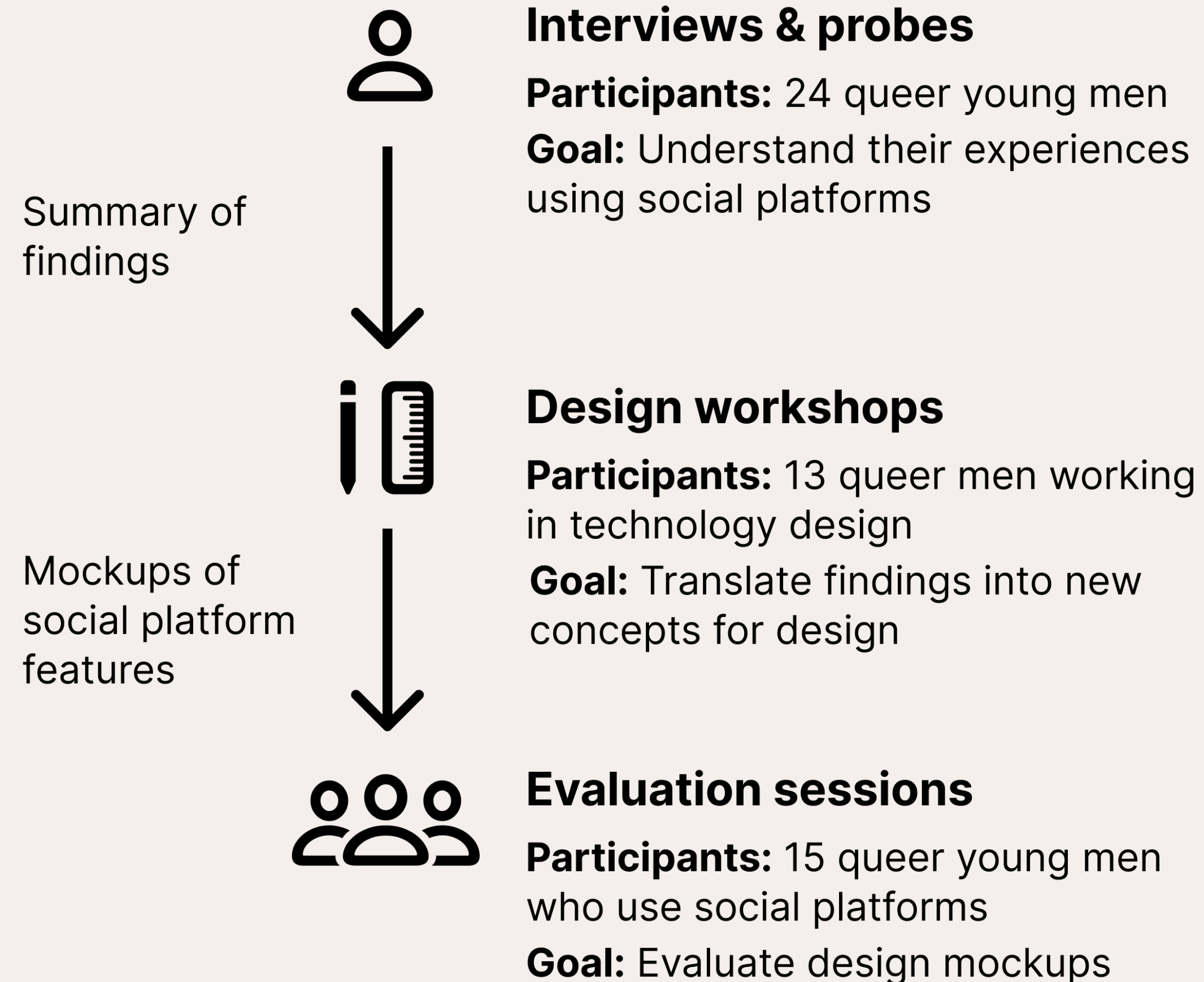
I have **adapted the designs created as part of this work for Hornet**.

They are very close to the current version of the app but there may be some slight differences as I created the mockups from scratch.

For greater detail about my research including justifications for the features, see the open access research paper I wrote.

[Link to paper](#)

Overview of research methods



Specifying consent over NSFW images

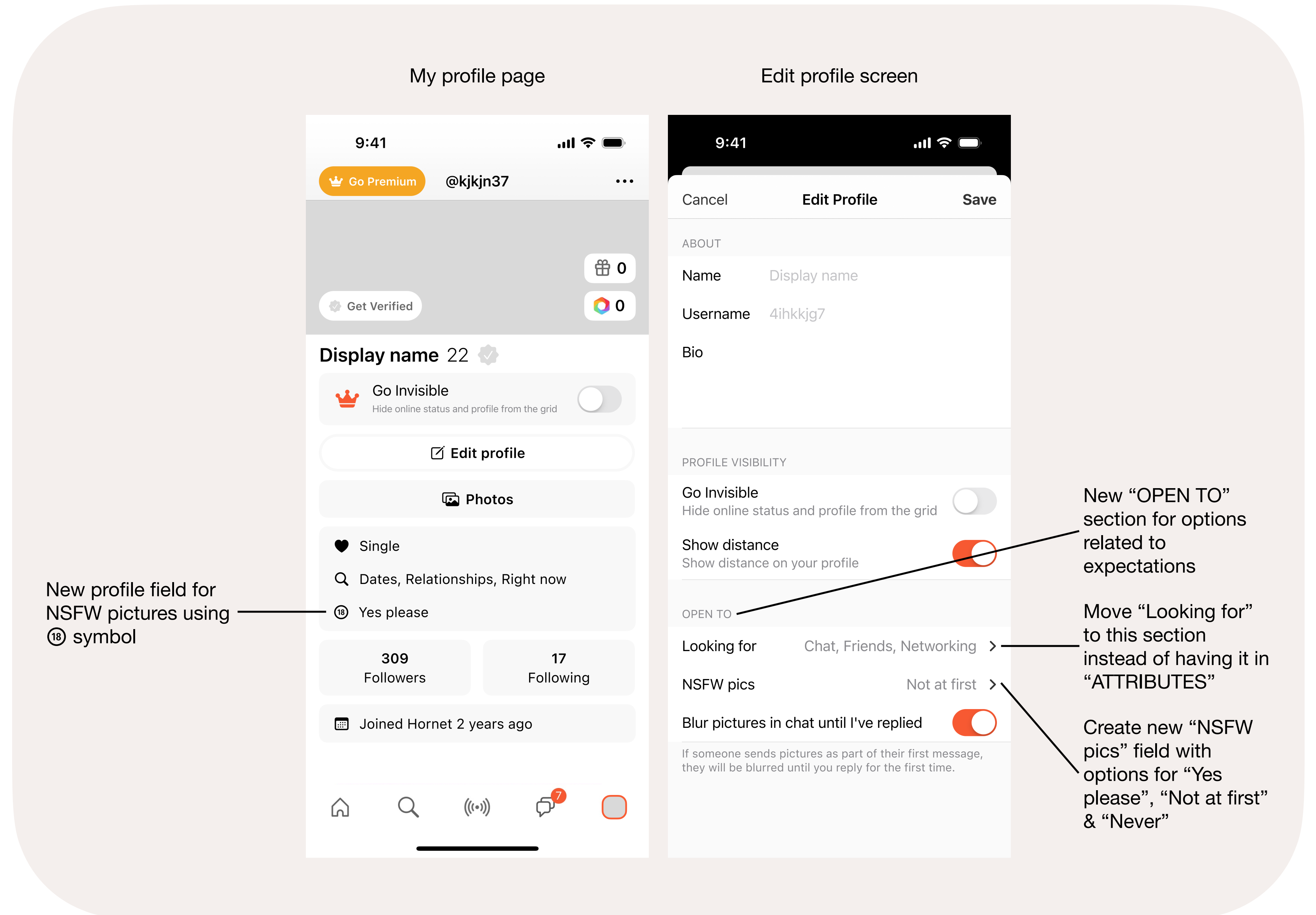
Add ways for Hornet users to specify consent over receiving NSFW images on their profile.

Rationale

Receiving unsolicited NSFW images is unwelcome for many dating app users and is a **major reason** that many participants deleted dating apps.

Proposed features to **limit the ability for people to send unsolicited NSFW images** were among the most desired in evaluation sessions.

The “Yes please” option recognises **some people want to receive NSFW images**.



New profile field for NSFW pictures using 18 symbol

New “OPEN TO” section for options related to expectations

Move “Looking for” to this section instead of having it in “ATTRIBUTES”

Create new “NSFW pics” field with options for “Yes please”, “Not at first” & “Never”

Adding a “Right now” option

Add “Right now” as a new Looking for option.

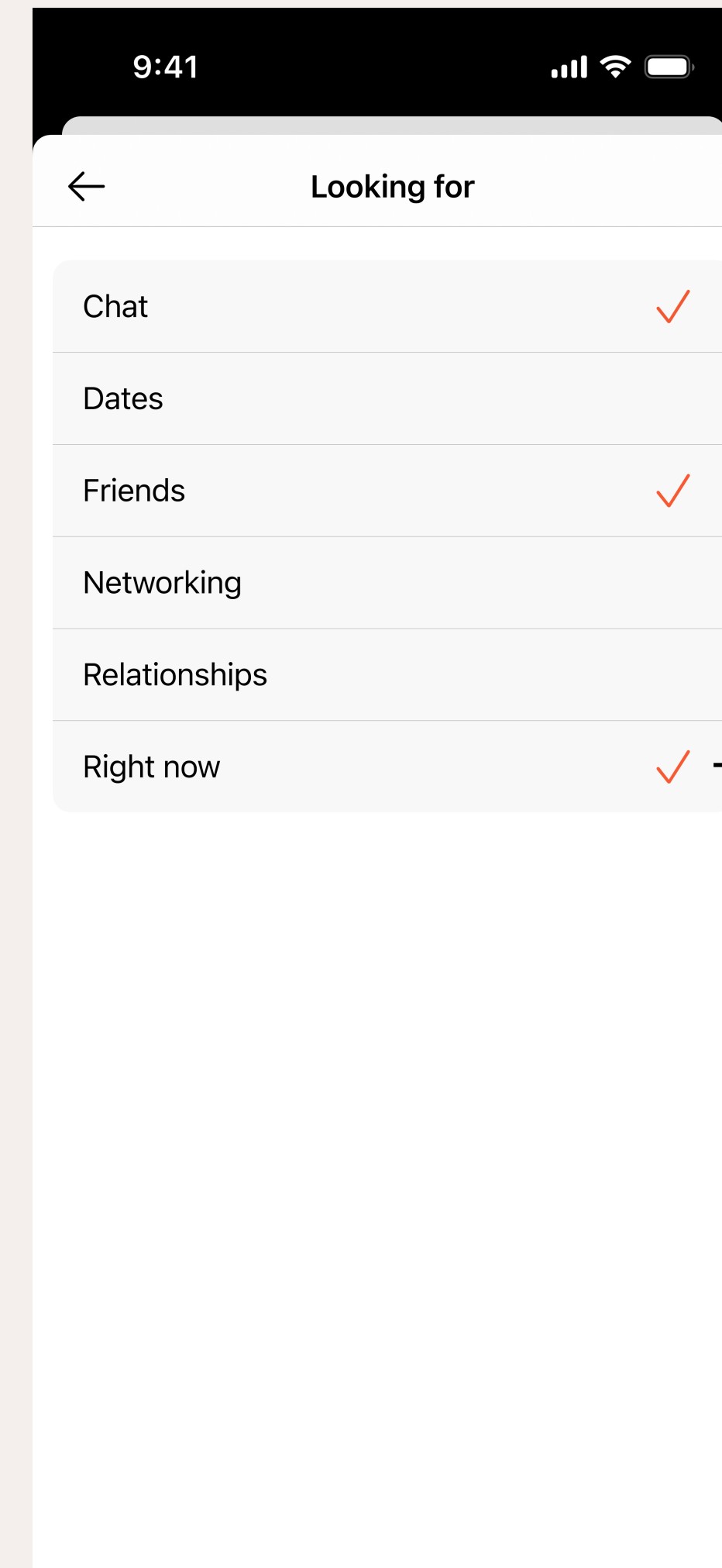
Rationale

While the current options cover a wide range of what people are looking for, **some are undoubtedly looking for hookups.**

Not having a way to express this **reduces the reliability and credibility** of looking for as a profile field.

While this is likely a conscious decision due to App Store/Play Store rules, **others apps have similar options these days.** E.g. Tinder offers “short-term fun” and Grindr has an option for “hookups”.

Looking for preferences



New “Right now” option

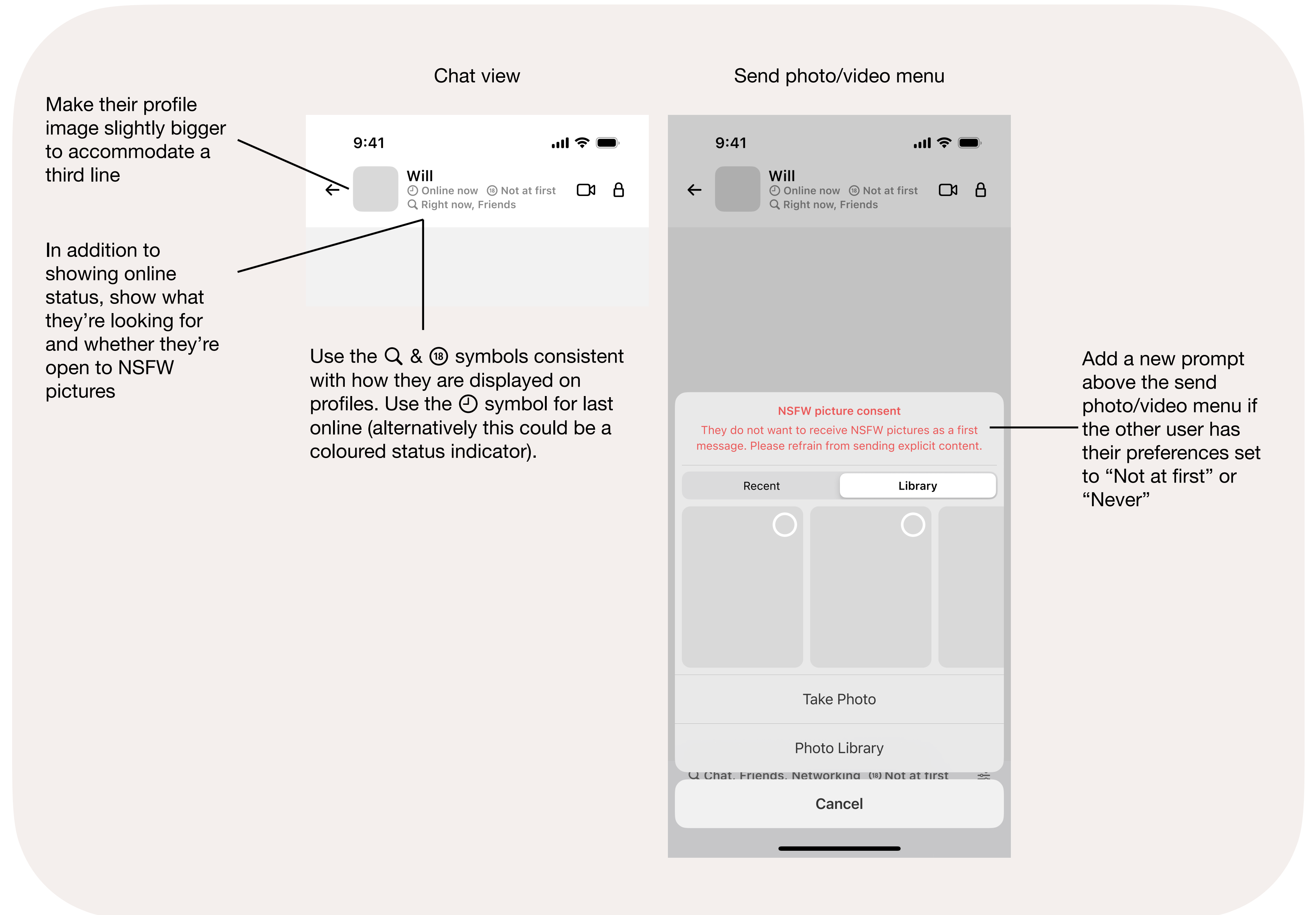
Clearly showing user expectations

Show people's expectations in the chat view.

Signal whether sharing NSFW images is ok in the share image menu.

Rationale

People often don't read profiles and so this **makes people's expectations clear** in places where they will be seen.



Letting users set conversation specific expectations

Provide a way for users to specify what they're looking for and whether they're open to NSFW at a conversation level.

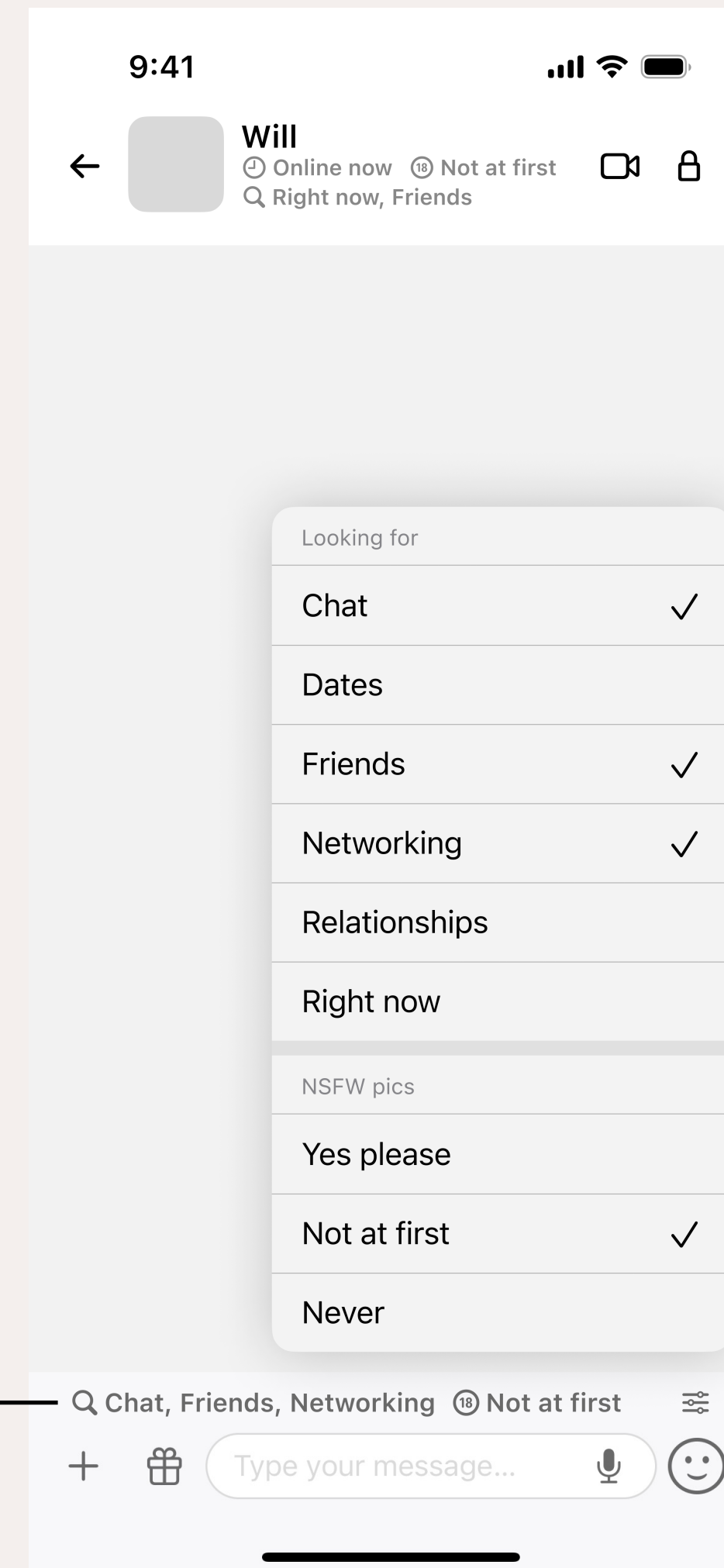
Rationale

What people are looking for can **depend on the person** they are talking to.

This allows users to **clearly communicate** what they are looking for with the person they're interacting with.

Show how their expectations are set for this conversation. Placed with the controls for sending messages so it's clear that this is their preferences (whereas the other person's preferences are displayed with their profile)

Chat view



Menu where they can set what they're looking for and preferences for NSFW pics for just this conversation

By default, this reflects the users profile but there is a button to open a menu to set expectations

Allowing blurring of NSFW images in chat

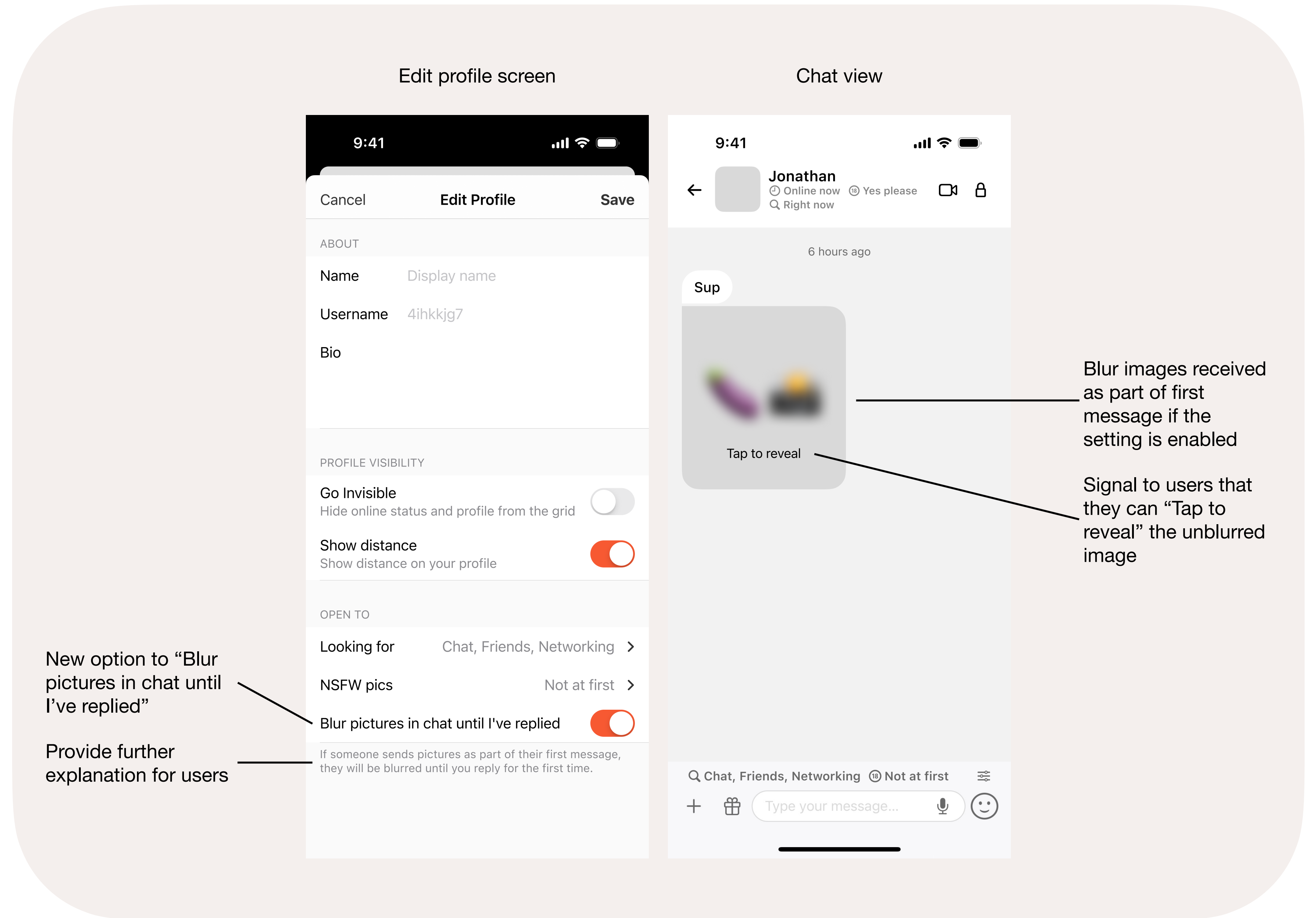
Add an option to blur images received in chat until you've replied.

Rationale

Unsolicited NSFW pictures are often sent as part of a first message.

Blurring helps users avoid NSFW images being too confronting but provides some idea of what the image is.

Most participants would ignore or block people who sent NSFW as a first message so replying means they're likely ok with the image and it can be unblurred.



Conclusion

These features help users communicate expectations about what they're looking for and for NSFW images. In my research, **such features received a very positive response** from participants.

Helping users communicate expectations and making them clear could **reduce the number of negative interactions** they have on the app and improve experiences.

All the features are **designed in ways that are additive and support variation in desired experiences**. For example, if users want more control over NSFW images, they can respond to a new profile field but they don't have to. **None of these features force changes in use or block user interactions**.