

22 August 2014



Stuart Woodley
Committee Secretary
House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Woodley,

Submission to the Inquiry into the use of subsection 313(3) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* by government agencies to disrupt the operation of illegal online services

The National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission to this Inquiry.

In light of our experience at the NCYLC, subsection 313(3) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* is an important mechanism in supporting young victims of internet-related crimes. It provides a means by which to ensure internet service providers (ISPs) work with government officers and authorities to prevent the ongoing commission of crimes against children and young people in Australia.

It is increasingly important that state and federal police, in particular, continue to have the power to compel ISPs to provide assistance in investigating online crimes and preventing their ongoing commission. The area in which we have witnessed the greatest potential usefulness of subsection 313(3) is in preventing continued harassment, bullying and stalking of children and young people online. Without the cooperation of ISPs, it is almost impossible to address the most intractable situations where this is occurring.

We would support measures to strengthen the operation of subsection 313(3) to make it a more useful means by which to involve ISPs with police in combatting online crimes committed against children and young people.

Should you require any more information concerning this submission, please contact me on (02) 9385 9585 or email matthew.keeley@ncylc.org.au.

Yours faithfully,



Matthew Keeley

Director

National Children's and Youth Law Centre