

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Committee, SPLA \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] Submission re online pornography and online wagering
Date: Friday, 20 September 2019 6:05:27 PM
Importance: High

Age verification has potential to protect minors online from harm.

The harm done by consumption of pornography should not be underestimated.
Please see evidence of significant brain changes in porn users [here](#) (and many other locations).

Children have easy access to screens and are curious, so even a simple search results in extremely graphic details which cannot be unseen.
My young daughter has already been exposed to porn, luckily she informed me so I was able to take steps to remove access to devices.
However for older children where school requires them to have devices, there need to be limits in place as they are not old enough to understand what they are seeing or to know how to process it. My son copies everything he sees on TV, so imagine the kind of (illegal) behaviours which would result if he started watching porn which is often violent and degrading and lacking consent.
I am aware of marriages severely challenged by porn use. It is not helpful at any time.

Minors are very vulnerable and government has an obligation to put them first, above profits, businesses, ads, adult needs and anything else. So called risks to business do not compare. Our children are the future and if we allow them to become damaged children, they will grow up as damaged adults, deteriorating society and costing the community in broken relationships and bad or criminal behavior.