

Dear Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications,

I am presenting this submission to the inquiry into the harm done to children by pornography on the internet, in order to ask you to support new laws to block pornography at the Internet Service Provider level in Australia. This is, I believe, the only effective way that people, and particularly children, can be protected from the pernicious influence of pornography. It is also the approach advocated for many years by British Prime Minister David Cameron (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/11960351/David-Cameron-Porn-filters-will-stay-despite-EU-ruling-threatening-protections.html>).

Yes, internet filters are not perfect, but they will improve; and the option to switch them off should still be retained by adults in order to prevent misuse by those who control the filter criteria. But filtering by default would go a long way to protect most people, and especially the vast majority of children. Acting like a safety barrier, it would clearly warn of the presence of danger and at least require some active effort by an adult to circumvent it.

I pray that the committee will recommend this course of action for Australia.

Yours sincerely,