

To the Senate Inquiry on the Impact of Porn on Kids

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Please protect our children from internet pornography.

For me, I find this personal. From around 16 years old, I accidentally discovered internet porn through my new smart-phone. It was not the first exposure. The fashion magazines that advertised women's underwear and lingerie in full page color adds that were delivered to every house was what I considered my first exposure. I began keeping it from around the age of 14. But with the rise of the smartphone, it was easy access to the internet that made it worse. The magazines felt kind of clean, but once online, the options were endless. Anything that you could imagine, and there was a porn variant somewhere. It didn't matter if it was violent, consensual or not, anything was at my fingertips. It quickly became a powerful addiction. My quality of life began to deteriorate, and it became the dominant purpose in my life. Even today, I still suffer the need to look at porn. It is not because I enjoy it but because I need it. I wish that all those years ago that I had not found porn. If it was made difficult or impossible to access, things might have been better. 95% of the porn I view is through a smartphone, like it was when I first viewed it. It was not until I got much older that I began to understand the bad side better to make a more informed choice as an adult. Porn should not be for anyone, and certainly not for children. Children make our next generation: they are very important to look after and care for properly.

From a young age, children need to be protected from porn. The internet today is full of inappropriate images and words. Porn has a profound effect on a child. I can say that from personal experience, you lose the innocence of being a child and everything becomes sexual. I overheard some children the other day playing, young children about the age of 10. The game they were playing sounded like it was a copy sexual intercourse or sexual abuse, and they don't understand it's significance. And there were no parents present at the time. What children see, children do. It made me sick and sad at the same time.

It is too easy to view porn. Even if parents try hard, they don't always have the tools or expertise to control what their child can see online. And even then, having a mobile-phone or visiting someone else could undo the hard work of these parents. Speaking from personal experience, porn is bad. For a while, I was very violent. I looked for sexual aspects in everything. And if it was for my strict parents, I probably would have sexually assaulted someone. Because it was on my phone, I could easily hid it from my parents which meant that they couldn't censor it even if they wanted to. Our children's health and well-being needs to be put before the commercial interest of the porn industry. This easy access of

porn is negatively effecting our society, breaking down our society. It leads to violence and abuse. It puts the person into a mindset where they think about themselves and not about how to help others and society at large.

So please:

- Filter internet porn at the ISP level.
- Make it illegal to make porn in Australia, follow what the UK did in this area and take down porn sites/groups based here.

Regards