

# Megan Knight

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20.09.2019

Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Social Policy and Legal Affairs  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6277 2358  
Fax: +61 2 6277 8463  
spla.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

This submission is to convey my support of the implementation of Age Verification (AV) in Australia - as it is clear that porn is harming our children

44% of children between 9 and 16 are reporting that they have encountered sexual images online - and this is unacceptable

AV places responsibility on the suppliers of pornography to verify the age of consumers using their sites. AV occurs through utilising a third-party trusted verification process that accesses existing robust data sources (credit card, driver's licence, etc.). AV companies do not hold the data - they request verification from existing sources to ascertain the age of the person requesting to be verified. Most importantly, porn websites do not have access to the data

I support AV for both online wagering and online pornography. I believe:

- a) AV has massive potential as a mechanism for protecting minors online
- b) AV has potential benefits of further online age verification requirements, including to protect children from potential harm, and business and non-government organisations from reputation, operational and legal risks

There are also potential risks and unintended consequences in further restricting age verification requirements, including, but not limited to:

- a) pushing adult consumers into unregulated/illegal environments or to other legal forms of these activities;

- b) privacy breaches;
- c) providing false assurance to parents and carers; and
- d) freedom of expression;

Any and all barriers to this going forward can and must be overcome

Thank you and regards,



Megan Knight

