

Dear Committee,

Regarding: The Age verification for online wagering and online pornography.

In 2016, the AIFS conducted a review with regards to pornography and children.

They found that “In Australia, just under half (44%) of children aged 9-16 surveyed had encountered sexual images in the last month. Of these, 16% had seen images of someone having sex and 17% of someone's genitals.”

To be exposed to this kind of content, at any age, can create a skewed view of sex – making what should be a beautiful, intimate coming together of two people, into something else. It’s “teaching” kids about sex, and this should not be their teacher.

Pornography is a massive, money-making industry that destroys lives. We have seen this time and time again with people who have shown addictive behaviours, marriage and relationship breakdowns, sexual abuse that stems from having been exposed to porn. Etc. I am a testament of having been abused from someone who was exposed to porn at a young age – it is the movies he watched that began the downward slope of wanting more, needing more, and eventually wanting to act out what he was exposed to.

In reality, pornography at every level should be shut down, should not even be part of our society as it fuels secrecy, sometimes violent sexual acts, clouding people’s judgement and leading them on a path where they are always wanting more with the beauty of sex never being enough.

Yes, people should be responsible in what they view, in what they allow their children to view. However, I believe there is also a great responsibility of the organisations to ensure that measures and safeguards are put into place to help truly “safeguard” the innocence of children. And allow them to learn in a wholesome way, a way that will lead towards a sexually fulfilled life.

I 100% back the necessity of ensuring that kids do NOT have access to online pornography.

We, humanity, are a large community. We NEED to look out for one another, we NEED to take care of our children, we NEED to protect them from those who could care less of what they are exposed to at such early ages.

I sincerely hope you make the decision to protect our kids.

Thank you for your time.

