

Dear Committee Members,

What follows is our submission to the enquiry into the harm being done to Australian children through access to pornography on the Internet.

Australia, along with the rest of the western world is facing a porn epidemic, and the problem is only getting worse as communications technology advances. Indeed, a 2015 survey in the UK revealed that the website <http://www.thewave.co.uk/news/local/1-in-10-12-13-year-olds-may-be-addicted-to-porn/> is one of the "Top 5" internet sites for 11-15 year-old boys and clearly, children with unfiltered internet access on mobile phones and tablets are particularly at risk.

Lacking maturity and experience of resisting sin, these children are faced with great temptations to lust whenever they are within reach of an internet connected smart phone. And once enticed, many will find it hard to break free from the addiction, often leading to a life dominated by the adverse consequences both to themselves and those closest to them. The NSW Police assistant commissioner Mark Murdoch recently detailed some of these consequences that the police have to deal with: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/porn-and-domestic-violence-nsw-police-says-respect-for-women-from-young-men-crucial-20141207-1205hy.html>

Our contribution to this enquiry is our belief that Australian children suffer more than they need to, partly because effective regulation is not keeping up with advances in mobile technology. We feel that our children could be spared some of this trauma if the Federal Government implemented ISP blocking of porn, which is the most effective way to provide a clean feed on all internet access by default. Yes, there should be an option for adults to opt-out, given legitimate concerns about internet censorship, but most internet access to children would remain clean under this scheme.

Yours faithfully,