Inquiry into age verification for online wagering and online pornography Submission 16

I have a story about the effects of pornography on a friend of mine.

This young boy at 12 years of age was introduced to porn by a next door neighbour, who found his dad's magazines.

Ever since seeing those graphic images for the first time, this child ignored his friends, hobbies and family to go next door and visit his new friend.

Each night those images would fill his mind and create anxiety as why the girls in his school were not paying him attention Over the years he kept his secret and could not tell his girlfriends for fear that they would reject him.

He never had a normal relationship because nobody could measure upto the fantasies or looks of the girls from those magazines. He lost many girlfriends and never re-connected to his family and friends.

He now lives far away from them. Lonely and sad. Unable to reverse back his life to when he was innocent and friendships were just that.

He can't apologise enough to the people he hurt, the lying and cheating and lost opportunities to live a normal life.

Now he wonders about others like him. And the victim girls who were photographed to feed his fantasties.

The only winners are big business. They lure their victims into addictive behaviours. They become desensitised and go through an all too common process.

This must stop by not allowing children access to all forms of porn.