

Dear Senate Standing Committees on the Environment and Communications,

Please accept our submission on the harm being done to Australian children through access to pornography on the Internet.

The scourge of pornographic addiction, particularly amongst boys and young men, is causing great harm to both individuals and society

(<http://www.socioaffectiveneuroscipsychol.net/index.php/snp/article/view/20767%20>) and so we call on you to recommend the government follow British Prime Minister, David Cameron's lead in requiring all Internet Service Providers to block pornography by default. Mr Cameron is so passionate about this issue that he has even gone so far as to defy EU rulings to make Britain's internet feed safe for children! (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/11960351/David-Cameron-Porn-filters-will-stay-despite-EU-ruling-threatening-protections.html>)

We realise that the filtering technology is not perfect, but the technology will continue to improve and adults will still retain the option to switch the filter off simply by contacting their ISP. Moreover, having even an imperfect filter by default is much better than having no filter at all because it will provide a much-needed protective barrier for all adults who do not opt-out, all children, and all those accessing the internet from a public wi-fi hub.

We strongly believe that mandatory filtering at the ISP level is necessary to protect children and maintain a healthy society. We ask the committee recommend this option in its final report.

Yours faithfully,