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Mission Statement: *Our mission is to champion and promote our vision, to work in partnership with our supporters, clients, community and service providers to enhance community resilience, prevent harm and to improve the wellbeing of people affected by cyber-crime.*

Vision Statement: *An Australia united in a commitment to safer communities through crime prevention, harm prevention, victim support and awareness as well as addressing the physical, emotional, sexual and psychological impacts of crime.*

The Carly Ryan Foundation was incorporated in 2010 following the murder of Carly Ryan, aged 15yrs, by an online predator posing as a teenage boy. The foundation operates by a Constitution dedicated to providing both educational awareness and the prevention of physical, emotional and sexual abuse of Youth.

Volunteers of the foundation and myself work tirelessly within the greater Australian Community and globally to achieve these ends, and have done so with great success.

In 2013, I was awarded South Australian of The Year for my efforts on behalf of the Foundation, and with this award has come a renewed desire from many organizations for lectures to be presented to various groups drawing from my experience in losing my child, and my personal development of a keen understanding of the absolute necessity of education relating to online safety.

Some of The Carly Ryan Foundations activities are as follows:

-Promoting Internet safety and awareness

-Delivering Internet safety presentations to schools, universities and a variety of other forums based on requests from public or private institutions or organizations

-Working with State and Federal Government to ensure that this online safety message becomes a compulsory part of the education curriculum on both a State and National level

-Supporting victims of Internet crime

-Supporting individuals and communities that have been the victims of violent crime and providing trauma counselling services to those in need

-Support of families of victims in times of great stress and trauma

-Distributing information to the public about the importance of implementation of Internet safety practices

-Organizing music, media and promotional events to promote Internet safety, targeting all youth cultures and demographics

-Working with Government representatives to help in the creation of new laws preventing adults from using false names and ages to contact minors online. "Carly's law"

-Development of a mobile application to provide emergency contact for people in need, allowing them to transmit their location to loved ones at the touch of a button



We are all aware that the majority of Australian families regularly access the Internet and that 90 percent of 14 to 19 yr olds use social media.

With the growth of online technology also comes the growth of Internet crimes.

In the physical world, a predator or child molester is usually someone a parent or child knows—someone who might even be trusted by the family. However, online, it is different.

Children today are able to build friendships with people they have never physically met. Making a deceptive online profile is now prolific. With over 1 billion Facebook users worldwide there are an estimated 83 million active fake profiles. This is only one popular social network medium.

Predators use the Internet to seek out children unknown to them. It provides unprecedented access to our children. These predators use the anonymity of online chat, the camouflage of false pictures and false personal information to present as a peer.

We have learned is that the perpetrator doesn't only contact one child, but is constantly seeking to expand the numbers of those minors to exploit, it is a game of numbers for them, the more they contact the higher the likelihood they will find a child that is vulnerable to exploit.

When they succeed in establishing and maintaining contact, the informal nature of the medium itself can perpetuate a false sense of security for the child, particularly given they feel they are in a physically safe environment.

Young teens often have a desire to be free of their parent's authority to gain acceptance as grown-ups. Teens are naive and inexperienced, especially in dealing with adults who have ulterior motives. Sexual predators take advantage of this naivety. They manipulate kids in an effort to gain trust, which they use to gradually turn seemingly innocent online relationships into real-life sexual interactions.

A predator usually approaches a child initially through harmless chat room or instant message dialogue.

Over time—perhaps weeks or even months—the stranger, having obtained as much personal information as possible, grooms the child, gaining his or her trust through compliments, positive statements, and other forms of flattery to build an emotional bond.

As the child begins to respond to and bond with this person, conversations become more personal the child might share their phone number, their hobbies, their location, places that they frequent.

Some predators also pass along sexually explicit images of children to suggest to the targeted child that it's normal for kids to be involved in sexual activities. From there it could be a short distance to a face-to-face meeting.

These face-to-face meetings often end in tragedy as in Carly Ryan's case.

By the time a child agrees to meet a predator face to face, he or she no longer thinks of that person as a stranger.

We are seeking to add this vital law to address the common denominator in the way online predators behave, they all set up false online profiles, most reduce their online age to present as a peer to the child with the intention to meet that child.

I put it to you that no adult could have a legitimate reason for establishing false profiles with fake names, age and photos to contact and meet a child that is not known to them for legitimate purposes.

The proposed law is specifically tailored to that fact.

Since Carly's murder I have been providing online safety seminars at schools, university's and public events nationally. The foundation responds to emails or phone requests on information regarding Internet safety, false profiles and online predatory behaviour or bullying behaviour. The foundation also promotes those attending the seminars to report any suspicious online activity to Crime Stoppers

During these Internet safety seminars I have become aware that strangers regularly approach our children online, commonly this is revealed in discussions with the students following the seminar. The children share their stories of potentially dangerous online contact, this is happening at almost every school seminar I do.

As a nation we need to support our law enforcement units that are dealing with this new form of stranger danger, to ensure that once they have identified a predator, they have the support of this Parliament to apprehend these criminals.

Carly's murder was the first of its kind in Australia, the unfortunate reality is that there have been further cases since, and unless we empower police, most of these preventable crimes will increase in number.

By requesting this law we seek to target those adults who specifically deceive minors with false personal information online in order to present as a peer, to build trust in order to exploit children.

This online behaviour is a specific method used by those individuals with criminal intent. We wish to empower our law enforcement officers to act in order to prevent children suffering. Currently, the police have no ability to intervene before a crime is committed. They have no ability to seize incriminating evidence that would have these people behind bars, no DNA sample to provide a police record of their attempt to harm and no ability to detain the predator/criminal.

This proposed law is the gap between our law enforcement agencies and the ability to make a difference before it's too late.

We have comprehensive laws that protect us from those who seek to commit an act of terror, apprehending the persons evolved prior to the event.

I believe we also need to have laws that protect our children on the same basis, to prevent an act of terror, terror that may or may not end in death, but may cause a lifetime of trauma.

The suffering caused by these types of crime is immeasurable.
As Carly's mother I ask that you implement 'Carly's law' as soon as possible.

This law is vital if we are to adapt to the current online social behaviour our children engage in daily.

A 2006 survey of more than 1500 young people, aged between 10 and 15, reported a staggering 35 per cent of them had been victims of either Internet harassment or solicitation for sex.

The online world has since grown exponentially, yet our laws seem stuck in the pre-internet era.

Carly's Law will protect future generations using the Internet.

It is important that there is a minimum sentence of three years attached to this law for the following reasons-

- One year enables police to take DNA
- Two Years enables police to detain an offender
- Three years enables police to seize technology from an offender's location

Some examples of the migration of traditional crime to the online environment

Traditional Crime	Cyber Crime Equivalent
Fraud	Online fraud, auction fraud, advance fee fraud
Burglary/malicious damage	Online hacking, denial of service attacks, viruses
Child Sex Offences	Online child grooming, child pornography websites
Money laundering	Online payment systems, e-cash
Theft	ID Crime, bank website 'phishing' and movie, music and software piracy
Stalking	Cyber stalking, cyber bullying

-Source Australian Crime Commission

Some examples of online homicides

The following individuals have been arrested and/or convicted of crimes in which police claimed that Internet services such as chat rooms and Facebook were used to contact victims. Despite sharing a similar method of contacting victims, they have varied motivations.

1. Sept 2009 Teenager, Ashleigh Hall was murdered by serial rapist Peter Chapman after he groomed her on Facebook. Chapman, 35, posed as a handsome teenager called Peter Cartwright to lure 17-year-old trainee nurse Ashleigh into his trap. Chapman drove Ashleigh to a secluded area called Thorpe Larches, near Sedgefield in County Durham. Once there, he forced her to perform a sex act before binding and gagging her with duct tape, wrapping so much around her head that she suffocated to death. He then dumped her body in a ditch and drove off. In March 2010, Chapman was sentenced to a minimum of 35 years in jail for Ashleigh's kidnap, rape and murder.
2. In 2010, Gary Newman was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Carly Ryan, aged 15yrs. Newman posed as a teenage boy online speaking with Carly for over 18 months from 2006-2007. He was able to gain Carly's trust, then lured Carly out of her home to murder her. Newman used over 200 fake profiles online to establish contact with young girls.
3. In 2010 Nona Belomesoff, 18, was found dead in a creek south west of Sydney after going to meet a Facebook 'friend'. The Australian teenager was lured to her death by a man she met on Facebook after he offered her a fake job protecting wildlife. Christopher Dannewig, 20, set up a bogus profile to pose as an animal rescue worker and enticed his victim to the isolated spot. Nona, who is described as an animal lover, was told she first had to go on an overnight camping trip that would be part of her initial training for the post. Christopher Dannevig, 22, pleaded guilty to murdering 18-year-old TAFE student Nona Belomesoff after using Face-book to groom her online. He used the fake Face-book profile of 'Jason Green'.
4. David Russell, a UK McDonald's worker, impersonated 'Bring Me the Horizon' singer Oliver Sykes to seduce a California woman he met on Facebook before slitting her throat and repeatedly stabbing her. Russell, 20, has been jailed for life after admitting to the kidnap and attempted murder of Maricar Benedicto, 19, who he met online in 2010
Bring Me The Horizon supports The Carly Ryan Foundation, Jona Weinhofen, their former guitarist, is the Carly Ryan foundation's official ambassador.

Without exception all state/territory computer crime squads reported a large increase in the investigation of complaints concerning pornography, especially child pornography and online child grooming over the Internet in the past year. Some units described this trend as their major problem area and representing the fastest growing single area of computer-related crime. In part, the increasing visibility by law enforcement of pornography and child grooming over networks relates to media reporting and a vocal element of the public perceiving the Net as a medium for 'terrorists and pornographers'.

Police submissions and statistics from The Sexual Crime Investigation Branches nationally, Task Force ARGOS and Task Force ASTRAEA will become available in due course Unfortunately, it takes sometime to gain this information.

It is normal protocol to write to the Commissioner's Office seeking a response. As I understand it, it is also a State Government requirement that any information provided by the State agencies to Commonwealth Government Inquiries is approved by State Cabinet at the State level.

The request I have made will take some time to collate and prepare.

From what I have seen so far the statistics regarding online crime are frightening to say the least.

This information will show how prevalent online crime has become.

I am hoping 'Carly's Law' will help police detain an individual, gathering evidence and information and possibly prevent crime before it happens.

I am happy to answer any further questions or provide further information which may be helpful to the committee.

Kindest regards

Sonya Ryan
Director

W: www.carlyryanfoundation.com