



Ministry for Police & Emergency Services

Ms Christine McDonald
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Cyber Safety
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

DOC008007

Dear Ms McDonald

I refer to correspondence received by the Commissioner of Police, Andrew Scipione, regarding the Senate Select Committee inquiry into cyber safety. I understand that the Committee was established to inquire into and report on options for addressing the issue of 'sexting' by minors.

The NSW Police Force has advised that sexting is a social issue best addressed by a broad approach, including awareness programs in schools, reinforcement by parents and responsible moderators in online chat rooms. I understand that the primary focus in NSW is the prevention of harm to children through education, including the 'Think U Know' program, as adapted from a model introduced in the United Kingdom.

Police also have in place a number of programs and initiatives which are aimed at addressing sexting conducted by children.

In cases where sexting comes to the attention of Police, I am advised that most offending juveniles are dealt with through youth justice conferencing under the *Young Offenders Act 1997*. Criminal prosecutions have been pursued in cases where sexting has formed part of other sexually based offences, or where there has been significant amount of child abuse material.

Exemptions from registration under the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000* are available to some young offenders under that Act. Some sexting offences fall within a class of offence for which convicted juveniles would not be included on the NSW Child Protection Register.

Yours sincerely

Vicki D'Adam
A/Chief Executive Officer