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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Australia

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Submission:

Criminal Code Amendment (Misrepresentation of Age to a Minor) Bill 2010

This Bill criminalises "misrepresentation of age to a minor" – regardless of intent.

As written, to Civil Liberties Australia it looks completely misguided.

Under the current draft, you could use the legislation to throw the Wiggles (or any adult actor dressing up on children's TV) into prison for three (3) years. This Bill could close Playschool!

The Bill also does not appear to achieve any discernible purpose, since other legislation sufficiently covers the "grooming" activities it is meant to address.

CLA proposes that the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee should be wary of adding laws that are not needed to the already overwhelming number of criminal laws in Australia.

This Bill should be summarily thrown out.

Dr Kristine Klugman OAM
President

19 February 2010