

To Whom it may concern:

I want it known that I totally support the Implementation of age verification in Australia.

With age of the internet, our children are not shielded from the onslaught of pornography.

Let me quote from a letter from a broken-hearted wife (edited liberty taken). A Christian family, where the husband held many important callings.

“My husband of 35 years died recently. ... He had visited with our good bishop as quickly as he could after his most recent surgery. Then he came to me on that same evening to tell me he had been addicted to pornography. He needed me to forgive him [before he died]. He further said that he had grown tired of living a double life. [He had served in many important] Church callings while knowing [at the same time] that he was in the grips of this ‘other master.’

“I was stunned, hurt, felt betrayed and violated. I could not promise him forgiveness at that moment but pleaded for time. ... I was able to review my married life [and how] pornography had ... put a stranglehold on our marriage from early on. We had only been married a couple of months when he brought home a [pornographic] magazine. I locked him out of the car because I was so hurt and angry. ...

“For many years in our marriage ... he was most cruel in many of his demands. I was never good enough for him. ... I felt incredibly beaten down at that time to a point of deep depression. ... I know now that I was being compared to the latest ‘porn queen.’ ...

“We went to counseling one time and ... my husband proceeded to rip me apart with his criticism and disdain of me. ...

“I could not even get into the car with him after that but walked around the town ... for hours, contemplating suicide. [I thought,] ‘Why go on if this is all that my “eternal companion” feels for me?’

“I did go on, but zipped a protective shield around myself. I existed for other reasons than my husband and found joy in my children, in projects and accomplishments that I could do totally on my own. ...

“After his ‘deathbed confession’ and [after taking time] to search through my life, I [said] to him, ‘Don’t you know what you have done?’ ... I told him I had brought a pure heart into our marriage, kept it pure during that marriage, and intended to keep it pure ever after. Why could he not do the same for me? All I ever wanted was to feel cherished and treated with the smallest of pleasantries ... instead of being treated like some kind of chattel. ...

“I am now left to grieve not only for his being gone but also for a relationship that could have been [beautiful, but was not]. ... Pornography is not some titillating feast for the eyes that gives a momentary rush of excitement. [Rather] it has the effect of damaging hearts and souls to their very depths, strangling the life out of relationships that should be sacred, hurting to the very core those you should love the most.”