

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives,

This petition of certain residents of Australia draws to the attention of the House:

- that the Government is proposing a **costly, oppressive and technically infeasible plan to impose filtering on all Internet connections;**
- that, according to the Whirlpool Australian Broadband Survey 2007, **74.4% of Australian Internet users oppose the plan;**
- that, according to a June 2008 report produced by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, present filtering technology could result in **performance degradation of over 80% and up to 8% false positives, while failing to block up to 12% of tested sites;**
- that present filtering technology is ineffective at filtering non-Web protocols such as instant messaging and peer-to-peer file sharing, increasingly used by today's children;
- that **no comparable filtering schemes are used in any liberal democracy;**
- that the scheme will restrict our **civil liberties** while encouraging **lax parenting;**
- that this will come at a likely cost to the taxpayer of over ***\$44 million***, and further increase Internet charges;
- that the filter will be ineffective and will **NOT** protect Australian families from pornography or online criminals;
- that we the undersigned, whilst having differing moral and religious views regarding pornography and unlawful material, believe that the proposed filter is not a good solution to these issues.

We therefore ask the House to:

- condemn the Government's Internet filtering plan,
- oppose any legislation for the plan's implementation,
- recognise that it is the role of parents, not the government, to protect their children, and
- support educational programs and the work of the Australian Federal Police in this area.