

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1

DEST Question No. E032_04

Senator Harradine asked on 10 June 2003, in a written question on notice:

Question:

- (a) Please provide all details of the major study of pornography being undertaken by Albury, Lumby and McKee including total amount of the ARC grant, length of time for study, aims of the study. Please provide a copy of their funding application.
- (b) Will the study be examining the issue of the impact of Internet pornography on young people?
- (c) Will the study explore the issue of the commodification and degradation of women in pornography?
- (d) What input has the porn industry, including the Eros Foundation, had into this project?
- (e) Are you aware that the Eros Foundation has given this study strong endorsement through its newsletter?
- (f) Are you concerned that Eros Foundation support indicates that this study may be strongly influenced by the pornography industry and that its results could therefore be called into question?
- (g) Please provide a copy of any progress reports the project manager has provided.

Answer:

Major study of pornography

The ARC has provided the following response.

- (a) While it is not the policy of the ARC to provide copies of applications for funding to people outside the ARC, the researchers involved have agreed on this occasion to the release of the document at Attachment A. The main details of the study are provided in the table below – these details are available on the ARC's website at www.arc.gov.au.

Project Title	Understanding pornography in Australia: public discourses and pornographic texts
Researchers	Dr Alan McKee Associate Professor Catharine Lumby Ms Kath Albury
Administering Organisation	The University of Queensland

Approved Funding	2002: \$57,500 2003: \$75,000
Summary	This project will offer a detailed, large-scale analysis of the place of pornography in Australian culture. It will interview 300 producers and distributors of pornographic texts, and almost one thousand consumers of these texts. Using insights from this research into the ways in which pornography is understood by those involved with it in Australia, one hundred popular pornographic videos will be analysed to understand what is in them, and how they are used.

- (b) While not identified specifically in the application, given the broad scope of the study some consideration of this issue is likely.
- (c) While not identified specifically in the application, given the broad scope of the study some consideration of this issue is likely.
- (d) The research project is (in part) a study of producers and distributors of pornography. In the progress report, the researchers indicate that they have established links with the Eros Foundation in order to access information about production and distribution of pornography in Australia.
- (e) The ARC is not aware of the content of the Eros Foundation newsletter. In the project's progress report, the researchers indicate that 'an article about the project was published in the Adult Industry Review, the journal of Eros'.
- (f) No. The project can be expected to produce outputs such as conference papers and journal articles, through which the findings will be subject to academic scrutiny and public debate.
- (g) While it is not the policy of the ARC to provide copies of progress reports to people outside the ARC, the researchers involved have agreed on this occasion to the release of the document at Attachment B.