

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1

DEST Question No. E481_04

Senator Harradine asked on 5 November 2003, EWRE Hansard page 47:

Question:

Senator HARRADINE – How was the leader of the group able to find that in mainstream pornography produced by porn merchants that he has not been able to see any 'sexual violence, bestiality or under-age sex'? That is taken for granted; that is illegal. Why do you need a study to result in that statement? That is against the law. What is Dr Alan McKee doing by making a statement that is simply a matter of fact – a matter of law?

Prof Sara – Certainly there are wide differences between the reporting through ARC reporting mechanisms and the press clippings that may come out, and we all know how distorted they can be.

Senator HARRADINE – I am sorry. I am talking about an opinion piece that was written by the leader of the group. Professor Sara, one really needs to raise a question about the rigour of the analyses of your particular projects. Who decided that this study would be done?

Prof Sara – The research projects that we fund are initiated by the investigators themselves. They are then assessed by a committee of experts in the area.

Senator HARRADINE – Who was on the committee of experts in this instance?

Prof Sara – I would have to provide that information. The committees change on a yearly basis and the date of this project is 2002, I think. We could provide you with a list of those experts in the social, behaviour, and economic sciences. There were 12 experts on that committee, and they requested information from external assessors who looked at it and ranked it as opposed to others.

Answer:

Expert Advisory Committee – Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

The ARC has provided the following response.

The members of the Expert Advisory Committee that assessed the project "Understanding pornography in Australia: public discourses and pornographic texts" are listed below. This information is available in the ARC Annual Report 2001-02.

**ARC Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences Expert Advisory Committee
members as at 31 December 2001**

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| Chair |
| Professor Graeme Hugo The University of Adelaide |
| Members |
| Professor David Andrich Murdoch University |
| Professor Kenneth Clements The University of Western Australia |
| Professor Max Coltheart Macquarie University |
| Professor Cindy Gallois The University of Queensland |
| Associate Professor Michael Johnson The University of New South Wales |
| Professor Peter Saunders The University of New South Wales |
| Professor Geoffrey Soutar The University of Western Australia |
| Professor Roger J. Wales La Trobe University |