

26 April 2008

Inquiry into the effectiveness of the broadcasting codes of practice.

I submit this in hopes the Senate will promptly drop this unnessecary inquiry. Unfortunately in opening this sort inquiry, most often the only public voices heard are the odd one or two per thousand population who have problems with how everyone else is living their own life.

Of Australia's population of approximately 21 million, roughly 16 million are aged 15 years or older. The rest are our precious children.

Lets not kid ourselves... the 15 - 18 year olds need guidance and advice, they need a strong relationship with their parents, but most importantly they need parents with the ability to guide and advise.

Do not think your boy/girl in Year 10 of high school goes to school on a Monday and says to their friends - "I had a mighty swell weekend, I saw a groovy band play at the old theatre!" - You can expect that sentence to be replaced by something along the lines of "F*ck mate, ripper weekend... went and saw a f*ckin' sh*thot band. They f*cking went off!"

My high school experience certainly followed the above script, yet to this day I still never use such language in the presence of my parents. I was taught respect and discipline.

Why is the above important? It demonstrates from the demographics I provided, that 75% of the Australian population is certainly familiar with the use of colourful language, and the context in which it can be used.

So how do we protect the other 25%?

Judging by Mr K. Rudd and his henchmen, the answer is censorship - with an Internet filter likely to be switched on within the year, effectively removing choice from 75% of Australia - he hopes to protect the 10% or so of Australia, who would be old enough to use a computer efficiently under the age of 15.

Is your 10 year old child using the internet unsupervised? Why don't you just give them a knife or some matches to play with.

Censorship is not the answer. Censorship will not stop the school yard banter, censorship will not stop little Johnny finding Dads old pornographic magazines, censorship will not turn your child into the next prodigy looking to become the next Australian Prime Minister.

Should censorship prevail again, based on this inquiry, I will be closely watching the 'republic' debate - if Australia decides it's time, I'm sure changing the name to "The Communist Republic of Austrachina" would be deemed appropriate, and favoured by Mr K. Rudd - Communism and censorship certainly go hand in hand.

The answer to all of these continued complaints from the minority of Australia - is to take an active role in parenting. Do not expect the government to do the parenting for you.

If your child sees a junk food advertisement, of course, they come and beg to you - Say NO! - If you give in and they end up with fried chicken for breakfast, lunch and dinner, blame YOURSELF, not the television.

If your child hears inappropriate language for their age, explain it to them, let them know the adults are talking, and it's not for their ears. 5 minutes later they will be outside roasting ants with magnifying glasses.

The parent is the one providing guidance and advice - not the government. And it seems the majority of those with these censorship issues need to start acting like a parent.

Thank you, Chris Hermann, WA.