

I would like to make a submission to the committee regarding this issue 'Inquiry into the sexualisation of children in the contemporary media environment.'

Our family over the Christmas holidays 2008 spend some time in the United States. In our time there I became increasingly aware of their lack of sexual and offensive material in the main stream media (the likes of television, billboards and even the displays of magazines on news paper stands).

I say 'became increasingly aware' due to my now awareness of how desensitised I had become to the amount of sexually explicit material there is around me here at home. I might have understood if I had had my holiday in the bible belt of the US but no I was in the heart of Californian a liberal domain. I saw television programs that I'd seen here edited within an inch of there lives music video clips that had there explicit scenes removed. I must admit it was refreshing not to worry about my 2 boys and what they were watching, seeing and hearing day to day.

I have come to the opinion that were material is to be free to air or in the public domain that the broader community must be considered and not just those with motives of financial gain. In saying this I do not believe a self regulated body is in the position to adjudicate and/or regulate itself and it members. Their rules and guidelines appear to be too broad in scope and unclear in regard to defined interpretation. This leaves every available gap for their misinterpretation and/or manipulation of any complaint put towards them. I would like this committee to investigate how many complaints have been forwarded to them as opposed to how many they have chosen to take action on.

I'm happy for someone to pay for their bit of titillation but as smokers have been slowly taken away from public areas due to non smokers not wishing to participate in an activity they did not want or pay for. Like wise I am against this material being thrust in my families face at every opportunity.

Children with an ever increasing amount of homework and the huge range of activities available to them do not go to bed at the same time as 'Big Dog and Prime Possum' the age appropriate material on before 8.30pm leaves much to the imagination as to what is age appropriate. The likes of 'Home and Away and Neighbours' etc have increasingly extended the boundaries to continually include inappropriate material. Even the news and current affairs programs seem to overlook who would be watching with the material that is discussed and shown, the list is endless.

Our moral and ethical standards need to be protected.

Kind Regards  
Stuart Torrance