

Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts,
Parliament House,
Canberra.

Dear Committee Members,
To quote Senator Allison, "It is crucial to the proper development that children are free to have a childhood."

Our society has become so commercialized that the boundaries are always being stretched in the quest for dollars. Mammon overrides everything, including decency. Our families are being bombarded daily through the media by sexualized imagery and language. Words that I didn't even know existed when I was a teenager (back in the 50's) are now being thrust at kindergarten children

Graphic images are forced on children in family viewing times, if not in the actual programs, by advertising of late night programs and sleazy product advertisements that especially denigrate women. All of which leads to a lack of respect for girls and women in general.

Letters and complaints to the media are either ignored or you are informed that the advertisement is within the guidelines. What guidelines?

As an ex primary teacher I am concerned with the so called sex education in schools and kindergartens. This has become more specific in its content, especially with minority groups pushing their agenda. Even this week there is a push to remove the words such as mother and father from schools. I am a husband, a father and a grandfather, not a partner (except in business) nor a progenit

We need a society where children's clothing, toys and schooling are not sexualized. Let kids be kids and keep their innocence as long as possible.

Yours respectfully,
David G. Westaway,