

To the Senate Committee,

We are two 13 year old girls wishing to state our opinion about the sexualisation of children and the objectification of females. We strongly believe that it is wrong of Australia's community to be allowing this in to our society. We believe that it is wrong that pornographic and explicit material is sold publicly in places like supermarkets, milk bars and newsagents, and is not covered up and is right at young children's eye level. We believe that this distorts children's (and anyone's for that matter) perception of what is normal.

There are public billboards everywhere across Australia with messages such as:

***'Want longer lasting sex?'***  
***'SEX! No chocolate or flowers required.'***  
***'Erection or premature ejaculation problems?'***  
***'For a star performance ring AMI now!'***

These are just some of their quotes. They also publicly advertise the 'Sexpo' show and various adult centres. Right across the road from our school was a sign advertising the 'Hookers and Deviates ball' We remember passing many of these billboards on school trips, in early years such as grades 5 and 6 with children laughing at and questioning these advertisements. On the radio we often hear ads for the 'AMI' (advanced medical institute) which have moaning and groaning in the background and speech such as:

*'The mans embarrassed, the woman's upset. Premature ejaculation can really affect your sex life.'*

A major resource of inappropriate material young tweens are viewing is magazines aimed at girls 11-16 years old such as Girlfriend and Dolly. Most girls our age read these magazines, and they are not all bad. Some of the content is beyond the age level of the readers though. In one of the articles they mentioned 'giving oral sex with braces' (most of the children at our school wear braces around the ages of 12-14).

One of the concerns is what the young girls are writing in about. Often young females under 16 years old are having unprotected sex and are obviously feeling the pressure to loose their virginity. One 11 year old girl wrote in to say that her boyfriend had asked her to have sex with him, but she didn't know if she was ready or not. The magazine replied in a more 'how to' manual, rather than stating the cons of having sex at that age, and how it could be damaging to her.

Girlfriend and Dolly's 'sealed section' is a major resource for sexual information to tweens and teens. This could be helpful to some teens and we don't personally have a problem with it, but some of the contents we believe are beyond the age level of their readers. With articles which mention things like giving oral sex with braces (most children at our school wear braces around the ages of 12-14 years old) and one had a 'Sexasorous' which was all about slang words for different sexual things.

Young girls often write in their concerns about having sex, when they should do it and if they are ready, but it seems to us that these magazines are providing more of a 'how too' manual rather than stating the cons about it or mentioning that they are quite young and may not be ready. A girl wrote in saying she was 11 years old and 'her boyfriend had asked her to have sex with him, and she wasn't sure if she was ready'. The magazine replied by talking about feeling ready and discussing it with her boyfriend. Nowhere did it mention that she was 5 years under the age limit if her boyfriend is two years older than her.

Basically we want these things to be stopped by the Australian Government:

- 1 No commercial sex adverts
- 2 No pornography in reach or view of children
- 3 Sex is not valid in tween and teen magazines

4 Prevent corporate paedophilia – general paedophilia- online predators – child trafficking in Asia

5 AND MANY MORE...

Thanks so much for reading this and we hope that our government has the brains to stop the sexualization and objectification in children.