

To Enquiry Committee,

Having grown up in a country where sexualisation of children didn't exist (Czechoslovakia, prior to 1985) I clearly recall my happy childhood, adolescent and teenage life free of any external direct or indirect sexual awakening or arousal. There were no porn magazines in the shop displays, no sex ad messages on the billboards, TV or any media. I consider myself to be a healthy heterosexual, attracted to the opposite sex, contemplated marriage in my twenties and thirties, but nevertheless committed to celibate lifestyle as a Catholic Priest. I am therefore in a unique position firstly to compare the influence of sexualisation of the Australian society with that of Czechoslovakia prior to 1985 and secondly to testify to the sexual abuse that I feel as a celibate person (and all sexually healthy celibate people including children and especially adolescent and teenagers) from explicit sexual innuendos in the media and indeed all spheres of our society.

It is hypocritical to cry foul when children are physically sexually abused by adults, when they are also sexually abused on a daily basis through various means of sexualisation so prevalent in our society. I'd like to express my concern that the sexualisation of our children is rampant especially through advertising, music industry and any marketing for both children and adults as most of the time it is difficult to make sure that children's exposure can be avoided. I am also concerned about the specific products for children such as Bratz and teenage magazines, films and music which exploit children's and teen's inquisitiveness about sexual issues with result of many children adopting sexualized behavior at the expense of development in other important areas such as sport, creativity or play.

I strongly urge you to consider amending our advertising codes of conduct to respect our right not to be sexually aroused (abused) by explicit or implicit imagery or messages to which we and our children are involuntarily exposed. This above all applies to e-pornography and necessity of compulsory ISP level filtering.

Sexual education of children is the right and duty of parents who alone can determine the maturity of the children to receive such education. Part of such education should include the awareness of the dangers from predators such as Toy makers, music industry, Hollywood and media in general.

These simple precautions can save our society billions of dollars through prevention of physical and psychological harm to our children due to sexualisation.

Sincerely
Rev. Peter Krigovsky