

Censorship and Filtering

Media, including television, films and the internet, play an increasingly influential role in the formation of public opinion and taste. Children, including teenagers, are especially vulnerable to media influence. Aggressive and pornographic media is now making inroads into mainstream advertising and merchandising.

Society has a moral duty to limit what can be conveyed by the media in order to protect children and the whole community from what is harmful, especially violent and pornographic content which current research links to domestic violence.

Australian Christians supports the introduction of an Online Safety Bill similar to the UK Bill introduced by Baroness Howe.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0008/16008.pdf>

This would mean ISP filtering would become the default setting on all devices protecting children in schools, libraries and in homes from viewing harmful adult content. Adults wishing to remove the filter would be required to 'opt in' for adult content limiting such content to those who expressly seek it.

Australian Christians also supports a review of the existing media classification standards and the development of a clearly defined censorship and media classification policy that acts in the best interests of society at large.