

Porn Harms Children Senate Inquiry

*Premature sexualisation is like pollution . . .
We penalise businesses that dump toxic waste.
But some businesses are dumping a waste
that is toxic on our children.
Products and marketing that can warp their minds
and their bodies and harm their future.
That can take away their innocence,
which I know most parents would agree
is so precious and worth defending.*

Prime Minister - David Cameron

**Policy Recommendations for harm being done to Australian
children through access to pornography on the Internet**

Prepared by Warwick and Alison Marsh
with the assistance of Lusanne Jenkins, Julie Pfeiffer and Bill Muehlenberg



14 March 2016

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on
Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

Enclosed is a copy of our submission in response to harm being done to Australian children through access to pornography on the internet. This submission has sought to highlight policy recommendation into the harm that online/internet porn does to children.

As a Harm Prevention Charity which deals extensively with families going through the pain and confusion of dysfunction and breakdown of the family structure, we have witnessed firsthand the distress and anguish that can arise from a family member being addicted to pornography and the impact that it has on the family unit.

We have combined our extensive knowledge and experience of men and women, with widespread secondary research, that has provided us with some overwhelming support for our conclusions. These recommendations include studies from government and non-government agencies, and medical and academic journals.

We have provided a list of recommendations for the committee in regards to the Senate enquiry's terms of reference.

If you have any questions or require further information from us in regards to this submission, please contact Dads4Kids using the details provided below.

Sincerely
Warwick and Alison Marsh
Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation

Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation

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Introduction and Terms of Reference

We thank the Australian Senate for proposing an inquiry into the **Harm being done to Australian children through access to pornography on the Internet**, with particular reference to:

- a. trends of online consumption of pornography by children and their impact on the development of healthy and respectful relationships;
- b. current methods taken towards harm minimisation in other jurisdictions, and the effectiveness of those methods;
- c. the identification of any measures with the potential for implementation in Australia; and
- d. any other related matters.

Our submission will show that the consumption of pornography on the internet is increasing and proving very harmful to both children and adults alike, but particularly children. Both the UK and Singapore, among other nations, have introduced Porn filtering at ISP level to protect their respective populations.

Whilst the main focus of our submission is the urgent need for porn filtering at an ISP level, our submission will show that there is a need for a holistic approach to stop the further sexualisation of our children.

We have included our 12 policy recommendations with arguments for all of them contained in our submission. Also included is our longstanding research document on ***Why Sexual Integrity Matters*** which undergirds all our policy suggestions.

In 2005 Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation organised Australia's first Sexual Integrity Forum in the Main Committee Room of Parliament House. We have also included the recommendations from the Sexual Integrity Forum as a point of reference both for our submission and the bigger picture of the need for holistic policy to protect the future of our children.

Policy Recommendations for Porn Harms Children Senate Inquiry

1) Mandatory Filtering of the Internet at ISP Level

Dads4Kids calls on the Federal Government to legislate implementation of a national system of mandatory filtering to block access to pornographic material at Internet Service Provider (ISP) level to protect the children of Australia from harm.

(Note: The Clean feed could have an opt out option only to be authorised by adults.)

2) Stop the Safe Schools Coalition Sexualising our Children

Dads4Kids calls on the federal government to immediately close down and withdraw the funding for the much discredited Safe Schools Coalition. This government approved and funded body is encouraging children as young as 11 years of age to access porn websites through direct and indirect links. This program is bringing harm to the children of Australia. Parents should be the primary educators of children on issues surrounding homosexual sex and transgender issues not Government.

3) We call for a “Stop the Sexualisation of Our Children Summit”

This Summit could be a collaborative effort organised by government, community, family groups and key stakeholders to stop the sexualisation of our children both in school and out of school. The Purpose of the Summit would be to unify the community in helping stop the sexualisation of our children on the internet and media, fashion, music, social media and sporting/recreational associations. (dance school, performing arts school, drama school, sporting groups).

Dads4kids call on the Government to support the introduction of collaborative guidelines to prevent the Sexualisation of our Children through the internet and media, fashion, music, social media and sporting/recreational associations. **These collaborative guidelines could be a practical outcome from the Stop the Sexualisation of Our Children Summit.** These guidelines should support all activities of children whether in school or out of school that involve children.

We call on the Government and sporting associations, performing art bodies and practitioners involved in child based after school activities, to work together so that all forms of public exhibitions/performances, portray healthy relationship images and encourage sexual integrity. We call for the formation, introduction and implementation of guidelines for age appropriate music and dress/performance wear to protect our children.

We propose the following:

- ☐ introduction classification standards for music in order to ensure the standards of sexual integrity is introduction.
- ☐ Education and training with all association and governing bodies running out of school activities to ensure age appropriate activities, music and attire.

4) Protect our Children from all Pornography

We recommend that the Federal, State and Territory Governments Legislate so that:

- a) Material which contains pictorial, editorial or any content of a sexual nature that is clearly intended for an adult only clientele, no longer be accessed by, displayed to, or sold to anyone under the age of 18. For Example: Simple restrictions can be implemented such as height restrictions for display areas (eg 1.75m) blinder racks, and opaque wrapping where only the title is visible.

5) Government Health Warning

We wish to submit a recommendation that the Federal Government Legislate the placement of a Visible Warning Label (such as is currently displayed on tobacco products & CD covers) on all sexually explicit material including digital material to prevent harm to children.

WARNING
Sexually explicit material may cause harm to children.
It might also cause sexual addiction and
personal and relational difficulties.

6) Child Sexual Abuse & the Need for Help Centres & Education Programmes

In the light of the enormous personal, family and economic costs of child sexual abuse, which more than 1 million Australians report having suffered, we propose the establishment of Child Sexual Abuse Help Centres and an educational multimedia campaign to:

- a) Expose the problem of Child Sexual Abuse by exposing the culture of secrecy, silence and shame.
- b) Train parents to empower their children to recognise and reject abusive behaviour.
- c) Train children to trust their instinctive rejection of inappropriate adult behaviour.
- d) Inform & educate about child sexual abuse through co-ordinated website development.
- e) Provide assistance to those affected, through Child Sexual Abuse Help Centres.
- f) Provide training and support of workers in Child Sexual Abuse Help Centres to assist child victims.
- g) Provide assistance for those adult victims who want to break the cycle of abuse, and child sexual abuse offenders who genuinely want help.

7) Ending Sexual Slavery of Women and Children

Dads4Kids would like to congratulate both successive Liberal and Labor Governments on their recent reforms to combat the international trafficking of women for prostitution in Australia, but much more needs to be done. Evidence suggests that Children are also involved in Sex Trafficking in Australia. It is clear the Children are victims in their millions in South East Asia of Sexual Exploitation. Australian men are involved in the Sexual Exploitation of Children overseas. Dads4Kids believes that the Government must also look at how the demand for sexual slavery is created. The ever increasing flood of pornographic material through the Internet and the legalisation of prostitution in some states of Australia is causing increased demand for trafficking in international persons for prostitution. This is causing Harm to our Children. Dads4Kids advocates for the

ending of sexual slavery of all types and in particular the ending of international trafficking of Women and Children for prostitution in Australia by:

- a) The Federal Government must enforce Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which Australia ratified on 28 July 1983. This convention clearly states, 'State parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic and exploitation of prostitution of women.' The Sexual Integrity Forum calls upon the Federal Government to bring the states that have legalised prostitution into line with the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women by making the exploitation of women through the legalisation of prostitution illegal.
- b) Increased profiling and greater scrutiny of at risk people by immigration and the Australian Federal Police at the point of entry.
- c) Increased government assistance and a call for the public to support the Australian Federal Police as they work to expose the prostitution trafficking networks that are still operating in Australia; e.g. Australian Federal Police 'New Girl' campaign to expose prostitution trafficking networks.
- d) Initiate a media campaign to expose the truth about the exploitation of women and children through prostitution and the sex trafficking industry.
- e) Further development of the protection of trafficked persons with full respect for their human rights. (New UN protocol.)

8) Call for Government Action

Dads4Kids calls on the Federal Government to develop a holistic strategy to deal with the harmful aspects of porn on not just children but on the harmful effects of porn in the broader community. We call on the Government to become proactive and develop a National Sexual Integrity policy document to address the increasing level of sexual exploitation within Australian society. Both men and women are suffering from Sexual exploitation but our children suffer the greatest level of exploitation. We believe that the Sexual Integrity Strategic Plan crafted in 2005 in the Main Committee Room of Parliament House by a broad array of community groups and stakeholders provides the foundation for such a policy document. Dads4Kids believes that a national sexual integrity policy document should include a national sexual integrity impact statement on all relevant legislation particularly as it relates to children. .

9) Media Campaign to Encourage Sexual Integrity in Relationships

We call on the Government, Internet providers and media to work together so that all forms of public communication portray healthy relationship images and encourage sexual integrity. We propose the following:

- Revisit classification standards in order to raise the standards of sexual integrity.
- Media campaign to encourage sexual integrity.
- Informing people and empowering people to have a voice in the democratic process by inviting the whole community to be part of the sexual integrity consultation process.
- Promotional campaign to encourage education in relationship skilling to prevent marriage breakdown and relationship dysfunction.

10) A Call for Responsible Television, Safer Internet & Improved Government Legislation

Australia's social situation is characterised by increasing levels of breakdown of family and relationships, sexual dysfunction, sexual abuse, a rise in sexually transmitted diseases, sexual exploitation and sexual crime,. All of these identified problems are often exacerbated by the media and particularly the Internet and their often distorted depiction of human sexuality. As the media and particularly the Internet not only reflects the surrounding culture but has powerful influence in shaping cultural and social norms we encourage the media and particularly the Internet to recognise its civic/social responsibility and potential to become positive contributors in the areas of human sexuality and personal relationships. Therefore we recommend the following policy directives for: responsible television classification, reform of the Office of Film & Literature Classification, greater protection for our children when using the internet, and the introduction of a government health warning for sexually explicit material.

11) Reform of the Office of Film & Literature Classification (OFLC)

We call for reform of the Office of Film & Literature Classification (OFLC) including:

- a) Amend existing OFLC guidelines to make them more objective.
- b) Review of the procedure by which people are appointed to the Classification and Review Boards.
- c) Ensuring that the OFLC abide by the reformed guidelines.
- d) Amend the procedures for appeals against OFLC classification board decisions which will enable simplification of the appeal process.

12) Sexual Integrity Educational Initiative

Dads4kids calls on the Government to support and fund community-based education initiatives to break the current cycle of relationship dysfunction. It might be noted that much of relationship dysfunction is related to the increased levels of sexual dysfunction within our society which is directly related to increased availability of Internet Porn. Dads4Kids calls on the government to become proactive in policy development in the following ways:

- Introduce sexual integrity as part of the core curriculum in schools
- Mentoring/ peer support programs in sexual integrity
- Character building programs focusing on sexual integrity
- Promoting gender equality through sexual integrity
- Adult sexual integrity relationship education through Family Friendly community based Relationship Centres
- Tertiary courses in sexual integrity
- Government introduced financial incentives for participants to undertake relationship education in sexual integrity.
- Tax deductibility for organisations providing courses in sexual integrity.
- These could be incorporated into existing PDHPE Programs.

Mandatory Filtering of the Internet at ISP Level

Given all that has been said in this submission, including the section called Sixteen Reasons for Sexual Integrity (6.0) Dads4Kids thinks it is only reasonable that the Federal Government makes use of Internet filtering at an ISP level to protect our children. We have done extensive research on this subject and believe such a filtering system is both possible and necessary.

ISP internet filtering has had much discussion in Parliament over the last decade.¹ Other nations have already sought to block out harmful pornographic sites, and we need to learn from their experience in terms of how successful or effective they have been. For example, a quick internet search found this about Singapore and how it dealt with such matters a decade ago:

“The Republic of Singapore is an economic leader in Southeast Asia, with a vibrant information and communications technologies sector; however, the state maintains strong formal and informal controls over the information to which its citizens have access. Singapore's official position is that the state filters Internet content to promote social values and maintain national unity, with the goal of denying access to objectionable material, especially pornography and content encouraging ethnic or religious strife. The Media Development Authority (MDA) claims to block only a symbolic list of 100 Web sites (primarily pornography) as a symbol of the state's disapproval of this content. In addition, the MDA encourages, and each of Singapore's three primary Internet Service Providers offers, optional, filtered Internet access services that block additional sites for a minimal monthly fee.”²

Internet customers in the UK are prohibited from accessing a range of web sites by default, because they have their Internet access filtered by their ISPs. The filtering program has applied to new ISP customers since the end of 2013, and has been extended to existing users on a rolling basis. A voluntary code of practice agreed by all four major ISPs means that customers have to 'opt out' of the ISP filtering to gain access to the blocked content. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_blocking_in_the_United_Kingdom)

Many options are available, and some might work better than others. We believe the clean feed version with an opt-out option, only to be authorised by adults, to be the best. Holding ISPs accountable for what content they allow might be considered. Filtering systems in elementary schools and/or public libraries need to be introduced as a matter of urgency. Looking at ready availability of porn on smart phones would also need to be considered. Many things in fact can be examined here. Admittedly this is an international problem, so it can be difficult to only deal with just one country effectively, but it is not sufficient to just put this in the too-hard basket. Where there is a will there is a way. We owe it to our children to keep working on this and provide them the protection they deserve.

Families are becoming increasingly active online and more likely to accidentally be confronted by pornography images while searching the internet. Children are unaware that they are one click away from porn website. Leading nations eg: UK, have successfully implemented policies to ensure higher levels of (ISP) Internet Services provider levels to protect the children of their nation from harm.

Dr Michael Schwartz of the Master of Johnson Institute in St Louise says, “Sex on the Net is like heroin, it grabs them and takes over their lives. And it’s very difficult to treat because the people affected don’t want to give it up.”

¹ See here for past discussions of this in Australia:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1415/InternetFiltering>

² “Internet Filtering in Singapore in 2004-2005: A Country Study,” <<https://opennet.net/studies/singapore>>

In sum, Dads4Kids calls on the Federal Government to legislate implementation of a national system of mandatory filtering to block access to pornographic material at Internet Service Provider (ISP) level to protect the children of Australia from harm.

Stop the Safe Schools Coalition Sexualising our Children

Dads4Kids is also greatly concerned about the so-called Safe Schools program now in nearly 500 Australian schools. It too often amounts to little more than early sexualisation of children, and much criticism about the programme has already been offered. Indeed, plenty has been written as to why this programme is such a great concern. Let me cite one Australian feminist writer who has real concerns about all this:

“Gender is back in news, thanks to the controversy surrounding the Safe Schools program. This program attempts to educate Australian children on gender and sexual diversity, exploring topics like “OMG my friend’s queer.” While the anti-bullying message that motivates Safe Schools is certainly a worthy one, some of its educational ideas – like teaching pansexuality, how to bind breasts or be genderqueer – raise more questions than they address. Those who criticise Safe Schools’s presentation of gender diversity are readily dismissed as old fashioned or conservative, but there are good grounds for asking hard questions – not least because the research is far from conclusive. Purportedly, the more education around gender, sexuality and identity, the more progressive and safer society will be when it comes to managing diversity. As a result, gender has become an increasingly prominent issue, especially in the media – from the widely publicised No Gender December and genderbread kits, to the news that Angelina Jolie’s daughter had decided to take the name ‘John’.”³

And if this federal government program was nothing other than an anti-bullying program, no one would be upset about it. But it is clear from their own website that this is not just about bullying in general, but about pushing a particular set of sexual lifestyles. That is what has so many parents concerned. One simply has to go to their site and see what they say:

“Safe Schools Coalition Australia is a national coalition of organisations and schools working together to create safe and inclusive school environments for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, staff and families. It is funded by the Australian Government and, in Victoria, by the Victorian Government. The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) is the national convenor of Safe Schools Coalition Australia and has partnered with experienced organisations in every state and territory to directly support schools.”⁴

Most people were bullied as a child at school. They were bullied and picked on because they were too fat or too skinny. Too short or too tall. Too ugly or too good looking. Too rich or too poor. Too cool or too uncool. Too smart or too stupid. There are plenty of reasons why children get bullied. But to use a program which offers the early sexualisation of children in schools is not how we are going to solve the broader problem of bullying. All this does is add to the ongoing sexualisation of kids, something we should be avoiding, not encouraging. As Senator Cory Bernardi wrote about this:

“At a time when too many of our schools are failing to maintain teaching standards, when the literacy and numeracy rates of students are falling, when demands for school funds climb ever higher, why would any government even contemplate supporting such a desperate political agenda targeting our school children? The homosexual lobby demand tolerance and truth but their actions, including by virtue of this school program, demonstrate the polar opposite. Not satisfied with pursuing religious figures through the legal system over their support for traditional marriage, activists are now seeking to co-opt innocent children into their agenda of intolerance. Of course, like every other Australian, homosexual activists are free to pursue their cause among the adult community in whatever manner they like, within the bounds of the law. But they should have the decency to leave our children and our education system out of it.”⁵

³ Laura McNally, “Gender Neutrality or Enforcement? ‘Safe Schools’ isn’t as Progressive as it Seems,” *ABC Religion and Ethics*, 24 March 2015. <<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2015/03/24/4204018.htm>>

⁴ See here for their aims: <<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au/who-we-are>>

⁵ From his website: <www.corybernardi.com/keep_political_agendas_out_of_schools>

He is not the only concerned politician. As one recent news item states:

“Federal Member for Dawson, George Christensen, spoke in parliament about some of the material that the Safe Schools program is delivering to school students, including pornographic web content, sex shops, adult online communities and sex clubs.”⁶

One 15-year-old Victorian student said this about the program in her school:

“It makes students who aren’t LGBTI or who don’t agree with it feel inferior and those who do feel superior to others. No one speaks about heterosexual relationships anymore as it is how conception occurs and no one really wants to get pregnant while still being in school. Those who are LGBTI comment about how cruel those who disagree with them are and talk bad about them, but never actually get into trouble as it is “just their opinion” but if someone mentions they disagree they get excluded from the other peers, making them feel unwanted and as though their opinion isn’t as important. It dramatically sexualises relationships from a young age. If teachers don’t want us to get pregnant then why are they approving posters about who would like to sleep with who? Many students believe that the only purpose of life is to have sex. These posters around the school make students think of this a whole lot more than they should. LGBTI relationships are the only ones that seem to be supported, as they don’t result in an unintentional pregnancy. This also adds to how those who are heterosexual feel less important than those who are.”⁷

Dads4Kids stands against all forms of bullying in school but is deeply troubled by the highly controversial so called Safe Schools Coalition Australia (SSCA) program, launched in June 2014 for use by schools throughout Australia.

This program claims to be an anti-bullying program, to make “schools safer and more inclusive”, however, it does not address the problems experienced by the vast majority of school children who are regularly bullied because of their body shape or size, school grades, race or ethnic background, religious beliefs or family income – as shown by a study of 105,000 students.

The SSCA program focuses only on the small minority of “same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse young people”. Yet sexual orientation does not even rate among the top seven causes of bullying.

In New South Wales, the “Proud Schools” pilot program (similar to the Safe Schools Coalition program) resulted in reverse bullying in Burwood Girls High School. When students were pressured to support same-sex “marriage” by signing a mural, girls who wanted to uphold true marriage – as the union of a man and a woman – were abused and bullied. This is shocking indictment of a so called inclusive program. (Family Voice South Australia).

Story by Julie Pfeiffer

My name is Julie Pfeiffer I am a community chaplain/student counsellor on the South Coast of NSW. I have had the pleasure over the last few years of working with amazing people, who find themselves misplaced from society.

For the last 6 months I have been working at a local high school, and community centre, each week. We spend a couple of hours each week with these amazing women/girls, who find themselves being bullied, or they are the bully. We have them each week and take them through a 10-week program called “Shine”. ShineGIRL is a unique personal development and group mentoring tool that uses an inspirational, practical and experiential approach to learning. This program is founded upon the premise that every life counts and has intrinsic value, and fosters an awareness of this belief.

⁶ “MP claims schools program is exposing students to porn,” *Daily Mercury*, 26 February 2016.

<<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/mp-claims-schools-program-exposing-students-porn/2944406/>>

⁷ Quoted in Bill Muehlenberg, “Let the Children Speak,” *CultureWatch*, 13 March, 2016.

<<http://billmuehlenberg.com/2016/03/13/cultural-marxism-in-schools-let-the-children-speak/>>

*As a result, girls are equipped to become effective global citizens for the future.
ShineGIRL's aims are for each girl to develop understanding of her own personal worth, strength and purpose and realise the potential within her to fulfil her desires.*

Its objectives are to equip girls to:

*Identify themselves as valuable with much to contribute to society
Build confidence and gain an understanding of intrinsic value
Develop decision-making and problem-solving skills
Understand they are able to have a positive influence in their world
Identify personal desires and strengths to motivate them to set and achieve personal goals.*

It has been an honour to each week to watch the girls go from having no or little self-esteem, to young women who now have purpose and direction in their lives.

Our belief is that if we can change/empower one or two lives, then we have succeeded.

The change in these women/girls lives has a flow on affect to those around them and a positive influence. Watching the bullies see/feel the impact they have on those they bully, then giving them tools and knowledge to channel that power of influence into a positive influence on others.

We also encourage the girls to be leaders in their school, to support and look out for others around them.

When we discuss the issue of bullying and the effects that it has, the girls are very open and honest with us. My experience has shown me that the main issue of bullying in our schools today has not changed much to when I was in high school. They are not that of sexuality but that of what you look like, what body shape you have, whether you skinny or fat, what you wearing, where you live and who you hang out with, if you have bad skin, red or blond hair, if you have different skin colour.

We also discuss sex and sexuality and the girls do not have an issue with this, they know and believe that it is their choice. I believe that as a society we have become too focused on sex and sexuality. Too concerned about being seen as being politically correct all the time, we have forgotten about the most powerful human need, the need to be accepted for who we are as individuals, the power of freedom of choice, but able to make decisions for ourselves.

We need to focus more on empowering and educating our children about themselves. Allowing them to learn who they are, what their belief structure is and what has influenced and shaped them into the person they are today. This will give them the knowledge and power to live the life they were born to live.

Dads4Kids calls on the federal government to immediately close down and withdraw the funding for the much discredited Safe Schools Coalition. This government approved and funded body is encouraging children as young as 11 years of age to access porn websites through direct and indirect links. This program is bringing harm to the children of Australia. Parents should be the primary educators of children on issues surrounding homosexual sex and transgender issues not Government.

Call for a Summit to Stop Sexualisation of Children

This Summit could be a collaborative effort organised by government, community, family groups and key stakeholders to stop the sexualisation of our children both in school and out of school. The Purpose of the Summit would be to help the community and key stakeholders develop community guidelines and strategies to help stop the sexualisation of our children on the internet and media, fashion, music, social media and sporting/recreational associations (dance school, performing arts school, drama school, sporting groups).

Dads4kids call on the Government to support the introduction of collaborative guidelines to prevent the Sexualisation of our Children through the internet and media, fashion, music, social media and sporting/recreational associations. **These collaborative guidelines could be a practical outcome from the Stop the Sexualisation of Our Children Summit.** These guidelines should support all activities of children whether in school or out of school that involve children.

That children and young people are being targeted for early sexualisation is by now very well documented. Plenty of studies, research papers and book length reports on this are available, and the information is overwhelming: at younger and younger ages our children are being sexualised, and the Internet is just one of the means by which this is taking place.

As an example of the growing body of data on this, along with anecdotal evidence, consider just one book. In 2009 Melinda Tankard Reist edited an important book, *Getting Real: Challenging the Sexualisation of Girls*.⁸ It is a real eye-opener and must be consulted as we think about how we can best protect our children. While dealing mainly with girls, the same case can be made for how boys are also being sexualised early on. Let me offer just one quote, from Noni Hazlehurst in the book's preface:

“We have to wake up and smell the crap. It's everywhere. And the weight of evidence that we are causing irreparable damage to our children is becoming overwhelming. Our children are bombarded with images and concepts that that they are not able to assimilate, understand or contextualise, even if they have parents or carers who might try and explain. . . . The media focus on celebrity, sex, diet, wealth and plastic surgery, and the implication that these are the only things that count, is causing our kids' imaginations to atrophy. Ask any school teacher whether kids have changed in the last ten years. The insistent and ubiquitous presentation of this unbalanced view of the world is nothing less than a form of child abuse.”⁹

⁸ Melinda Tankard Reist, ed., *Getting Real: Challenging the Sexualisation of Girls*. Spinifex, 2009.

⁹ *Ibid*, p. 3.

Plenty of other writings could be cited here. Just one article which nicely summarises the problems we face was found late last year in *Australian Woman's Weekly*. Entitled "Lost innocence: Why girls are having rough sex at 12" it is an eye-opening expose of the sordid, sexualised world our young people are now growing up in. The author talks about what kids know, or think they know:

"That oral sex doesn't count as sex. That sending nude pictures via text or Facebook is the new flirting. That boys their age watch porn regularly, and demand from their girlfriends the sexual menu they see online – hairless, surgically-enhanced bodies, 'girl-on-girl action', and much, much more. They are learning from the 21st century's version of [sex education](#) class, the internet; a more enlightening and forthcoming source than nervous parents and teachers. But these lessons are a dangerous mix of misinformation and distorted images of sexuality, which is contributing to behaviour that can leave young women with deep psychological and physical scars.

Things like this are open-slatheer on the Internet. This is a big part of the problem:

"Technology has also changed the sexual landscape. Once upon a time we would sit by the phone, praying our crush would call and hoping our parents wouldn't listen in. These days, there's constant contact via SMS, Facebook, Twitter, and instant messaging. Parents have little, if any, ability to monitor the conversation. Teens flirt online, often with people they have not met. 'If there's a guy you're interested in from another school or something, you might 'like' one of his photos on Facebook and get talking to him,' says 16-year-old Rebecca. 'I know lots of people who've hooked up that way.' They create online games such as 'sneaky hat', in which naked teenagers cover themselves with a hat and post the photograph as the profile picture on Facebook."

In the light of all this, we call on the Government and sporting associations, performing art bodies and practitioners involved in child based after school activities, to work together so that all forms of public exhibitions/performances, portray healthy relationship images and encourage sexual integrity. We call for the formation, introduction and implementation of guidelines for age appropriate music and dress/performance wear to protect our children.

We propose the following:

- Introduction classification standards for music in order to ensure the standards of sexual integrity is introduction.
- Education and training with all association and governing bodies running out of school activities to ensure age appropriate actives, music and attire.

Sixteen Reasons for Sexual Integrity to Prevent Harm to Children

by Jonathan Doyle, Babette Francis, Warwick Marsh, Bill Muehlenberg and Dr Stuart Reece.

Introduction

According to Australia's *Macquarie Dictionary* the word integrity means "soundness of moral principle and character; uprightness; honesty. The state of being whole, entire or undiminished". In the same dictionary the word sexual is defined as "having to do with sex". Therefore we can argue that Sexual Integrity means "having soundness of moral principle, uprightness, character and honesty in all matters to do with sex".

We must make it clear at the outset that the authors of this document believe that the sexual expression of love between a man and a woman is a wonderful gift that defies human logic and expression with words. The exquisite mystery and joy of loving sex is often equated with a spiritual union that is beyond human understanding.¹⁰ As Steve Biddulph says, "Once you have made love, then just having sex will never do."¹¹

This celebration of sexual love is found in ancient writings and often receives its best expression in the hands of our poets and songwriters, "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it" are the words describing sexual love written by King Solomon almost 3000 years ago. Sting says, "Love is stronger than justice!" Perhaps the words of Joan Crawford sum up the reasons for the need for an awakening of sexual integrity. "Love is a fire. But whether it is going to warm your hearth or burn down your house you can never tell." Sexual expression of love within certain boundaries and moral guidelines is a fire to warm our hearts and souls but without proper boundaries it can create great damage both individually and to the broader community.

Men and women from all over the nation came on to Australia's inaugural Sexual Integrity Forum,¹² held on 8-9 August 2005 in the Main Committee Room of Parliament House, Canberra. The delegates represented a wide variety of viewpoints and received broad bipartisan support from the many different sides of the political spectrum. The greatest challenge before this group was to define what was meant by the words 'sexual integrity'. The Forum defined sexual integrity as 'valuing, and expressing our sexuality in ways that are non-exploitive, mutually desired, unifying and life enhancing'. This was agreed to by 100 per cent consensus. And it was also agreed to add the following question to the definition, "What do you think it is?"

We acknowledge that every person must decide the answer to the question, 'What do you think sexual integrity is?' The authors of the *Sixteen Reasons for Sexual Integrity* document have chosen to apply a definition which includes the *Macquarie Dictionary* and the agreed definition by the Sexual Integrity Forum delegates. In seeking to answer that question for the purposes of this document, we propose that sexual integrity does include marriage as a foundational starting point (with abstinence before marriage and faithfulness within

¹⁰ Steve Biddulph, *Manhood*, 3rd ed., Finch Publishing, 2002, p.53.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p.52.

¹² Website: <www.sif.org.au>

marriage), self-control, uprightness, faithfulness, character, honesty and an adherence to moral principles that provide boundaries.

This document contains reasons for sexual integrity. They are reasons, and not proofs, but they are fact-based reasons. We realise that not everything discussed here can be proved by a direct cause and effect relationship. Sociologists know that very little can be demonstrated in this way. Thus some of the evidence contained here is anecdotal in nature, much is common sense, but where there are connections to be made between the lack of sexual integrity and various social problems, these connections will be explored and explained. Thus in one sense, from a social science point of view, we cannot say that the absence of sexual integrity leads to anything. But there are strong reasons to suggest that there are very real connections between the decline in sexual integrity and a host of personal and social problems.

This document then is an attempt to summarise the need for a reawakening of the need for sexual integrity to be practised in our society. Evidence from the social sciences and burgeoning crime statistics point to the need to address this issue. Our fundamental conclusion is this: Sexual Integrity is an important social good, associated with an impressively broad array of positive outcomes for children and adults alike. We can ignore it no longer.

1. Sexual Integrity Ensures Gender Equality

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) expresses faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women. These principles have been re-affirmed in 1980 in the preamble to the United Nations 'Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women' (CEDAW). Sexual Integrity is an essential basis for gender equality ensuring there will be no exploitation of women in pornography or through prostitution in the sex trade, domestic or international.

To embrace gender equality is to reject what Clive Hamilton; the director of the Australia Institute calls the "commodification of sexuality" and the "pornographication of every day life".¹³ Germaine Greer, one of the international leaders of the feminist movement, says in her book, *The Whole Woman* that despite all the advances in the women's movement over the last three decades, women are still victims of sexual exploitation driven by the commodification of sexuality.¹⁴

Susan Brownmiller sees much "women hatred" in pornography and suggests in her book, *Against Our Will*, "Pornography, like rape, is a male invention, designed to dehumanise women, to reduce the female to an object of sexual access. The gut distaste that a majority of women feel when we look at pornography comes from the gut knowledge that we and our bodies are being stripped, exposed and contorted for the purpose of ridicule, to bolster that 'masculine esteem' which gets its kicks and sense of power from viewing females as anonymous, panting playthings, adult toys, dehumanised objects to be used, abused, broken and discarded".¹⁵

¹³ Dr Clive Hamilton, A speech to the Sydney Writer's Festival: *Can Porn Set Us Free*, 25 May 2003, p.1.

¹⁴ Germaine Greer, *The Whole Woman*. Alfred a Knopf, 1999.

¹⁵ Susan Brownmiller, *Against our Will: Men, Women and Rape*. Simon & Schuster, 1975.

Legal scholar Catherine MacKinnon argues that pornography is central to the subordination of women because it eroticizes dominance. As she puts it, “Part of the reason that women – to the extent that women do – get pleasure out of subordination has to do with their experiences of abuse very early on. Look at the rape rate. Look at the rate of child sexual abuse. Women learn to sexualise powerlessness through experiencing their sexuality under conditions of powerlessness. About 38% of all young girls are sexually molested before they reach the age of maturity. That means their experience of their body’s being accessed, aroused, as well as the experience of being loved and approved is an experience of violation.”¹⁶

Researcher Dolf Zillmann found that both men and women, when exposed to standard pornography, became more accepting of male dominance in intimate relationships, and generally abandoned the notion that women are or ought to be equals in intimate relationships.¹⁷

Many women have been duped by a male-controlled sex industry into defending pornography. Christine Stark in *Not for Sale* says, “When women defend and promote pornography and prostitution they attach themselves to a politics that hates them and negates their existence.”¹⁸ Sheila Jeffreys argues that “prostitution is a form of brutal cruelty on the part of men that constitutes a violation of women’s human rights, wherever and however it takes place.”¹⁹

Sexual Integrity is valuing and expressing our sexuality in ways that are non-exploitative. Men as the principal users of pornography and prostitution have to accept that not only are the activities a degradation and exploitation of women, but the ideas themselves are inimical to gender equality. The reality is that while these ideas are accepted as normal by our sexually dysfunctional society, women will always be second class citizens.

2. Sexual Integrity Preserves Marital Relationships

There are different elements involved in what is meant by sexual integrity. If we define sexual integrity as meaning the committed and faithful lifelong relationship between a man and a woman, then it goes without saying that sexual integrity will help marriages – indeed it is the definition of what a good marriage is all about. Thus sexual integrity is at the heart of a successful and prosperous marriage.

It is not just a matter of common sense that faithfulness in marriage is a key to strong and lasting marriages. Surveys on this question have consistently found it to be the case as well. As but one example, the Australian Institute of Family Studies found in a major survey that respondents ranked faithfulness as the number one aspect of a successful marriage, giving it a score of 9.6 on a scale of 0 to 10.²⁰

¹⁶ *Michigan Today*. University of Michigan, June 1989, pp.6-8.

¹⁷ Dolf Zillman, “Effects of repeated exposure to nonviolent pornography,” paper presented to the US Attorney General’s Commission on Pornography Hearing, Houston, 1985, p. 10.

¹⁸ Christine Stark, “Girls to boyz: Sex radical women promoting pornography and prostitution,” in Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant, eds., *Not for Sale*. Spinifex Press, 2004, pp. 278-291, p.290.

¹⁹ Sheila Jeffreys, *The Idea of Prostitution*. Spinifex Press, 1997, p.348.

²⁰ David de Vaus and Ilene Wolcott, eds., *Australian Family Profiles*. Australian Institute of Family Studies, 1997, p. 16.

But if we look at another aspect of sexual integrity, the commitment to keep oneself from pornographic material, this also can be seen to contribute to the success and preservation of marriages. Both common sense and anecdotal evidence bear this out. For example, a married man recently told a Canberra gathering on this issue that his addiction to Internet pornography nearly cost him his marriage.²¹ Such stories could be multiplied many times over.

If a person is continually lured by the unreal real world of pornographic pin ups, and fantasises about these always perfect and ever compliant sexual playmates, then reality will look dull in comparison. That is, the air-brushed porn star not only looks perfect in every way, but obviously never gets into an argument with you, and never has relationship difficulties with you. But in the real world, one's partner will never be as physically perfect as in pornography, and in a real relationship, there will be difficulties, friction, arguments and relationship problems.²²

As two academics put it: "In the pornographic world, sex is divorced from intimacy, loving affection, and human connection; all women are constantly available for sex and have insatiable sexual appetites; and all women are sexually satisfied by whatever the men in the film do."²³

It is not surprising therefore that marriage counsellors report that a major source of relationship difficulty and marriage breakdown is pornography. Usually men, involved in porn, soon tire of their wives, and marriages dissolve. Thus sexual integrity will go a long way to helping preserve marital relationships.

As an example, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers has found that Net surfers are putting their marriages at risk. Their survey shows that 56 per cent of aggrieved spouses claim an obsession with Internet porn ruined their relationships. And 68 per cent of unfaithful partners found their new lover via the Internet. As one divorce lawyer said, "The computer is the fastest-growing threat to marriage I have seen in 34 years".²⁴

As one writer explains: "Lost in a world of pornographic fantasy, men can become less inclined, as well as increasingly less able, to form lasting relationships. In part, this is due to the underlying message of pornography. Ray Wyre, a specialist in sexual crime, says pornography 'encourages transience, experimentation and moving between partners'".²⁵

The writer continues, "Pornography, in other words, is a lie. It peddles falsehoods about men, women and human relationships. In the name of titillation, it seduces vulnerable, lonely men - and a small number of women - with the promise of intimacy, and delivers only a transitory masturbatory fix."²⁶

²¹ Adele Horin, "Internet porn nearly cost me my marriage, man tells forum," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 August 2005, p. 3.

²² A number of works have dealt with this issue. One well-researched yet very personal account of this problem is: Laurie Hall, *An Affair of the Mind*. Focus on the Family, 1996. In his moving account a woman describes how her husband's addiction to pornography nearly cost him his marriage and family.

²³ Robert Jensen and Gail Dines, "The content of mass-marketed pornography," in Gail Dines, Robert Jensen and Ann Russo, *Pornography: The Production and Consumption of Inequality*. Routledge, 1997, pp. 65-100, p. 72.

²⁴ John Harlow, "Loving your computer can take your marriage offline," *The Australian*, 19 January 2004, p. 13.

²⁵ Edward Marriott, "Addicted to porn," *The Age Review*, 22 November 2003, pp. 1-2, p. 2.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

It is not hard to see why relationships are destroyed because of porn. Pornography by definition is anti-relationship: it is a fixation on self, instead of the other person. So the refusal to use pornography – part of our definition of sexual integrity – is an important element in preserving marital relationships.

And there is a sense in which governments can also promote sexual integrity by means of supporting marriage. Indeed, a government backbencher has recently urged the government to take up an anti-divorce campaign, similar to the anti-smoking Quit campaign. David Fawcett says that the “incidence of relationship breakdown also affects the individual and the broader community through direct and indirect costs.”²⁷

He rightly argues that the Government must “recognise that our current hands-off approach to marriage is contributing to a very real human and financial cost”.²⁸ And he is quite right to emphasise, among other things, the huge financial costs of marriage breakdown. An earlier government report put the cost of marriage breakdown at \$3 billion annually. The report states: “Marriage and family breakdown costs the Australian nation at least \$3 billion each year. When all the indirect costs are included, the figure is possible double. When the personal and emotional trauma involved is added to these figures, the cost to the nation is enormous.”²⁹

Given that these figures are now nearly 8 years old, the current figures would undoubtedly be much higher. Indeed, one University of Western Australia academic recently put the figure of marriage breakdown in terms of fatherlessness at \$13 billion per year.³⁰

Thus if for no other reason than to save on government expenditures, governments should look seriously at preserving families and marriages by promoting sexual integrity.

3. Sexual Integrity Increases Satisfaction in Sexual Relationships

Many studies have explored the relationship between sexual satisfaction and relationship satisfaction (Edwards and Booth, 1994³¹, Henderson-King and Veroff 1994³², Cupach and Comstock, 1990³³, Blumstein and Schwartz, 1983³⁴). In short; a positive experience of sexual intercourse within a marriage relationship is correlated to a positive experience of the relationship as a whole.

Prominent sexual researcher Susan Sprecher states: “...*sexual satisfaction is considered to be a barometer for the quality of marriage. Indeed, research shows that how married*

²⁷ Patricia Karvelas, “Government ‘anti-divorce’ campaign urged,” *The Australian*, 14 October 2005.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Kevin Andrews, *To Have and to Hold: Strategies to Strengthen Marriage and Relationships*. Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia: House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, 1998, p. 51.

³⁰ Dr Bruce Robinson, cited in *Fathers in Families*. Fatherhood Foundation, n.d., p13.

³¹ A. Booth and J.N. Edwards, “Sexuality, marriage, and well-being: The middle years,” in A. S. Rossi, ed., *Sexuality Across the Life Course*. The University of Chicago Press, 1994, pp. 233-259.

³² D. H. Henderson-King and J. Veroff, “Sexual satisfaction and marital well-being in the first years of marriages,” *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 1994, vol. 11, pp. 509-534.

³³ W. R. Cupach and J. Comstock, “Satisfaction with sexual communication in marriage: Links to sexual satisfaction and dyadic adjustment,” *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 1990, vol. 7, pp. 179-186.

³⁴ P. Blumstein and P. Schwartz, *American Couples*. William Morrow, 1983..

*individuals feel about the sex in their relationship is related to how they feel about their entire relationship.”*³⁵

In this model, there is a symbiotic relationship between good sex and a good relationship. While periods of ill-health, child birth or stress, to name but a few possibilities, may impact the couples experience of intercourse, a good experience of married intercourse is a powerful indicator of relational health. Decreased sexual integrity within a marital relationship serves to undermine the positive experience of intercourse and in turn, following Sprecher's model, the relationship itself.

A dominant mode of decreased sexual integrity within a marital relationship will often be introduced by the impact of sexually explicit visual imagery, most often impacting the male. As cultural norms continue to increase the exploitation and objectification of women through sexual imagery, many men find it increasingly difficult to remain focused on pre-existing sexual satisfaction within the marriage. Due to fundamental differences at the structural level of the brain, coupled with the functionality of testosterone men are aroused by visual images.

Marian Diamond, professor of Anatomy and Neuroanatomy at the University of California, Berkeley has written on the increased sensitivity of the male brain to visual imagery. Men are increasingly exposed to sexual imagery in daily life, sexual integrity decreases, sexual satisfaction decreases and, in turn, marital satisfaction decreases.³⁶

According to Naomi Wolf the effect of pornography has not been to make men, "...into ravening beasts. On the contrary: The onslaught of porn is responsible for deadening male libido in relation to real women..."³⁷ It might also be mentioned that pornography can have two negative effects on men. On the one hand it deadens male libido while on the other hand, in some men, it accelerates violent and abusive behaviour.

Clive Hamilton, Director of the Australia Institute, suggests a link between pornography and boredom, which in turn can be placed in the mix for relationship problems. He argues: *The subtext of all porn is boredom, the mechanization of sex stripped of all its excitement and mystery, reduced to that which one person does to another(or more precisely, what men do to women...)*³⁸

Through this insight we see the ability of explicit sexual imagery to create a deleterious effect upon marital relationships via a diminished capacity for a genuine, visceral sexual complementarity.

A decrease in sexual integrity created by the impact and prevalence of sexual imagery is likely to have a powerful impact on marital sexuality and marital happiness. Marital intimacy speaks the language of exclusivity; sexually integrity is its grammar.

4. Sexual Integrity is Essential for Manhood

³⁵ S. Sprecher, "Sexual satisfaction in premarital relationships: Associations with satisfaction, love, commitment, and stability," *Journal of Sex Research*, 2002.

³⁶ M. Diamond, "Male and Female Brain." Summary of Lecture for Women's Forum West Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2003.

³⁷ Naomi Wolf, "The porn myth," *New York Magazine*, 20 October 2003.

³⁸ Clive Hamilton, "Can Porn Set Us Free?" A Speech to the Sydney Writer's Festival, 25 May 2003.

Most men struggle with pornography. But most men may not know why porn is so harmful. To be a real man, men need to understand how porn works, and they need to say no to its use. Pornography exploits both men and women.

The male brain, formed by testosterone and sensitised by testosterone is a chemistry set waiting to be triggered. Erotic images are highly impacting on male sexuality. Pornography was made for men.³⁹ Dr Allan Meyer says that women live in an oestrogen mist but men live in a testosterone fog, as he spells out the enormous differences between men and women. For men coming to grips with their sex drive is one of the biggest challenges a man can face. Steve Biddulph says, “What should be one of our greatest joys in life is often one of the greatest disappointments. Deep down many men feel themselves to be ‘creeps’. I would estimate that 60 per cent of men under the age of 45 are sex addicted as opposed to sexual in a whole and balanced way.”⁴⁰

Obviously there are varying levels of sexual addiction, but as with any addiction, the more pornography is consumed, the more the appetite grows⁴¹. Patrick Carnes reports that sexual addiction has severe consequences: For example, in a survey of sex addicts, 72% of survey respondents had contemplated suicide, 17% attempted suicide, 40% had lost a partner or spouse, 70% experienced severe marital upheaval, 13% lost rights to children, 36% report grief over abortions, 42% unwanted pregnancies, 58% severe financial consequences, 27% lost opportunity to work in the career of their choice, 79% reported loss of job productivity, 11% had been demoted, 38% had physically injured themselves in pursuit of sexual pleasure, 58% had done things for which they could be arrested.⁴²

Many addicts that have recovered from a chemical addiction say that recovery from sex addiction was more difficult. They generally agree that while initial symptoms are less severe, the withdrawal experience is more prolonged and painful.⁴³

Boys, as they come into puberty, are faced with not only a rush of testosterone but a constant bombardment of sexual images through TV, billboards, movies, sex magazines and the internet, that begin to set up patterns for life. Not all of these patterns are necessarily good.

“Within people’s brain neurological-chemicals constantly react to stimuli and produce impulses and reactions. Brain cells don’t touch, they transmit signals to one another across a synapse (gap) by chemicals. The brain cells live in a jelly called Acetylcholine (ACH) which is the medium through which neurological-signals must pass in order to communicate. ACH locks in patterns of brain communication. Once learned they become a ‘track’ for good thoughts or evil thoughts that can never be removed.”⁴⁴

This means that whenever men view pornography they are creating ‘neural pathways’ in their brain that make it easier to access this part of their mind in the future if they are exposed to similar visual stimuli. In the same way ‘cookies’ are saved on our computers every time we access a website that make it easier to access the same website again. This means even if men

³⁹ Allan Meyer, *Valiant Man*. Careforce Lifekeys, 2005. pp.3-6

⁴⁰ Steve Biddulph, *Manhood*, 3rd ed. Finch Publishing, 2002, p.49.

⁴¹ Dr Mary Anne Layden, cited in Miranda Devine, “Online porn addiction turns our kids into victims and predators,” *Sunday Herald*, 14 August 2005.

⁴² Patrick Carnes, *Don’t Call it Love*. Bantam Books, 1992, pp.14-15.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, p.25.

⁴⁴ Meyer, *Ibid.*, pp.4-7.

have developed healthy 'tracks' in their mind, if they have ever viewed pornography they will have also developed unhealthy 'tracks'.⁴⁵

These unhealthy grooves are most often first formed in our teenage years. The process typically occurs as follows: 1) Awareness of girls; 2) Appreciation of the differences; 3) Attraction to girls, yet; 4) Awareness of anxiety which can lead to pornography and obsessive masturbation.⁴⁶

For this reason many ancient societies had rites of passage for young boys coming into manhood.⁴⁷ All of these ceremonies had some common features. They all included the ritual of transition, the role of relationship, pain and the acceptance of responsibility. Richard Rohr summarises his worldwide study of young men's initiation ceremonies as follows: "Life is hard, You are not that important, Your life is not about you, You are not in control, You are going to die."⁴⁸ Almost all of these initiation ceremonies coincided with the new level of sexual feeling that a young man feels at puberty. In many ways they prepared him to accept responsibility for his sexual prowess and required a commitment to self control.

The contemporary world of pornography beckons young boys into a world of illusion and unreality where every woman is always available, always compliant and will never say 'no'. Pornography promotes 'me and my' satisfaction. It is never about her. A generation of young men is now being bred who run from long term relationships in record numbers. When they do contemplate marriage they are facing huge inbuilt obstacles to successful long term relationships. Dr Clive Hamilton asks, "Is not every counsellors' room the witness to an endless stream of torn relationships in which she wants more intimacy and he wants more penetration? In the world of Catherine Millet, women have entered the universe of sex constructed by men - primordial, unsocialised men driven by their ids, in which all inner feelings are drowned in a sea of testosterone."⁴⁹

We need to mentor and teach the ethics of sexual integrity to our young men so that they can discover the joy and responsibility of sex with integrity for themselves and not exploit or be exploited.

5. Sexual Integrity is Basic to Successful Fathering

Sexual integrity, as one of the foundations for a successful marriage, is very important to children. Unfaithfulness in marriage is one of the big contributors to divorce. When men are committed to their wives, they are more likely to be committed to their children. As has often been said, the best thing a man can do for his children is to love his wife.

Dr Wade Horn says, "Men need to understand if you father a child out of wedlock, the odds are you will not have a relationship with your child by the time your child is 18."⁵⁰

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid., p.13-16

⁴⁷ Biddulph, *Ibid.*, chapter 11.

⁴⁸ Richard Rohr, *Adam's Return*. Crossroad Publishing, 2004, chapter 4.

⁴⁹ Dr Clive Hamilton, "Can Porn Set us Free." Speech to Sydney Writers' Festival, 25 May 2003, p.11., www.tai.org.au

⁵⁰ Cited in Emma-Kate Symons, "Dads must be married: Bush guru," *The Weekend Australian*, 3-4 April 2004, p.7.

When men remain faithful to their wives, their children benefit greatly. Conversely, when men do not put their wives in first place, their children suffer. Children's relationships with their fathers suffer through divorce in many ways. Sixty-five percent of young adults whose parents had divorced had poor relationships with their fathers (compared to 29% from non-divorced families).⁵¹ On average, children whose parents divorce or never marry see their fathers less frequently⁵² and have less affectionate relationships with their fathers⁵³ than do children whose parents marry and stay married. Sexual integrity is therefore one of the factors of keepings fathers in relationship with their children.

Sexual integrity, as a factor in a successful relationship, helps both mothers and fathers sustain a close relationship with their children. One expert from Harvard medical school who has studied over 40 years of research on the question of parental absence and children's well-being said this, "What has been shown over and over again to contribute most to the emotional development of the child is a close, war, sustained and continuous relationship with both parents."⁵⁴

Sexual integrity for a father is extremely important to a healthy father/daughter relationship. A daughter must be sexually safe from interference by her father. The father/daughter relationship must be warm, close and nonsexual. This contributes to the likelihood of her developing a healthy sexuality on a number of levels. Conversely the absence of a father can cause sexual integrity problems in a daughter.

- Studies from many different cultures have found that girls raised without fathers are more like to be sexually active, and to start early sexual activity. Father-deprived girls "show precocious sexual interest, derogation of masculinity and males, and poor ability to maintain sexual and emotional adjustment with one male".⁵⁵
- A US study found that girls who grow up without fathers were "53 percent more likely to marry as teenagers, 111 percent more likely to have children as teenagers, 164 percent more likely to have a premarital birth, and 92 percent more likely to dissolve their own marriages."⁵⁶
- New Zealand research has found that the absence of a father is a major factor in the early onset of puberty and teenage pregnancy. Dr Bruce Ellis, Psychologist in Sexual Development at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch found that one of the most important factors

⁵¹ Nicholas Zill, et al, "Long-Term Effects of Parental Divorce on Parent-Child Relationships, Adjustment, and Achievement in Your Adulthood," *Journal of Family Psychology*, vol. 7, no.1, 1993, pp. 91-103.

⁵² Selter and Bianchi, "Children's Contact with Absent Parents", *Journal of Marriage and the Family* vol. 50, 1988, pp. 663-677.

⁵³ Amato & Booth, *A Generation at Risk: Growing Up in an Era of Family Upheaval*. Harvard University Press, 1997; Aquilino, "Impact of Childhood Family Disruption on Young Adults' Relationships with Parents," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* vol. 56, 1994, pp.295-313; Cooney, "Young Adults' Relations with Parents: The Influence of Recent Parental Divorce," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* vol. 56, 1994, pp. 45-56; Rossi & Rossi, *Of Human Bonding: Parent-Child Relations Across the Life Course*. Aldine de Gruyter, 1990.

⁵⁴ Armand Nicholi, "The Impact of Parental Absence on Childhood Development: An Overview of the Literature." *Journal of Family and Culture*, v. 1, n. 3, Autumn 1985.

⁵⁵ Patricia Draper and Henry Harpending, "Father absence and reproductive strategy: an evolutionary perspective," *Journal of Anthropological Research*, vol. 38, no. 3, 1982, pp. 255-273, p. 258.

⁵⁶ Garfinkel and McLanahan, *Single Mothers and Their Children: A New American Dilemma*. Urban Institute, 1986, pp. 30-31.

in determining early menarche is the father: “There seems to be something special about the role of fathers in regulating daughters sexual development”.⁵⁷

6. Sexual Integrity is Essential to Strong Families

This follows on from the above discussion on marital relationships. If it is true that sexual integrity helps in developing and maintaining strong marriages, and strong marriages are a key to strong families, then obviously sexual integrity is a key to healthy and dynamic family life. Strong marriages make for strong families, and sexual integrity is a key component in strong marriages.

Various aspects of this can be reported. For example, research has consistently shown that married people report higher satisfaction levels with their sex lives.⁵⁸ One study will suffice: A 1994 survey found that 72.3 per cent of married couples who held to traditional moral standards said they were “very satisfied” with their sex life. In contrast, only 59.3 per cent of married couples who rejected traditional moral values reported similar satisfaction. And only 41 per cent of unmarried couples could rate their sex life in this way.⁵⁹

In addition to this specific area, there are a whole range of general benefits experienced by married people. In short, married people also tend to live longer, healthier and happier lives than people in any other sort of relationship.⁶⁰

Surveys consistently show that happy family life is among our top priorities. Therefore whatever contributes to the maintenance and continuance of strong families is something most people desire, and something governments should seek to facilitate. As noted in the section on marital relationships, governments have a role to play in successful family life. Whatever works against successful family life should be of concern to all, including governments. And if pornography, prostitution and the sexualisation of society all contribute, in varying ways and degrees, to the disruption of marriage and family life, then governments should get involved and do what they can to combat these threats to the family.

7. Sexual Integrity Helps to Prevent Violence Against Women

This topic is similar to and follows from some of the proceeding topics. There are three different aspects to this assertion.

One. Wives in particular. In some ways this goes without saying that if a husband is in a loving and committed relationship with his wife, then we would expect there to be less violence against women. And as in the case of the child abuse fact, there is a sort of two-step process to get to the conclusion.

We know, for example, that women are safest when in a married situation. There is a greater chance of abuse and violence being committed against women in a relationship if that

⁵⁷ Cited in “Early Menarche” in “Catalyst,” ABC TV, 2 October 2003.

⁵⁸ See the relevant chapters in the following volumes: Glenn Stanton, *Why Marriage Matters*. Pinon Press, 1997; Linda Waite and Maggie Gallagher, *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier, and Better off Financially*. Doubleday, 2000.

⁵⁹ William Maddox, “What’s marriage got to do with it?: Good sex comes to those who wait,” *Family Policy*, vol. 6, no. 6, February 1994, p. 3.

⁶⁰ See the volumes listed in the note 49.

relationship is other than a marriage relationship. That is, abuse and violence are more likely to take place if a woman is living with a de facto, a live in, a boyfriend, and so on. Cohabitation and other types of relationships are simply less safe for women than are married relationships.

Again, a mountain of data supports this, but just a few pieces of evidence will suffice. A 1995 study, based on a National Crime Victimization Survey involving 50,000 American households, found that a woman is three times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted by a boyfriend and 10 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted by an acquaintance than by a spouse. Single women are just as likely to be raped or sexually assaulted by a stranger as they are by a boyfriend.⁶¹ This study also found that when all acts of violence against women are considered, married or widowed women are 30 times less likely than separated women to become violence victims, Married women are at least four times less likely than ever-married women to be crime victims.⁶²

Two. All women in general. If by sexual integrity we mean abstaining from the world of pornography, prostitution and so on, then there will be a lessening of violence toward women. The studies that link pornography and sexual violence toward women are like all sociological research: not air-tight. None are. But there is a fair amount of evidence to suggest a link between the two. Not everyone who uses porn will be violent toward women, but almost every one who is violent toward women does use porn.

Just a few pieces of evidence will here be offered. An FBI Academy report found a real connection between porn and sex-crimes. It found that 86 per cent of rapists interviewed regularly consumed pornography.⁶³

In Australia, pornography expert Dr John Court has written extensively in this area. One of his studies looked at the correlation between increased reports of rape and liberalization of pornography laws. He found that between 1964 and 1974 after liberalization, rape reports in the U.S. increased by 139%; in England by 94%; in Australia by 160% and in New Zealand by 107%.⁶⁴

Many books are available which summarise the range of data available on this. They include works by Itzin,⁶⁵ Dines,⁶⁶ and Malamuth.⁶⁷ As one study summarises things, “at the core of contemporary pornography is contempt for women.”⁶⁸

Thus on several different levels, women will be less likely to be abused, exploited, demeaned or face violence if sexual integrity is a high factor in male-female relationships and in society at large.

⁶¹ Bachman, Ronet and Linda Saltzman, “Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey,” US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 1995.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ Charles Colson, “Pornography destroys lives, society,” *USA Today*, 21 October 1989.

⁶⁴ John Court, *Pornography: A Christian Critique*. InterVarsity Press, 1980, p. 51.

⁶⁵ Catherine Itzin, ed., *Pornography: Women, Violence and Civil Liberties*. Oxford University Press, 1992.

⁶⁶ Gail Dines, Robert Jenson and Ann Russo, *Pornography: The Production and Consumption of Inequality*. New York: Routledge, 1997.

⁶⁷ Neil Malamuth and Edward Donnerstein, eds., *Pornography and Sexual Aggression*. Orlando: Academic Press, 1984.

⁶⁸ Jensen and Dines, *ibid.*, p. 99.

Three. Women who work in the sex industry are also exploited, abused and subject to violence. Many stories can be cited here. One former prostitute has written a whole book about her experiences with not just prostitution, but drug addiction and other sorts of abuse. When she was later asked by a counsellor to list issues in her life that needed to be dealt with, she wrote, “in no given order: drug addiction, sickness/pain, abortion, miscarriage, junk relationships/fake love, prostitution, self-abuse, self esteem/self punishment, loneliness, lack of emotion, childhood/parents/family, loss of ‘clean’ friends. . . .My entire life needed mending.”⁶⁹

Another former prostitute speaks of her nightmare in the world of prostitution: the regular beatings and violence, the drug and alcohol abuse, the periods in mental hospitals, the deterioration of her health, and so on.⁷⁰

Another woman who worked in the sex industry as a stripper says that stripping, like prostitution, is simply the sale of sexuality. And like prostitution, it is characterised by exploitation, manipulation, coercion, violence and abuse.⁷¹

8. Sexual Integrity Reduces Child Abuse and the Exploitation of Children

There are at least four items that come to mind under this heading.

First, there is the issue of actual child abuse. As with a number of these sexual integrity topics, there are no clear cause and effect relationships (something true of almost all sociological data) but inferences or links can be traced. That is, often one factor will contribute to another, which in turn will lead to certain outcomes. That is true in this issue.

In other words, is there a direct link between sexual integrity and child abuse? Not quite. There may not be a one-to-one correspondence, but there may be a one-to-one-to-one correspondence. Let me explain. We do know that child abuse is least likely in homes where the child lives with his or her biological parents, cemented by marriage. That is one correlation that is fairly well established.⁷²

Let me just give several examples. A 1994 study of 52,000 children found that those who are most at risk of being abused are those who are not living with both parents.⁷³ And former Human Rights Commissioner Mr Brian Burdekin has reported a 500 to 600 per cent increase in sexual abuse of girls in families where the adult male was not the natural father.⁷⁴

And if we recall reason three, that sexual integrity will help to preserve and maintain marital unions, there we have another correlation. The common middle factor of these two correlations is marriage. So we can put the three-part correlation this way: Sexual integrity

⁶⁹ Bronwen Healy, *Trophy of Grace*. n.p., 2004, pp. 88-89.

⁷⁰ Samantha Emery, “The journey home,” in Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant, eds., *Not for Sale*. Spinifex Press, 2004, pp. 131-136.

⁷¹ Taylor Lee, “In and out: A survivor’s memoir of stripping,” in Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant, eds., *Not for Sale*. Spinifex Press, 2004, pp. 56-63.

⁷² A number of studies indicating these truths are summarized in “The Facts on Fatherlessness” in *Fathers in Families*. Fatherhood Foundation, n.d., pp. 10-15, esp. p. 13.

⁷³ Catherine Malkin and Michael Lamb, “Child maltreatment: a test of sociobiological theory,” *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 25, 1994, pp. 121-130.

⁷⁴ Cited in Michael Pirrie, “Child Abuse Law Alert.” *The Herald Sun*, 28 August 1993.

helps to preserve marriage, and marriage help to protect children. So in that sense sexual integrity does help to reduce child abuse.

Second, the issue of child pornography obviously comes to mind. Child porn is a huge problem, and it goes without saying that children are grossly violated and exploited in the manufacture of child porn. As one expert on child abuse puts it, “pictures or films depicting adult sexual interactions with children cannot be produced without an act which is defined in law as illegal taking place. Each piece of child porn involving adults (or in some cases animals) is a document of the sexual abuse of the child who was required for its production.”⁷⁵

As but one example of the extent of the problem, Victorian police have said, “We could lock up any amount of people for the trade of (child) porn. It’s like trying to hold back the tide”.⁷⁶

Third, mention can be made of the spill-over effects of adult pornography use. By this we mean that pornography used by adults often finds its way into the hands of children, with very negative outcomes. There is unfortunately a wealth of anecdotal evidence on this. Consider but two stories:

An American psychotherapist gives many examples of this occurring. In one episode, two brothers, aged 9 and 10, stumbled across their parent’s X-rated videos. After watching them for a number of months, they forced their younger siblings and a neighbourhood boy to watch the videos, then stripped all of them naked, forced objects into their rectums, and forced them to engage in oral and anal sex. They continued these activities for a year.⁷⁷

Also, there is the tragic story of a 9-year-old Florida boy. He was convicted of first degree murder, aggravated child abuse, and three counts of sexual battery in connection with the torture death of an 8-month-old girl. The brother of the 9-year old boy testified that, in sexually assaulting the infant with a pencil and coat hanger, they were imitating actions they had seen in their mother’s sex magazine.⁷⁸

Fourth, there is the general sexualisation of our children and young people. Children trying to get the “look” for example, to be cool, are increasingly seeking to dress as adults, and as very tawdry adults at that. Thus we see the rise of lingerie marketed for kids, and the ‘prostitute chic’ as one has described it. Children are encouraged to emulate and slavishly follow the fashion sense of their favourite pop stars and media idols. And given that so many of these are following the raunchy trends in fashion, our children are copying this sleazy image.

Young girls are especially being targeted here. Thus we have eight-year olds wanting T-shirts with the word “Porn Star” emblazoned across the chest, or ten-year olds buying padded bras at mainstream shopping centres. This concerning trend is well documented, most recently by American author Ariel Levy in her book *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of*

⁷⁵ Liz Kelly, “Pornography and child sexual abuse,” in Catherine Itzin, ed., *Pornography: Women, Violence and Civil Liberties*. Oxford University Press, 1992, pp. 113-123, p. 116.

⁷⁶ Mark Butler, “Filth sites sicken cyber sleuth,” *The Herald Sun*, 6 April 1998, p. 4.

⁷⁷ Victor B. Cline, *Pornography’s Effects on Adults and Children*. Morality in Media, 2001, p. 10.

⁷⁸ This story and a number of similar stories have been assembled in a book. It contains excerpts from the Official Transcript of 3,000 pages of Hearings conducted by the Commission in 1985-1986: Phyllis Schlafly, *Pornography’s Victims*. Crossway Books, 1987.

Raunch Culture.⁷⁹ Indeed, a recent weekend newspaper magazine had the cover story: “Rise of Raunch: Why Paris Hilton and porn stars are the new role models”.⁸⁰

Boys too are not immune. A new magazine called *Explode* has just hit the newsagents. It is specifically targeted for “12-17 year old boys”. It is filled with demeaning pictures of near naked women, almost indistinguishable from any men’s magazine. It also contains tips on how to seduce women, and other adult-only content.

9. Sexual Integrity Prevents Exploitation of Women in Terms of Pornography

This section discusses the way in which the use of pornography leads to the exploitation of women. Much of this issue has been covered above and more will be discussed in coming sections. As has already been said, pornography is inherently anti-women. It is demeaning to women, exploitative of women, and fundamentally hostile to women.

Much has been researched and written on the way porn abuses and misuses women. Some of the research has already been referred to. Several more examples are here presented.

Someone who has done an extensive amount of research into the way porn (even so-called “soft porn”) exploits women (and children and men) is Dr Judith Reisman of the United States. In her important book, “*Soft Porn*” *Plays Hard Ball*, she documents the horrible way in which porn treats and depicts women. The *Playboy* attitude is typical and representative: “In the playboy’s world, women are a lower species – sexual game (like rabbits) that one goes out to hunt.”⁸¹

Of course Hugh Hefner, the founder of *Playboy*, was an ardent disciple of Alfred Kinsey, whose perverted ideas of human sexuality have been documented elsewhere.⁸² Hefner simply popularised much of the deviant sexology promoted by Kinsey. And both men shared a common dislike, even hatred, of marriage and family.

But it is not just the way pornography depicts women that is so harmful. Women in the porn industry are regularly abused and ill-treated. This will be further detailed in upcoming sections. But suffice it to say that reams of documentation now exist highlighting the horrible treatment women receive in the sex industry. There is nothing glamorous or exciting about it. Reisman features a number of testimonies by women who have been damaged both by porn, and by being in the porn industry.⁸³

Many other sources can be mentioned. One important article on the horrors and ugliness of the world of porn was featured several years ago in the *Guardian* newspaper in the UK. In the article, the author, Martin Amis, spelled out in gory and disgusting detail what most porn stars are expected to do, and the great toll it takes on them. The world of porn is a dangerous,

⁷⁹ Ariel Levy, *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture*. Free Press, 2005.

⁸⁰ Richard Jinman, “Generation sex,” *Sydney Morning Herald Spectrum*, 8-9 October 2005, pp. 6-7.

⁸¹ Judith Reisman, “*Soft Porn*” *Plays Hardball*. Huntington House Publishers, 1991, p. 45.

⁸² Edward Eichel and Judith Reisman, *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud: The Indoctrination of a People*. Huntington House, 1990. See also Michael Jones, *Degenerate Moderns: Modernity as Rationalized Sexual Behavior*. Ignatius Press, 1993.

⁸³ Reisman, *Soft Porn*, pp. 160-169.

high-risk world where women are simply used for other people's lusts and pornographers' desire to get rich.⁸⁴

Most important are the testimonies of women who have left the porn industry. Their stories are remarkably similar, and decidedly different from what the pornographers and civil libertarians would have you believe. Almost always there is drug abuse, violence, suicidal tendencies, self-loathing and regret. One ex-porn worker puts it this way: "It was awful. It was horrible. . . . The way I felt. The way I felt about myself. The way I was abused by men. The way I let people treat me. And even the effects of it now are awful. . . . I was highly addicted to cocaine. . . I attempted suicide. I hit bottom."⁸⁵

And even though this woman is now out of the porn business, she is still a slave to it: "Actually, pornography is much worse than prostitution because it will harm you in a different way the rest of your life. I'm still exploited all over the internet ten years later. It follows me around. People recognize me. I'm harassed because of it. My kids are being harassed at school because of it. So it's going to affect me the rest of my life."⁸⁶

10. Sexual Integrity Prevents Exploitation of Men

A leading authority on sexual dysfunction, Dr Mary Anne Layden, refers to pornography as an "equal opportunity toxin!"⁸⁷ That is, everyone pays the price of porn: men, women and children.

A pervasive myth of our highly sexualised society is that a healthy outworking of male sexuality is demonstrated by a 'healthy' openness to pornography, and a 'healthy' or rather voracious, appetite for sex. This is seen as normal, as what men do, as what men are, and as what men want.

The roots of such anti-masculinity do not lie in a vision of a rugged colonial epoch such as the whoring boom-bust lifestyle as depicted in Russel Ward's seminal envisioning of manhood in post colonisation Australia.⁸⁸ Nor do they lie in idealised constructs of the sporting male, the bronzed Aussie or the sexually predatory urban male. Surprising enough the roots of pornography driven anti-masculinity lie in the urban landscape of 1950's America.

Hugh Hefner's *Playboy* project⁸⁹ was nothing more than an incredibly successful attempt to emasculate men by a form of cultural hypnosis on a previously unconsidered scale. For thousands of years, the dominant outworking of male sexuality had been geared to marriage and family. In a relatively short period of time, Hefner created a new archetype, the 'playboy'; the cool urban male, surrounded by beautiful, sexually willing, sexually aggressive women, the ultimate objectification of women as male playthings. Since then pornography has steadily gone mainstream.

⁸⁴ Martin Amis, "A rough trade," *The Guardian*, 17 March 2001.

⁸⁵ Ann Simonton and Carol Smith, "Who are women in pornography?: A conversation" in Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant, eds., *Not for Sale*. Spinifex Press, 2004, pp. 352-361, pp. 352-353.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 355-356.

⁸⁷ Dr Mary Anne Layden, Speech to delegates and politicians, the National Sexual Integrity Forum" Monday, 8 August 2005. <www.sif.org.au>

⁸⁸ Russel Ward, *The Australian Legend*. Oxford University Press, 1958, 1995, pp. 71-112.

⁸⁹ R.M. Schuchardt, "The Cultural Victory of Hugh Hefner," *Christianity Today*, vol. 47, no. 11, 2003, p. 50.

The exploitation of women by pornography is relatively easy to accept but suggesting that men are victims is much harder to accept. We suggest a growing link between a lack of cultural sexual integrity (essentially the culture of pornography) and male sexual dysfunction. In short, the more men use pornography, the more men are exposed to and exploited by unwanted sexual imagery the more they experience various forms of sexual dysfunction.

The *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV) refers to preoccupation with masturbation and pornography as a sexual disorder: "...Sexual Disorder Not Otherwise Specified: other, non-classified disorders of sexual functioning, including such behaviors as anomalous preoccupation with masturbation, pornography and promiscuity"⁹⁰

Increasing rates of male sexual dysfunction in the pornographic culture of the West suggest important avenues for much needed research. While environmental, dietary and other social factors are worthy of investigation, one factor is that of frequent and increasing exposure to explicit sexual imagery which often inspires addictive patterns of masturbation and compulsive sexual acting out, as well as emotional problems and an inability to form mutually beneficial intimate relationships. In short, men become addicts and victims.

It is worth noting the impact of Hefner's social project on the man himself. According to long time Hefner girlfriend, Sandy Bentley, he became a victim of the very dysfunction he created. In an interview in *Philadelphia* magazine she states that he, "...*had trouble finding satisfaction through intercourse; instead he liked the girls to pleasure each other while he masturbated and watched gay porn.*"⁹¹

Sexual integrity realizes that male sexual and psychological health is linked to a man's ability to engage in mature relationships that recognize the subjectivity, uniqueness and inherent dignity of all women. Men are exploited by a predatory and intrinsically selfish vision of sexuality (women as objects) that sees them experience increasing rates of emotional, sexual and interpersonal dysfunction.

11. Sexual Integrity Lowers Rape and Homicide Rates

This section of course is closely related to the section on violence against women. Many of the same points can be made. Women are safer in a married relationship than in other kinds of relationships. Married people are less likely to experience a whole range of social problems. Married people live longer, are healthier and are more satisfied with life.⁹²

Marriage is even a good defence against homicide, with married individuals experiencing a lower rate of victimization through homicide. For example, a U.S. study from 1959-1961 reported that among victims of homicide, 8.6 per 100,000 are married men and 3 per 100,000

⁹⁰ DSM-IV, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. American Psychiatric Association, 1994, p. 535.

⁹¹ Schuchardt, *Ibid.*, p. 54.

⁹² See for example the summary of the evidence in Linda Waite and Maggie Gallagher, *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier, and Better off Financially*. New York: Doubleday, 2000. For a summary of the data which includes Australian statistics see David Blankenhorn, Bill Muehlenberg, et. al., *Twenty-one Reasons Why Marriage Matters*. National Marriage Coalition, 2004.

are women. But the rate escalates to 39.2 men and 10.6 women if the respective parties are divorced or separated.⁹³

And as was noted above, there is a real connection between pornography and sexual crime, including rape.⁹⁴ The evidence of this is both anecdotal and scientific. One sociologist, after summarizing the available data, says this about the connection between pornography and rape: “pornography (a) predisposes some males to want to rape women and intensifies the predisposition in other males already so predisposed; (b) undermines some males’ internal inhibition against acting out their desire to rape; and (c) undermines some males’ social inhibitions against acting out their desire to rape.”⁹⁵

As but one example, Zillmann and Bryant report that when males had “massive exposure” to porn (4 hours and 48 minutes total over a 6-week period – hardly “massive” in an age of Internet porn), they had distorted views of sexuality. Regarding rape, men who had such exposure considered rape to be a lesser offence. It also fostered a “general trivialization of rape” and led to the belief that women rape victims did not suffer that much and/or that they deserved it. In sum, it leads to a “callousness toward women”.⁹⁶

Another point worth making is that not only does the viewing of pornography by some men lead to the rape of some women, but “the actual *making* of pornography sometimes involves, or even requires, violence and sexual assault. Testimony by women and men involved in such activity provides numerous examples of this.”⁹⁷

12. Sexual Integrity Helps Prevent Prostitution

This is another topic that perhaps goes without saying. If people are committed and true to their partners, then they will not need to go off visiting prostitutes. A strong healthy marriage should provide satisfaction in all areas, including the sexual.

That prostitution itself is anti-women and anti-family should be clear. Numerous writers and academics have noted the connection between prostitution and violence and exploitation of women. Well-known feminists, for example, such as Sheila Jeffreys⁹⁸ and Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant⁹⁹ have written eloquently of the dangers and exploitation of prostitution. As one feminist puts it, “Prostitution is a form of brutal cruelty on the part of men that constitutes a violation of women’s rights, wherever and however it takes place.”¹⁰⁰

And prostitution of course adds pressure on marriages and families. Not only is there the wasted income, but men seeing prostitutes do great damage to their own marriages. The

⁹³ See for example, the National Center for Health Statistics, “Homicide in the U.S., 1959-1961.” Bethesda, Maryland: Vital and Health Statistics, series 20, no. 5, 1967; and the National Center for Health Statistics, “Suicide in the U.S., 1950-1964.” Bethesda, Maryland: Vital and Health Statistics, series 20, no. 5, 1967.

⁹⁴ For more documentation on this, see the paper “Pornography: Is it a Victimless Crime?” on the Sexual Integrity website: <http://www.sif.org.au/papers-_bill_muehlenberg_2.html>.

⁹⁵ Diana Russell, *Dangerous Relationships: Pornography, Misogyny, and Rape*. Sage Publications, 1998, p. 120.

⁹⁶ Dolf Zillmann and Jennings Bryant, “Effects of massive exposure to pornography,” in Neil Malamuth and Edward Donnerstein, eds., *Pornography and Sexual Aggression*. Academic Press, 1984, pp. 115-138, pp. 134-135.

⁹⁷ Russell, *Ibid.*, p. 113.

⁹⁸ Shiela Jeffreys, *The Idea of Prostitution*. Spinifex Press, 1997.

⁹⁹ Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant, eds., *Not for Sale*. Spinifex Press, 2004.

¹⁰⁰ Jeffreys, *Idea*, p. 348.

breaking of the wedding vow is just part of the broken trust and broken relationships that result. How many marriages have ended because of men's involvement with pornography and prostitution?

Again, governments have a role to play here. One of the best ways to deal with prostitution, as one expert notes, is to follow the Swedish model: instead of arresting the prostitute, the man is prosecuted, and the woman is treated as a victim, and offered rehabilitation.¹⁰¹

13. Sexual Integrity Helps Prevent Sexual Trafficking of Women for Prostitution.

If the demand for prostitutes is reduced, it follows that the demand for sexual trafficking for prostitution will be reduced as well. In this area, we need not only speak of the sexual integrity of individuals. Why not speak of governmental sexual integrity? Governments owe it to their citizens to stamp out sexual trafficking. They have an obligation to protect women from the evils of prostitution, and to curtail this male-orientated, profit-based trade.

And the Swedish experience bears this out. Sweden has seen a decline in trafficking because of its approach to prostitution, noted above.¹⁰² For example, since the Swedish government passed legislation in 1999 to decriminalise the selling of sex but criminalise the buying of sex, the number of women in prostitution has been dramatically reduced. The Swedish government estimates that around 300 women a year are sex trafficked into Sweden, compared to the 16,000 a year into neighbouring Finland. In Stockholm, the number of street prostitutes have been reduced by two-thirds, and the number of johns has been reduced by 80 per cent.¹⁰³

Some might argue that the legalisation and decriminalisation of prostitution will both make conditions safer for women and eliminate or lessen sexual trafficking. This has not been the case. Indeed, the opposite has occurred. As one authority puts it: "Legalisation and decriminalisation lead to the growth of the industry of prostitution. The traffic in women to supply the legal and illegal brothels is an inevitable result. Sex entrepreneurs find it hard to source women locally to supply an expanding industry and trafficked women are more vulnerable and more profitable."¹⁰⁴

Article 6 of the 1980 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) says "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women". In clear breach of this Treaty which Australia has signed and ratified, several Australian states have legalised brothels. It is essential that the legalization of brothels in the Australian States of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT be reversed.

Not only can the Federal Government work for sexual integrity in the elimination of legalised prostitution, thus easing the demand for sexual trafficking, but it can also help those who are seeking to leave the sordid world of prostitution. For example, it should be supporting

¹⁰¹ Mary Anne Layden, cited in Miranda Divine, "Online porn addiction turns our kids into victims and predators," *The Sun Herald*, 14 August 2005.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ Marie De Santis, "Sweden treating prostitution as violence against women," December 2004. http://sisyphe.org/article.php3?id_article=1424.

¹⁰⁴ Sheila Jeffreys, "The Legalisation of Prostitution : A failed social experiment," February 2004. http://sisyphe.org/article.php3?id_article=697.

financially and in other ways those services which are helping women to leave the slave trade. An example of this is Linda Watson's "House of Hope" in Perth which provides an Australian model enabling women to leave the sex trade and assist them in their rehabilitation.

14. Sexual Integrity is Essential to Prevent Sexual Exploitation of Men, Women and Children on the Internet

This statement works in a number of ways. Obviously if one is not using pornographic material on the Internet, and many others refrain as well, the demand for exploitative and demeaning pornography is lessened to some extent. The more people give in to the lure of Internet porn, the more demand there is and the more money to be made, and the more porn will be produced. And the production of porn is demeaning to everyone involved.

And families and societies benefit as well from sexual integrity. When Internet porn is consumed in the home, it leads to marriage and family instability, as we have already seen. And broken marriages also are bad news for children. The evidence is quite clear that when marriages fall apart, the children are put at great risk. And when children suffer, societies suffer. The costs of marriage breakdown and the effects on children are widely documented.¹⁰⁵ Societies suffer and families fall apart, and the ready availability of pornography, especially on the Internet, must be seen as a contributing factor.

Internet porn is a major problem affecting many, many people. A recent estimate said that 25 per cent of all global internet searching is adult-orientated with "well over one million adult sites".¹⁰⁶ One ISP executive said it was estimated that 70 per cent of downloaded volume to households is pornographic.¹⁰⁷

Indeed, the problem of Internet porn addiction is becoming quite serious. Many people are now becoming "addicted" to the Net. One counsellor found that "eighty to 90 per cent of the time it's a sexual addiction. The Internet amplifies the problem. You can act out your fantasies and not have to deal with the shame you would feel otherwise because no-one knows who you are. You do things you wouldn't do otherwise".¹⁰⁸ Recently the *Australian Medical Journal* reported that Internet addiction disorder is a growing medical problem, with addicts spending up to 18 hours a day surfing the Net.¹⁰⁹ There are even groups like Webaholics Anonymous that have been established to help the growing number of on-line addicts.¹¹⁰

Many experts treating sex addicts mention how similar these addictions are to drug addiction. As one American psychologist said about the increasing problem of cybersex porn addiction, "The Net is the crack cocaine of sex addiction".¹¹¹ Dr Michael Schwartz of the Masters and

¹⁰⁵ See for example, Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, *The Divorce Culture*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1997. A summary of the evidence can also be found in, Bill Muehlenberg, *The Case for the Two-Parent Family*. Melbourne: revised, 2005.

¹⁰⁶ "Adult domain in the pipeline," *The Australian IT Today*, 7 June 2005, p. 34.

¹⁰⁷ Alan Jones, cited in Jennifer Foresheew, "Serving up a porn remedy," *The Australian*, 22 December 1998, p. 37.

¹⁰⁸ Jim Landers, cited in Carolyn Poirrot, "Surfing in fantasyland," *The Australian*, 3 November 1998, *Computers*, p. 7.

¹⁰⁹ Jen Kelly, "Net feeds growing medical disorder," *The Herald Sun*, 11 December 2000, p. 7.

¹¹⁰ Jay Dougherty, "Caught in the Net," *The Age*, 9 September 1998, p. 20.

¹¹¹ Cited in "Are you a cybersex addict?," *Herald Sun Connect*, 9 January 2002, p. 3.

Johnson Institute in St. Louis says, “Sex on the Net is like heroin, it grabs them and takes over their lives. And it’s very difficult to treat because the people affected don’t want to give it up.”¹¹²

But it is not just so-called soft-core material that is being consumed. As one writer on the subject puts it, “Access to internet pornography has never been easier, its users never younger, and the heaviest demand, according to research published in the *New York Times*, is for “deviant” material including paedophilia, bondage, sadomasochism and sex acts with various animals’.”¹¹³

Here also governments have a role to play in sexual integrity. If we may not properly speak of government having sexual integrity, we can speak of governments promoting or helping to enforce sexual integrity. They can make it easier for citizens to practice sexual integrity by such things (in this case) as enforcing mandatory filtering of Internet at ISP level. New technology has made this possible.

Indeed, Dr Michael Flood of the Australia Institute argues that such a scheme is technically feasible: “the government’s own review last year reported that a national filtering system based on blacklists or whitelists certainly is feasible, and would not increase computer response times. The use of more complex filtering technologies - ones that analyse the text and images on particular web pages - is not practical, but will be feasible in a national filtering system by 2006.”¹¹⁴

That there is a need for such action is obvious. Just about any child can, with Internet access, download the most degrading hard-core pornography. Governments need to enter into the task of promoting sexual integrity on various fronts. Making the Internet a safe place for our children by a national mandatory filtering system would be a great place to begin.

15. Sexual Integrity is Essential in the Media and the Workplace

The first part of this section is perhaps the most obvious to elaborate on. That the media has been a major contributor to the erosion of moral values and sexual integrity is plain for all to see. The truth is, our contemporary culture, especially in the form of mass media, is awash with sexuality. Like a tsunami, it takes everyone before it along in its destructive wave surge. There are very few media outlets anywhere in the Western world that have not succumbed to promoting sex, sex and more sex.

The examples are everywhere to see. Only a few recent examples will be presented. Channel Ten’s *Big Brother* series is an obvious case in point. It is one of the more graphic examples of how the media is going out of its way to sexualise culture. The show features around 15 sexually charged and seemingly morally irresponsible single people sharing a communal house, complete with communal bedrooms and showers. They are plied with an unending supply of alcohol, and the TV cameras record the results. Of course it is not surprising what sort of activities ensue. Non-stop gutter talk, sexual escapades, nudity and vulgarity prevail. The show got so bad when a young man rubbed his erect penis on a girls head, all live and uncensored, that eventually the regulating body was forced to (belatedly) act.

¹¹² Cited in Victor B. Cline, *Pornography’s Effects on Adults and Children*. Morality in Media, 2001, p. 10.

¹¹³ Edward Marriott, “Addicted to porn,” *The Age Review*, 22 November 2003, pp. 1-2, p. 2.

¹¹⁴ Michael Flood, “Youth, Pornography, and the Internet.” A paper presented to the Sexual Integrity Forum in Canberra, 4 August 2005.

But this is representative of prime time viewing. And we have not yet even begun to speak of music videos, Hollywood, Madison Avenue, advertising, magazines, newspapers, movies, and so on. Everywhere we look we are saturated with explicit sex. And coupled with this avalanche of sex and nudity is a corresponding assault on the institutions of marriage and family.

Children of course are often the main target of this media assault on our moral and sexual sensibilities. Mention has already been made above of the new boy's magazine, *Explode*. Newsagents carrying the first edition featured a life size cardboard cut-out of a bikini babe. One would have thought this was simply a means to snare men into buying yet another adult porn magazine. It was only as one looked closer that one discovered that it was hawking a magazine designed for "12 to 17-year-olds".

Of course girls' magazines like *Dolly*, *Cosmo*, *Cleo* and others have been doing this for years, complete with cover stories on the perfect erection, getting the best orgasm, sexual fantasies, kinky sex, and the like. Thus the publisher of this boys' magazine is perhaps seeking simply to be an equal opportunity offender.

Numerous books have documented the rise of the sexualisation of media and culture. Books by Magnet¹¹⁵, Dixon¹¹⁶, Shapiro¹¹⁷ and Paul¹¹⁸ come to mind. They make it clear that the media has a lot to answer for in their war against sexual integrity.

In the workplace we find similar situations. Sexual harassment in the workplace is a major problem. This often involves the use of pornography, be it sexually explicit emails, web sites or screen savers. Also, the modern office has become a hotbed of extra-marital affairs, with many work relationships turning into sexual relationships. Indeed, a recent article described how sexual affairs in the workplace are becoming more common, and both unfaithfulness and indiscriminate sexual encounters are becoming big problems.

16. Sexual Integrity Safeguards Human Health

Human health has been broadly defined by the World Health Organisation as long ago as 1948 as "a state of complete physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of individuals and societies and not merely the absence of sickness or infirmity."¹¹⁹ It is appropriate then to explore each of these realms in turn.

It was first shown by Sorokin in 1956¹²⁰ that sexual decadence was directly related historically to the demise of most great civilizations, for when they became morally lax they became structurally weak and vulnerable to external attack and demise. And it is no secret

¹¹⁵ Myron Magnet, *Modern Sex: Liberation and Its Discontents*. Ivan R. Dee, 2001.

¹¹⁶ Patrick Dixon, *The Rising Price of Love: The True Cost of the Sexual Revolution*. Hodder & Stoughton, 1995.

¹¹⁷ Ben Shapiro, *Porn Generation: How Social Liberalism Is Corrupting Our Future*. Regnery Publishing, 2005.

¹¹⁸ Pamela Paul, *Pornified: How Pornography Is Transforming Our Lives, Our Relationships, and Our Families*. Times Books, 2005.

¹¹⁹ Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of the World Health Organization, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948.

<http://www.who.int/about/definition/en/>

¹²⁰ Sorokin P 1956, "The American Sex Revolution" Porter Sargent

that sexual non-conformists such as prostitutes have been shown to have higher than normal rates of drug addiction, mental illness, suicide, and criminal involvement than non-prostitutes¹²¹; that homosexuals have higher rates of anxiety, depression, drug taking¹²² and violent death than non-homosexuals^{123,124} and that transgender patients have the highest rates of all of prostitution, drug abuse, suicidal ideation and attempts, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's), health problems, psychological problems, sex industry employment, rape and criminal involvement.^{125,126,127} In these cases there appears a direct relationship by group between the degree of sexual deviancy and the extent to which "life does not work" in emotional, social and psychological senses.

Libertarian arguments of the sexual revolution in relation to physical health rests on three main tenets: condoms, contraception, and abortion.

Condoms. Numerous studies have demonstrated that condoms have identified structural weakness and faults associated with high rates of failure on physical leak testing which make their use in the important applications of contraception and disease prevention inherently seriously problematic.^{128,129,130,131,132}

There are at least 36 sexually transmissible infections. These illnesses have many important complications including sterility, pain from sex, pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, cancer of the cervix, vagina, vulva, anus and anal canal, and death (from ectopic pregnancy, PID, cancer, depression and suicide).

Four of these diseases, namely, genital warts (over 70 subtypes of human papilloma virus "HPV"), herpes simplex (Types I and II "HSV"), non-specific urethritis (NSU), and chlamydia, account for over 80% of the disorders seen in Australian^{133,134} and New Zealand¹³⁵ clinics. The most important point to note is that condoms have not been tested against most of these illnesses and in most of those cases where they have been tested no protective results have been found. In one illness (NSU) no causative organism has been

¹²¹ Perkins R. 1994 "Sex Work And Sex Workers" UNSW Press Chapter on "Female Prostitution" Table 8.7 P157

¹²² Paone D. "Continued risky injection subsequent to syringe exchange use among IDU in New York city" AIDS Education and Prevention 1997; 9(6) 505.

¹²³ Gold R.S "Why we need to re-think aids education for gay men" AIDS . (1995) *Care* 7 (Suppl1) s11

¹²⁴ Freidman SR "Risk Factors for HIV Seroconversion Among Out of Treatment Drug Injectors in High and Low Prevalence Cities" *Am J Epidemiol* 1995; 142(8) 864.

¹²⁵ Murray A. "The psychiatrist and the transgendered person." *Venereology* 1997; 10(3) 158

¹²⁶ Haertsch P. "Ten years experience in gender re-assignment surgery: A preliminary report." *Venereology* 1997; 10(3) 166.

¹²⁷ Perkins R. Commonwealth Dept. Health & Human Services, AFAO; UNSW, 1994; ISBN: 0644 35184 5

¹²⁸ Clarke L.J. *Contraception* 1989; 39(3): P249, Fig. 2B.

¹²⁹ Roland C.M. *Rubber World* 1993; 208(3) P16. Fig. 1A

¹³⁰ Roland C.M., Choi I.S., "Intrinsic defects & permeability of natural rubber" *Rubber and Plastics News* (12/1/1998) Fig. 2

¹³¹ Carey R. "A laboratory examination of standard leakage tests for surgical & examination gloves. *Clinical Engineering* 1989; 14(2): 133. Tables 3 & 5 PP 138, 139.

¹³² Steiner M. "Study to determine the correlation between condom breakage in human use and laboratory test results" *Contraception* 1992; 46: 279 Table 3 P 283

¹³³ Hart G. (1996) "Sexually Transmitted Diseases in South Australia: Epidemiologic Report No. 10" Clinic 275, Adelaide, S.A. Health Commission.

¹³⁴ Brisbane STD Clinic Data, Special Data Request.

¹³⁵ Lyttle H., Lindsay S. (1994) "Sexually transmitted diseases & activities in New Zealand STD / Sexual Health Clinics" *Venereology* 7(3): 143.

isolated so that testing is not possible. It is also important to note that most of these illnesses are spread not by body fluids, but by skin contact. Obviously there is extensive skin contact even when condoms are used, which is why physicians do not pretend that condoms work against the commonest STI's. As a direct result of this poor efficacy rate, it is said that 70% of all sexually active persons carry the warts virus, and some studies show that 65% of Sydney STD clinic clients carry HSV¹³⁶.

Because condoms are accepted as being effective against gonococcal disease the rising rates of gonococcal infection in Australia, which have more than doubled 1991-2004 from 14.6 to 35.6 /100,000,¹³⁷ demonstrate that saturation level condom programming of populations does not work. Weakening the natural constraints of modesty against sexual activity programs which promote condom use may actually be counterproductive when applied at the population level. Indeed most STI's are accepted as being more frequent in Australia in recent decades. This applies to the ten fold increase in warts (1973-1993)¹³⁸, the five fold increase in herpes (1973-1993)¹³⁸, chlamydia (where rates have tripled nationally 1991-2004 from 54.6 to 180.1 /100,000^{139,140}), eight fold increase in cervical pre-cancerous lesions 1970-1988¹⁴¹, doubling of pelvic inflammatory disease (1978-1983)¹⁴² (1990-1995)¹⁴³ and tripling of new cases of HIV from 100 to 283 cases in 1991-2003¹⁴⁴. Hence in the public health sense when the objective data is viewed condoms have failed by all measures, with most parameters including HIV infection rising about 2-3 or more times.

Contraception. In the modern era with over a million Australian women on hormonal contraceptives, one can only wonder if the safety profile of these agents has been either carefully concealed or carefully camouflaged from an unsuspecting public. Although "the pill" has long been known to have a range of common side effects (nausea, weight gain, fluid retention, mood change, clots, liver enzyme changes, liver enlargement, liver nodules, liver cancers, diabetes, hypertension, strokes and heart attacks), the severity and frequency of some of its most serious ones seem underappreciated. In 1996-97 the Imperial cancer research fund reviewed 59 published studies and found not only that hormone replacement therapy for the mature menopausal women elevated the incidence of breast cancer¹⁴⁵, but so too did oral contraceptives for younger women¹⁴⁶. Of course this is not at all unsuspected because both are preparations of female hormones, and the breast and reproductive tract are both hormone sensitive tissues. Similar results have been found with elevation of the cervical cancer

¹³⁶ Donovan B., "Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 Infection" *Med. J. Aust.* 1994; 160: 697-700.

¹³⁷ <http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/Source/CDA-index.cfm>

¹³⁸ Donovan B. "Are genital warts and herpes really disappearing problems" *Aust J Pub Health.* 1995

¹³⁹ http://www9.health.gov.au/cda/Source/Rpt_2.cfm?RequestTimeout=500

¹⁴⁰ <http://web.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechr/> Download slide set HIV/AIDS viral Hepatitis and STI's

¹⁴¹ Mitchell H. "Age and time trends in the prevalence of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia" *Med. J. Aust.* 1990; 2:252 & Additional Data

¹⁴² Garland S. "Modern management of acute pelvic inflammatory disease" *Mod. Med. Aust.* Oct. 1989 P16.

¹⁴³ Australian National Diagnostic Related Group Database Federal Dept. of Health & Family Services

¹⁴⁴ <http://web.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechr/> Download slide set HIV/AIDS viral Hepatitis and STI's; Slide 1.

¹⁴⁵ Collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors in Breast Cancer "Breast cancer and hormone replacement therapy: collaborative re-analysis of data from 51 epidemiological studies of 52,705 women with breast cancer and 108,411 women without breast cancer." *Lancet* (11/10/1997) 350 P 1047. From 21 countries.

¹⁴⁶ Collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors in Breast Cancer "Breast cancer and hormonal contraceptives: collaborative re-analysis of individual data on 53297 women with breast cancer & 100239 women without breast cancer from 54 epidemiological studies" *Lancet* 347 (22/6/1996) p 1713. From - 25 countries.

rates^{147,148,149,150}. This is particularly pertinent because women on the pill have more partners because they are on the pill^{151,152,153}.

Abortion. Abortion is frequently included in the sexual menu of the sexual revolution. The mantra seems to be that “you can always do it with contraception, and if there is a slip-up you can have an abortion.” The side effects of abortion are well known, with incomplete abortion, bleeding, infection, pain, and impaired fertility after multiple procedures being well known. Breast cancer is also associated with abortion. It must be said that breast and cervical cancer are the two commonest cancers which occur in females worldwide, and together they are responsible for the deaths of over a million women annually. Dr. Joel Brind has analyzed the 14 published studies on this area and found a consistent association with of the order of a 23% elevation.

In summary it might be said that the illusion and the delusion of sexual self-indulgence is responsible for far more heart ache, crime, broken families, abused children, and sexual disease than any other single cultural influence since World War II. Sexual integrity, which includes abstinence before marriage and faithfulness within marriage is one of the greatest safeguards of human health.

Conclusion

This document has brought together a vast array of information and evidence to suggest that sexual integrity is extremely important. It is important to women. It is important to men. It is important to children. It is important to relationships. It is important to society.

Sexual integrity may seem like a new concept to some. It certainly has not been on the social and political radar. It has not been the subject of newspaper columns or academic debates. It has not dominated talk-back radio or public forums. It is seldom discussed anywhere. But the authors of this document believe that this is going to change. It must change. We believe that sexual integrity must be on the public agenda. It must become a major topic of public debate. It must become a matter of national urgency.

This document has demonstrated that there are very real repercussions when societies and individuals abandon sexual integrity. Thus we need to put sexual integrity in the spotlight of both individuals and

¹⁴⁷ Gram I.T. “Oral contraceptive use and the incidence of CIN “ *Am. J. Obstet. Gynaecol.* 1992; 167: 40

¹⁴⁸ Thomas D.B. “Cervical carcinoma in situ & use of depotmedroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA)” *Contraception* 1995; 51:25-31. WHO Collaborative Study of Neoplasia and Steroid Contraceptives.

¹⁴⁹ Beral V. “Oral contraceptives and malignancies of the genital tract” *Lancet* 10/12/1988, p1331. Table 1.

¹⁵⁰ Reeves W.C. “Case control study of cervical cancer in Herrera province, republic of Panama” *Int. J. Cancer* 1985; 36:55.

¹⁵¹ Moss GB, Clemetson D, D'Costa L, Plummer FA, Ndinya-Achola JO, Reilly M, Holmes KK, Piot P, Maitha GM, Hillier SL, et al. “Association of cervical ectopy with heterosexual transmission of human immunodeficiency virus: results of a study of couples in Nairobi, Kenya.” *J Infect Dis.* 1991 Sep; 164(3):588-91.

¹⁵² Louv WC, Austin H, Perlman J, Alexander WJ. “Oral contraceptive use and the risk of chlamydial and gonococcal infections.” *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 1989 Feb; 160(2):396-402.

¹⁵³ Plummer FA, Simonsen JN, Cameron DW, Ndinya-Achola JO, Kreiss JK, Gakinya MN, Waiyaki P, Cheang M, Piot P, Ronald AR, et al. “Cofactors in male-female sexual transmission of human immunodeficiency virus type 1.” *J Infect Dis.* 1991 Feb; 163(2):233-9.

governments. Just as much as we discuss terrorism, ecological disasters, or other serious threats that we encounter, so too we should be discussing the need for a greater level of sexual integrity.

It is hoped that this document will be a catalyst for a revolution in the way we treat each other, and the way we think about each other. Sexual integrity must be a foundation upon which fruitful and successful relationships and societies operate. Thus we submit the contents of this document to that much needed task. Sexual integrity is an important social good. We ignore it at our peril.

Sexual Integrity Forum

History & Recommendations

Introduction

We thank you for taking the time to read **16 Reasons for Sexual Integrity (above)**. The Sexual Integrity publication is result of the Sexual Integrity Forum that was held in Parliament House, Canberra on 7-8 August, 2005. The last section of the Sexual Integrity publication called Sixteen Reasons for Sexual Integrity was inspired by the Sexual Integrity Forum. All the authors and researchers, but one, Dr Stuart Reece from Brisbane, attended the Sexual Integrity Forum at Parliament House and the editorial consulting team for both sections of this document attended the Sexual Integrity Forum and were able to provide valuable insights and suggestions to ensure the accuracy of the information provided.

We would like to thank the parliamentarians who were our main speakers and sponsors of the Sexual Integrity Forum in Parliament House. They include our major co-sponsors of the Sexual Integrity Forum Jennie George, MP for Throsby, who has made a stand against the sexual exploitation of women. Jennie has spoken many times in parliament on this important issue. Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Senator representing NSW, was the other major parliamentary sponsor. Connie has a passion to fight against the evil of child sexual abuse, for which we applaud her.

We again honour and thank those parliamentarians who spoke or sent letters of support for the Sexual Integrity Forum. We would also like to thank the mothers and fathers from all over Australia who have written in support since the forum. We honour and appreciate you.

Lastly we would like to pause for a moment to reflect on the tragic passing of 9-year-old Ebony Simpson in 1992. Ebony was on her way home from school in Bargo when a man took and put her in the boot of his car. This man raped and violated her, and as she pleaded for her life, tied her with fencing wire and threw her in a dam to die. We dedicated the Sexual Integrity Forum to the memory of Ebony Simpson. We also dedicate this Sexual Integrity document to Ebony Simpson. It is our hope and prayer that this publication will save many young children from a similar fate. Together we can make a difference. It is time to make a stand. We can be silent no long.

Warwick & Alison Marsh - Fatherhood Foundation
Sexual Integrity Forum Convenors

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The publishing team would like to thank all those Sexual Integrity Forum delegates who contributed to formulating the Sexual Integrity Strategic Plan. Without your sacrifice of coming to Canberra to spend time from your many pressing and worthwhile activities, this policy plan would not exist. We thank the editorial team who helped finalise the document to ensure it had not strayed from the original forum proposals. The policy editorial team members include: Jamie Boyd, Geoffrey Bullock, Keith Campbell, Linton Deane, Jonathan

& Karen Doyle, David d’Lima, Richard Egan, Mary Louise Fowler, Babette Francis, Rob Furlong, John Grant, Kate Handevitdt, Terry Harding, Bronwen Healey, Rob Jones, John Miller, Paul Monagle, Bill Muehlenberg, Tim O’Neill, Matt Rendell, Betty Roberts, Jane Rookes, Kevin Sargeant, Steve Schofield, Lyle Shelton, Jack Sonnemann, Wanda Taylor, Gabrielle Walsh, Paul Whyte, Ross Wilson and David Yates. Many other forum members have also contributed significantly to the integrity and accuracy of the Sexual Integrity Strategic Policy Plan.

Sexual Integrity Strategic Policy Plan

History & Background

Men and women gathered from every state of Australia on 8-9 August 2005 for the first National Sexual Integrity Forum. The event was held over two full days in the Main Committee Room, Parliament House, Canberra, the capital of Australia. The Sexual Integrity Forum was sponsored by parliamentarians representing the Liberal, National, Labor and Family First parties. We would especially like to thank Jennie George, MP for Throsby and Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells representing NSW, who co-sponsored the Sexual Integrity Forum at Parliament House. Our thanks also go to special speakers and parliamentary sponsors such as Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Member for Menzies; Lindsay Tanner MP, Member for Melbourne; Michael Ferguson, MP, Member for Bass; Anthony Byrne MP, Member for Holt and Senator Steve Fielding representing Victoria. We would also like to thank the many other parliamentarians who were able to come and speak after our reporting session at the conclusion of the Forum. We are very grateful for this gracious and kind bipartisan support from our parliamentarians, without which the Sexual Integrity Forum could not have proceeded.

The delegates that attended included both federal and state parliamentarians, local councillors including a deputy lord mayor, individuals representing men and women’s groups, feminists, pro-family groups, fatherhood groups, lawyers, church groups, law enforcement agencies, government and educational bodies, marriage counsellors, journalists, academics and social researchers, single fathering groups, child abuse prevention charities, sex education groups, former prostitutes and a brothel manager, ministers of religion, youth workers, policy advisors, IT & ISP provider /consultants, business owners, invited guests and ordinary Australians.

The stated goal of the Sexual Integrity Forum was:

To promote quality relationships between men and women for the purpose of ending the sexual exploitation of women and children in Australia in the 21st Century.

The keynote speaker for the Sexual Integrity Forum was Dr Mary Anne Layden, Director of Education and Co-director of the Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology program, Centre for Cognitive Therapy Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania, USA. Dr Mary Anne Layden is a world renowned authority on the sexual abuse of women and on the links between pornography, violent sex crime, prostitution and the trafficking of women for prostitution.

Dr Mary Anne Layden was joined by an impressive cast of Australian speakers, many of whom are leaders in the sexual integrity movement in Australia. Jonathan Doyle, M.Ed, founder of Choiceez.com; Richard Egan CEO, Australian Family Association, WA; Dr Michael Flood, post doctoral fellow, Australian Research Centre (having previously worked with Dr Clive Hamilton at the Australian Institute); Dr Sue Packer AM, FRACP Paediatrician, head of the

Child at Risk Assessment Unit, Canberra Hospital; Paul MacRae, director of business Developments, Messagelabs (Asia Pacifica) and CEO, Security Principles Pty Ltd; David Ramsey, CEO and director of Internet Sheriff; Shirley Woods, field and social worker for Project Respect, Melbourne; Linda Watson, former madam and prostitute and founder of Linda's House of Hope, Perth, WA; Bronwen Healy, a former prostitute from Brisbane; Sean Thackray, a young man who had been addicted to internet porn; Melinda Tankard Reist, author and director of the Women's Forum Australia; Jack Sonnemann, founder of Federation for the Family; Inspector Don Craill, head of the Transnational Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking Team, Australian Federal Police.

The Sexual Integrity Forum was convened by Warwick & Alison Marsh of the Fatherhood Foundation, based in Wollongong, NSW. The Fatherhood Foundation is a harm prevention charity, whose main goal is to improve the well-being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible, committed and loving fathers. The Fatherhood Foundation team call this 'excellence in fathering'. The lack of an involved, committed, responsible and loving father in a child's life has been shown, through social science research to lead to an increase in child poverty, child sexual abuse, teenage sexual dysfunction, child emotional abuse, child physical abuse, child and adult drug abuse, child and adult increase in suicide, child and adult self harm and many other destructive and abusive human behaviours.

The Fatherhood Foundation team convened and organised the Sexual Integrity Forum at Parliament House for the fundamental purpose of beginning a national discussion / dialogue on the need for increased levels of sexual integrity for the greater good of Australian families which are made up of the mothers, fathers and children of Australia.

The objectives of the Sexual Integrity Forum were:

- 1) Define sexual integrity – promote education & national debate on Sexual Integrity.
- 2) Promote the need for sexual integrity in order to foster gender equality, gender reconciliation & healthy family relationships.
- 3) Promote the need for sexual integrity in media, communications, advertising and the workplace for the greater good of the whole community.
- 4) Promote the regulation of the internet to curtail the sexual exploitation of women and children.
- 5) Advocate for the ending of sexual slavery – in particular the end of international trafficking in women for sexual slavery and prostitution in Australia.
- 6) Promote the need for sexual integrity to bring an end to the sexual abuse of children.

Every effort was made by the Fatherhood Foundation to invite a broad range of people from the Australian community. There was a good cross section of political parties represented. The leader of the Democrats, Lyn Allison, and the Greens, Bob Brown, were both invited but were unable to attend. People from many different faith groups were present, including atheists and agnostics. Inter-faith groups extended invitations to Muslim and Jewish representatives.

The Sexual Integrity Forum was essentially a policy development / think-tank forum and so had to be limited in size in order to achieve its objectives. The Sexual Integrity Forum was also an opportunity to honour some of the long time leaders within the sexual integrity movement. Several awards were given at the evening dinner which was kindly sponsored by Jennie George MP. There proved to be a huge interest from the general public in the Sexual Integrity Forum and many were turned away from both the forum and the dinner.

The Sexual Integrity Forum and visit by Dr Mary Anne Layden received wide coverage from both electronic and print media. Parliamentary interest in the results of the Sexual Integrity Forum has been encouraging from most of the major political parties with a positive bi-partisan support for the need to develop stronger policies to address these important issues.

Policy Development & Voting Procedures

The vision of the Sexual Integrity Forum was to develop a strategic policy plan that would represent the feelings of the majority of Australian families and concerned citizens. Consensus on policy decisions was the goal of the Forum. Consensus was defined as an 80% majority of votes. The organisers of the Sexual Integrity Forum are pleased to announce that 100% voting consensus was achieved on all strategic policy suggestions. The amazing level of consensus on these policies shows that the Australian public is interested in the need to preserve and strengthen our sexual integrity as a nation. The broad consensus on these common sense policy initiatives is also sending a clear message to our legislators that the time has come for action.

Definition

The greatest challenge before the Sexual Integrity Forum delegates was to define sexual integrity. The ensuing discussion was open and frank. The following definition of Sexual Integrity was agreed upon by the forum delegates. It might be noted that the question, ‘What do you think it is?’ was added to the definition to encourage further debate on this important subject.

**‘Sexual integrity is valuing, developing and expressing our sexuality in ways that are non-exploitive, mutually wanted, unifying and life enhancing . . .
What do you think it is?’**

The Sexual Integrity Forum believes the following ‘sayings’ express the above definition in a way the average Australian could understand:

- Sexual Integrity . . . value yourself
- Sexual Integrity . . . you deserve it
- Sexual Integrity . . . we deserve it
- Sexual Integrity . . . our children deserve it
- Sexual Integrity . . . honours me, honours you
- Sexual Integrity . . . a healthy choice
- Sexual Integrity . . . it’s just good manners
- Sexual Integrity . . . is wholeness
- Sexual Integrity . . . being fair dinkum
- Sexual Integrity . . . not selling out

The Problem

Australia’s current social situation is characterised by increasing levels of child sexual abuse, sexual crime, breakdown of family and relationships, rise in sexually transmitted diseases, sexual exploitation and sexual dysfunction.

All of these identifiable problems are often exacerbated by the media and their often-distorted depiction of human sexuality. These problems are further worsened by poor leadership from our community leaders such as: political and civil leaders, business and legal leaders, church and community leaders, sporting and media personalities and many other leaders in the public arena. Those community and political leaders who have made a strong stand for sexual integrity are to be commended. We also applaud leaders from within the sexual integrity movement who have fought long and hard to end the sexual exploitation of women and children.

Another side to the problem is the lack of positive legislation. In some cases legislation exists in Australia that legalises the sexual exploitation of women and children. Classification laws are badly drafted and poorly administered. In certain places law enforcement agencies refuse to enforce legislation. At times the legal profession is a silent partner to these inequities. Variables in the law and the enforcement of the law mean that in some states and territories, the sexual exploitation industry prospers due to lack of co-ordinated planning by federal, state and local governments.

A Call for Action

The Sexual Integrity Forum calls for men and women of good will to stand up and be counted and show leadership in sexual integrity. As Edmond Burke said, *'The only way for evil to prosper is when good men do nothing.'* It's time to promote quality relationships between men & women for the purpose of ending the sexual exploitation of women and children in Australia in the 21st century. It's time to promote true gender equality where a woman's sexuality is not something that can be bought and sold. It's time to call an end to the commoditisation of womanhood and the trivialising of a woman's sexual beauty with derogatory jokes and innuendoes. It's time to call an end to the exploitation of male sexuality by the pornographers and pimps that use sexual imagery in order to make money at another man's expense. It's time to take a stand to protect our sons and daughters from the adult sexual invasion of their world, robbing them of their innocence.

It is time to make our libraries, schools, playgrounds and churches safe places for our children once again. It's time to call men as fathers to a higher level of sexual accountability than ever before. It's time to call Australian fathers to become fathers of excellence for their children and marriage partners. It's time for men to admit to unnatural sexual addictions and seek help and counsel from other men. It's time for Australian men to treasure the gift of their own sexuality and stay true to the one they love. It's time for the women of Australia and the women's movement to rise up and speak with one voice to say, 'enough is enough'. It's time for men and women to commit to the journey of sexual integrity that is needed to bring sexual health and wholeness to the entire Australian community. It's time for the sexual integrity movement to make a stand. It's time for the Federal Government to co-ordinate with state and local government to develop a national plan to legislate to support sexual integrity. It's time for media executives to show leadership in sexual integrity for the sake of our children. It's time for our political and civic leaders to show both personal and legislative leadership in promoting sexual integrity. It's time for a change.

Sexual Integrity Strategic Policy Plan

Preamble & Definition

The Sexual Integrity Forum has formulated a ten point strategic plan to promote quality relationships between men and women for the purpose of ending the sexual exploitation of men, women and children in Australia in the 21st century. We believe that the Sexual Integrity Strategic Plan is the beginning of a national debate on the need to restore sexual integrity and to encourage that debate. Together with the Government and media, we pledge ourselves to ongoing dialogue on this important subject. The Sexual Integrity Forum calls on the citizens, families, communities and churches of Australia to reclaim their rightful place in the sexual integrity dialogue. In the definition below we ask the question of every Australian, ‘What do you think ‘sexual integrity’ is?’ The definition of sexual integrity as shown below was agreed to by the Sexual Integrity Forum delegates for use with the Sexual Integrity Strategic Plan.

**‘Sexual integrity is valuing, developing and expressing our sexuality in ways that are non-exploitive, mutually wanted, unifying and life enhancing . . .
What do you think it is?’**

The Sexual Integrity Forum believes that sexual integrity is an important social good, associated with an impressively broad array of positive outcomes for children and adults alike. The Sexual Integrity Forum is united in its call for a greater expression of sexual integrity in our public and private lives.

1) Call for Government Action

The Sexual Integrity Forum calls on the Federal Government to develop a National Sexual Integrity policy document to address the increasing level of sexual exploitation within Australian society. We believe that the Sexual Integrity Strategic Plan is a foundation for such a policy document. The Sexual Integrity Forum believes that a national sexual integrity policy document should include a national sexual integrity impact statement on all relevant legislation. The Sexual Integrity Forum also calls on the government to co-ordinate a national sexual integrity clearinghouse on matters relating to sexual integrity.

Priority must be given to the urgent implementation of a mandatory national filtering strategy for the internet.

The Sexual Integrity Forum calls on the Government to implement the following:

- A public parliamentary enquiry into sexual exploitation and the public cost of pornography to our society.
- A review of media guidelines in respect to sexual integrity.
- A national survey in regard to community attitudes to sexual integrity.
- Develop a Sexual Integrity Curriculum for primary and secondary schools.

2) Mandatory Filtering of the Internet

The internet is the new broadcast medium of the future and will soon take over from radio and TV as the premium broadcast communications network. Just as radio and TV have government regulation for the common good, so should the new broadcast mediums of the future have government regulation for the common good.

Evidence demonstrates that minors, including young children, are exposed both accidentally and deliberately to sexually explicit material via the internet. This is a form of child sexual abuse which leads to serious and lasting harm. The widespread availability of sexually explicit material via the internet exploits and degrades women, destroys families and imposes significant costs on the community.

The Sexual Integrity Forum calls on the Federal Government to legislate implementation of a national system of mandatory filtering to block access to pornographic material at internet service provider level. The most recent advances in filtering technology have made such a mandatory scheme technically feasible and economically affordable.

3) Media Campaign to Encourage Sexual Integrity in Relationships

We call on the Government and media to work together so that all forms of public communication portray healthy relationship images and encourage sexual integrity. We propose the following:

- Revisit classification standards in order to raise the standards of sexual integrity.
- Media campaign to encourage sexual integrity.
- Informing people and empowering people to have a voice in the democratic process by inviting the whole community to be part of the sexual integrity consultation process.
- Promotional campaign to encourage education in relationship skilling to prevent marriage breakdown and relationship dysfunction.

4) A Call for Responsible Television & Improved Government Legislation

Australia's social situation is characterised by increasing levels of breakdown of family and relationships, sexual dysfunction, sexual abuse, a rise in sexually transmitted diseases, sexual exploitation and sexual crime,. All of these identified problems are often exacerbated by the media and their often distorted depiction of human sexuality. As the media not only reflects the surrounding culture but has powerful influence in shaping cultural and social norms we encourage the media to recognise its civic/social responsibility and potential to become positive contributors in the areas of human sexuality and personal relationships. Therefore we recommend the following policy directives for: responsible television classification, reform of the Office of Film & Literature Classification, greater protection for our children when using the internet, and the introduction of a government health warning for sexually explicit material.

We recommend that the Federal Government creates legislation that:

- a) All free to air programming have permanent discreet codified content indicators throughout the duration of all programs. Such as S for sex, N for Nudity, H for Horror, CL for Coarse Language etc for the purpose of the individual viewer making informed viewing choices.

- b) Ensures content descriptions accurately reflect what is actually in any given program.
- c) That the legislation is enforced with more appropriate and stronger penalties for non compliance.

5) Reform of the Office of Film & Literature Classification (OFLC)

We call for reform of the Office of Film & Literature Classification (OFLC) including:

- a) Amend existing OFLC guidelines to make them more objective.
- b) Review of the procedure by which people are appointed to the Classification and Review Boards.
- c) Ensuring that the OFLC abide by the reformed guidelines.
- d) Amend the procedures for appeals against OFLC classification board decisions which will enable simplification of the appeal process.

6) Protect our Children from Pornography

We recommend that the Federal, State and Territory Governments Legislate so that:

- a) Material which contains pictorial, editorial or any content of a sexual nature that is clearly intended for an adult only clientele, no longer be accessed by, displayed to, or sold to any one under the age of 18. For Example: Simple restrictions can be implemented such as height restrictions for display areas (eg 1.75m) blinder racks, and opaque wrapping where only the title is visible.

7) Government Health Warning

We wish to submit a recommendation that the Federal Government Legislate the placement of a Visible Warning Label (such as is currently displayed on tobacco products & CD covers) on all sexually explicit material:

WARNING
Sexually explicit material may cause
sexual addiction and lead to
personal and relational difficulties.

8) Child Sexual Abuse & the Need for Help Centres & Education Programmes

In the light of the enormous personal, family and economic costs of child sexual abuse, which more than 1 million Australians report having suffered, we propose the establishment of Child Sexual Abuse Help Centres and an educational multimedia campaign to:

- a) Expose the problem of Child Sexual Abuse by exposing the culture of secrecy, silence and shame.
- b) Train parents to empower their children to recognise and reject abusive behaviour.
- c) Train children to trust their instinctive rejection of inappropriate adult behaviour.
- d) Inform & educate about child sexual abuse through co-ordinated website development.
- e) Provide assistance to those affected, through Child Sexual Abuse Help Centres.
- f) Provide training and support of workers in Child Sexual Abuse Help Centres to assist child victims.
- g) Provide assistance for those adult victims who want to break the cycle of abuse, and child sexual abuse offenders who genuinely want help.

9) Ending Sexual Slavery

The Sexual Integrity Forum would like to congratulate the Government on its recent reforms to combat the international trafficking of women for prostitution in Australia, but much more needs to be done. The Sexual Integrity Forum believes that the Government must also look at how the demand for sexual slavery is created. The ever increasing flood of pornographic material and the legalisation of prostitution in some states of Australia is causing increased demand for trafficking in international persons for prostitution. The Sexual Integrity Forum advocates for the ending of sexual slavery of all types and in particular the ending of international trafficking of women for prostitution in Australia by:

- a) The Federal Government must enforce Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which Australia ratified on 28 July 1983. This convention clearly states, 'State parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic and exploitation of prostitution of women.' The Sexual Integrity Forum calls upon the Federal Government to bring the states that have legalised prostitution into line with the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women by making the exploitation of women through the legalisation of prostitution illegal.
- b) Increased profiling and greater scrutiny of at risk people by immigration and the Australian Federal Police at the point of entry.
- c) Increased government assistance and a call for the public to support the Australian Federal Police as they work to expose the prostitution trafficking networks that are still operating in Australia; e.g. Australian Federal Police 'New Girl' campaign to expose prostitution trafficking networks.
- d) Initiate a media campaign to expose the truth about the exploitation of women through prostitution and the sex trafficking industry.
- e) Further development of the protection of trafficked persons with full respect for their human rights. (New UN protocol.)

10) Sexual Integrity Educational Initiative

The Sexual Integrity Forum calls on the Government to support and fund community-based education initiatives to break the current cycle of relationship dysfunction. It might be noted that much of relationship dysfunction is related to the increased levels of sexual dysfunction within our society. The Sexual Integrity Forum calls on the government to become proactive in policy development in the following ways:

- Introduce sexual integrity as part of the core curriculum in schools
- Mentoring/ peer support programs in sexual integrity
- Character building programs focusing on sexual integrity
- Promoting gender equality through sexual integrity
- Adult sexual integrity relationship education through new Family Relationship Centres
- Tertiary courses in sexual integrity
- Government introduced financial incentives for participants to undertake relationship education in sexual integrity.
- Tax deductibility for organisations providing courses in sexual integrity.
- These could be incorporated into existing PDHPE Programs.