

# Dads Kids

Inquiry into age verification for  
online wagering and online pornography

**The House of Representatives Standing  
Committee on Social Policy and Legal  
Affairs**

**25 October 2019**



**Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation**

Unit 1/33 Central Rd

Unanderra NSW 2526

02 - 4272 6677

[www.fatherhood.org.au](http://www.fatherhood.org.au)

25 October 2019

Dear Committee Secretary and Committee Members,

Enclosed is our submission in response to the *Inquiry into age verification for online wagering and online pornography*. This submission tries to address the terms laid out, with reference to Australia's international Treaties & the need for Sexual Integrity.

While we are in favour of age verification laws for both online wagering and pornography under 18 years of age, our submission enclosed principally addresses the issue of pornography. Our submission reflects the concerns of Fathers all over Australia.

Dads4kids is a community of people who have a vision for a healthier Australia. We believe that children are precious and valuable, and it is in our best interests to provide a safe place for their healthy development and growth.

Dads4Kids commenced in May 2002 and is a tax-deductible harm prevention charity. Dads4Kids helps children by promoting excellence in fathering. Excellent fathers are in word and deed: responsible, involved, protective, loving and committed to the well-being of their children and their children's mother.

Mission: To equip, encourage and inspire fathers, strengthen and support families and engage with community, church, business and government to see our children thrive.

Our submission deals with three main areas, Harms of Pornography, a short summary of our UN obligations and 16 Arguments for Sexual Integrity.

Thank you for taking the time to review our submission.

Yours for Our Children,

Chairman Ryan Milne, CEO Warwick Marsh and Secretary Alison Marsh

**Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation**



# Pornography Everywhere

Pornography is now all over the place. It's available on almost every screen and smartphone in the world. What was once outrageous makes for ordinary viewing on prime time TV.

From 1998 to 2007, the number of pornographic websites online [grew by 1,800%](#). Today, some [30% of all data transferred across the internet is pornography](#).

Decades on from the dawn of the sexual revolution, pornography exposure among university-aged males is now [almost universal](#). 1 in 5 mobile searches are [for pornography](#). And 96% of young adults are either [neutral, accepting or encouraging](#) of pornography use.

## Pornography is Very Harmful

Like so many aspects of the sexual revolution, our decades-long experiment with pornography has provided us with mountains of research about its culture-wide impact.

Pornography's links to mental health problems, sexual dissatisfaction, infidelity and even crime have led American lawmakers to declare pornography a public health crisis in [16 states](#).

## Pornography's Negative effect on mental health

People often turn to pornography to relax and relieve stress. But a growing body of research links pornography to a cluster of worrying mental health outcomes.

A survey of almost 800 college students found a significant link between regular pornography use and [depressive symptoms](#), including low self-worth. Strong correlations between pornography and [loneliness](#) have been uncovered in another study.

A meta-analysis of fifty studies found that men who consumed pornography were much less happy with not just romantic relationships, but their [relationships in general](#).

Many pornography users, whether male or female, report [relationship insecurities, body-image issues and anxiety](#) in connection to their habit. In fact, partners of pornography consumers even show symptoms of [anxiety, depression and PTSD](#).

## **Pornography & Cocaine are Very Similar**

Unlike alcohol, tobacco or other addictive drugs, pornography isn't a physical substance—it's power is a passing image, video or idea. But brain scans reveal that its effect on users is almost identical to a [heroin or cocaine hit](#). Pornography hijacks the brain's reward system. When users keep going back for more, it puts the amygdala under stress so that it enlarges, affecting emotional processing and [decision-making](#).

Cambridge researcher Dr. Valerie Voon studied this phenomenon in depth, comparing the brain scans of healthy patients and those who were pornography-addicted. She concluded that "[these differences mirror those of drug addicts](#)."

## **Pornography's negative impact on marriage & family**

Pornography consumption is [statistically linked](#) to less permanence in relationships, a devaluing of marriage and family, and greater likelihood of both unfaithfulness and divorce. One study showed that people who had an affair were [three times more likely to have used pornography](#) than people who remained faithful to their partner.

Another study tracked the marriages of couples over time, and found that [divorce was twice as common](#) among couples that began using pornography compared to those who didn't. As early as 2002, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers reported that [56% of divorces](#) involved one partner having "an obsessive interest in pornographic websites."

## **Pornography's role in violence against women**

We make ourselves aware of the research around the harms that pornography inflicts upon women. The vast majority of pornography depicts a [power imbalance between men and women](#), with men in charge, and women submissive and obedient.

Recently, a [team of researchers](#) looked at 50 of the most watched pornography films. Of the 304 scenes in these movies, almost half contained verbal aggression and a staggering 88% depicted physical violence. This led the researchers to [conclude that](#) "mainstream commercial pornography has coalesced around a relatively homogenous script involving violence and female degradation".

Of course, ideas shape behaviour. An analysis of 22 studies from 7 countries found that people who consume pornography frequently are likely to have [sexually aggressive attitudes and behaviour](#). Other studies have shown a strong correlation between men's pornography consumption and [their likelihood to victimise women](#).

## **Pornography's relationship to human trafficking**

There are an estimated 20 to [40 million slaves](#) in the world today—more than when slavery was abolished. Around 22% of these are victims of [forced sexual exploitation](#), which includes the production of pornography.

It's confronting to realise that this is not just a developing world problem. Officially, [sex trafficking](#) is defined as a "modern-day form of slavery in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion". On that definition, this includes the [shockingly common cases](#) of young girls in western nations who have been lured into a modelling career only to end up on pornography sets.

The USA's Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children both flag pornography as a [contributing factor](#) to the problem of sex trafficking.

There's also an [infinite feedback loop](#) between pornography and sex trafficking. Traffickers get ideas from pornography and make their victims watch it in order to produce more of it.

## **Pornography's direct harms to children**

Children growing up today are the [first generation in history](#) to be raised on tablets and mobile devices. This has given them much easier access to pornography and the adult-world risks that accompany it.

11 years old is now the average age that children are [first exposed to pornography](#). 90% of boys and 60% of girls have visited pornography sites [by the time they're 18](#). Half of teens come across pornography at least once a month [whether they search it out or not](#).

Research has shown that the younger that boys are when they first see pornography, the more likely they are to be using it [later in life](#). And among youth, internet pornography is [statistically linked](#) to sexual activity at younger ages, multiple sex partners, group sex, and other risky sexual behaviours.

Pornography harms children in other ways too. Every week, [over 20,000 images](#) of child pornography are posted to the web. And since 2002, more than 10,500 victims depicted in child pornography have been [located and identified](#).



# Australia's International Obligations

With all of these harms in mind, let us turn to consider Australia's international obligations towards children. The United Nations' [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) is the world's most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. It has been hailed as a [Magna Carta for children](#). Australia ratified this convention on 17 December 1990.

- *Recalling that, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that **childhood is entitled to special care and assistance***
- *Convinced that **the family**, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, **should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance** so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community*
- *Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, **in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding***
- *Considering that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society, and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular **in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity***
- *Bearing in mind that, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, **the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection**, before as well as after birth*

## Article 3

The convention's third article calls ratified nations to provide legislation that protects children and provides for their well-being:

*2. States Parties undertake to **ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being**, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, **and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.***

## Article 16

The 16th article is relevant to the inquiry inasmuch as age verification laws will not only protect children from viewing pornography, but also being lured into meeting with predators who groom them online:

*1. **No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence**, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.*

*2. **The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.***

## Article 32

The United States of America's Department of Justice along with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children consider pornography to be a [contributing factor](#) to the problem of sex trafficking—a phenomenon that certainly includes the trafficking of children. Given than this is true, article 32 of the convention is relevant to the present inquiry:

1. States Parties recognise **the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.**

2. States Parties shall **take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article.**

## Article 34

Article 34 also speaks clearly and robustly to this issue:

States Parties undertake to **protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.** For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular **take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:**

(a) **The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;**

(b) **The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;**

(c) **The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.**

## Article 35

Article 35 also provides guidance to Australia around protecting children from pornography, which is known to be a contributing factor in child trafficking:

**States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.**



# Sixteen Reasons for Sexual Integrity

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.<sup>i</sup> As Steve Biddulph says, "Once you have made love, then just having sex will never do."<sup>ii</sup>

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 to Australia's inaugural Sexual Integrity Forum,<sup>iii</sup> 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'. After significant debate and consultation 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 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.

Clive Hamilton, the director of the Australia Institute rightly exposes the "commodification of sexuality" and the "pornographication of every day life"<sup>iv</sup> as a major hurdle to gender equality. 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.<sup>v</sup>

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".<sup>vi</sup>

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."<sup>vii</sup>

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."<sup>viii</sup>

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."<sup>ix</sup> 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."<sup>x</sup>

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 a direct attack 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. For 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."<sup>xi</sup>

The commitment to avoid pornographic material is another aspect of sexual integrity that contributes 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."<sup>xii</sup> 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.<sup>xiii</sup>

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."<sup>xiv</sup>

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".<sup>xv</sup>

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'. "<sup>xvi</sup>

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."<sup>xvii</sup>

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."<sup>xviii</sup>

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".<sup>xix</sup> And he is quite right to emphasize, 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."<sup>xx</sup>

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.<sup>xxi</sup>

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, 1994<sup>xxii</sup>, Henderson-King and Veroff 1994<sup>xxiii</sup>, Cupach and Comstock, 1990<sup>xxiv</sup>, Blumstein and Schwartz, 1983<sup>xxv</sup>). 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 individuals feel about the sex in their relationship is related to how they feel about their entire relationship.*"<sup>xxvi</sup>

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.<sup>xxvii</sup>

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..."<sup>xxviii</sup> 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...)*<sup>xxix</sup>

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; sexual integrity is its grammar.

#### **4. Sexual Integrity is Essential for Manhood**

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.<sup>xxx</sup> 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."<sup>xxxi</sup>

Obviously there are varying levels of sexual addiction, but as with any addiction, the more pornography is consumed, the more the appetite grows<sup>xxxii</sup>. 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.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

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."<sup>xxxiv</sup>

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.”<sup>xxxv</sup>

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 have developed healthy ‘tracks’ in their mind, if they have ever viewed pornography they will have also developed unhealthy ‘tracks’.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

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.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

For this reason many ancient societies had rites of passage for young boys coming into manhood.<sup>xxxviii</sup> 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.”<sup>xxxix</sup> 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. Any person who lives in the fantasy world of pornography is creating an obstacle to the reality of relationship. 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.”<sup>xl</sup>

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."<sup>xli</sup>

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).<sup>xlii</sup> On average, children whose parents divorce or never marry see their fathers less frequently<sup>xliii</sup> and have less affectionate relationships with their fathers<sup>xliii</sup> This is compared to 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, warm, sustained and continuous relationship with both parents."<sup>xliv</sup>

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 likely to ... be sexually active<sup>46</sup>,
- More likely to ... start **early** sexual activity<sup>46</sup>,
- More likely to ... derogate masculinity and males<sup>46</sup>,
- More likely to ... have a poor ability to maintain sexual and emotional adjustment with one male"<sup>xlvi</sup>
- More likely to ... marry as teenagers (53% more likely) <sup>47</sup>
- More likely to ... have children as teenagers (111% more likely) <sup>47</sup>,
- More likely to ... have a premarital birth (164% more likely) <sup>47</sup>,
- More likely to ... to dissolve their own marriages (92% more likely),<sup>xlvii</sup>
- More likely to ... experience early onset of puberty and teenage pregnancy<sup>48</sup>.

Dr Bruce Ellis, Psychologist in Sexual Development at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch found that one of the most important factors in determining early

menarche is the father. His comment regarding this seems applicable to the full spectrum of sexual development in girls: "There seems to be something special about the role of fathers in regulating daughters sexual development".<sup>xlviii</sup>

## **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. If 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.

Research has consistently shown that married people report higher satisfaction levels with their sex lives.<sup>xlix</sup> 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.<sup>l</sup>

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

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 preceding topics. There are three different aspects to this assertion.

Firstly - 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 relationship is other than a marriage relationship. That is, abuse and violence are more likely to take place if a women 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.<sup>lii</sup> 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 never-married women to be crime victims.<sup>liii</sup>

Secondly - 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 sexually violent toward women, but almost every one who is sexually 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.<sup>liv</sup>

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%.<sup>lv</sup>

Many books are available which summarise the range of data available on this. They include works by Itzin,<sup>lvi</sup> Dines,<sup>lvii</sup> and Malamuth.<sup>lviii</sup> As one study summarises things, "at the core of contemporary pornography is contempt for women."<sup>lix</sup>

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.

Thirdly - 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."<sup>lx</sup>

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.<sup>lxi</sup>

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.<sup>lxii</sup>

## **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.<sup>lxiii</sup>

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.<sup>lxiv</sup> 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.<sup>lxv</sup>

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 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."<sup>lxvi</sup>

An example that emphasises the extent of the problem comes from Victoria. The 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".<sup>lxvii</sup>

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.<sup>lxviii</sup>

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.<sup>lxix</sup>

Fourth, there is the general sexualisation of our children and young people. Children trying to get the "look" 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 Raunch Culture*.<sup>lxx</sup> Indeed, a recent weekend newspaper magazine had the cover story: "Rise of Raunch: Why Paris Hilton and porn stars are the new role models".<sup>lxxi</sup>

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."<sup>lxxii</sup>

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.<sup>lxxiii</sup> 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.<sup>lxxiv</sup>

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, high-risk world where women are simply used for other people's lusts and pornographers' desire to get rich.<sup>lxxv</sup>

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."<sup>lxxvi</sup>

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."<sup>lxxvii</sup>

## **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!"<sup>lxxviii</sup> 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. This 'healthy' or

rather voracious appetite for sex 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 such examples as Russel Ward's seminal envisioning of manhood, in the whoring boom-bust lifestyle in post colonisation Australia.<sup>lxxix</sup> Nor do they lie in idealised constructs of the sporting male, the bronzed Aussie or the sexually predatory urban male. Surprisingly enough the roots of pornography driven anti-masculinity lie in the urban landscape of 1950's America.

Hugh Hefner's *Playboy* project<sup>lxxx</sup> 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.

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"<sup>lxxxi</sup>

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. This results in 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."<sup>lxxxii</sup>

Sexual integrity realizes that male sexual and psychological health is linked to a man's ability to engage in mature relationships, 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.<sup>lxxxiii</sup>

Marriage is even a good defence against homicide, with married individuals experiencing a lower rate of victimization through homicide. 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 are women. But the rate escalates to 39.2 men and 10.6 women if the respective parties are divorced or separated.<sup>lxxxiv</sup>

And noted above, there is a real connection between pornography and sexual crime, including rape.<sup>lxxxv</sup> The evidence of this is both anecdotal and scientific. One sociologist, summarizing the available data, concluded 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."<sup>lxxxvi</sup>

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".<sup>lxxxvii</sup>

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."<sup>lxxxviii</sup>

## 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 Jeffreys<sup>lxxxix</sup> and Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant<sup>xc</sup> 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."<sup>xci</sup>

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 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.<sup>xcii</sup>

### **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.<sup>xciii</sup> 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 male perpetrators using prostitutes has been reduced by 80 per cent.<sup>xciv</sup>

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."<sup>xcv</sup>

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 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.

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. Broken marriages 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.<sup>xcvi</sup> 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".<sup>xcvii</sup> One ISP executive said it was estimated that 70 per cent of downloaded volume to households is pornographic.<sup>xcviii</sup>

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".<sup>xcix</sup> 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.<sup>c</sup> There are even groups like Webaholics Anonymous that have been established to help the growing number of on-line addicts.<sup>ci</sup>

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".<sup>cii</sup> Dr Michael Schwartz of the Masters and 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."<sup>ciii</sup>

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’.”<sup>civ</sup>

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.”<sup>cv</sup>

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.

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 Magnet<sup>cxvi</sup>, Dixon<sup>cxvii</sup>, Shapiro<sup>cxviii</sup> and Paul<sup>cxix</sup> 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.<sup>cx</sup>

## **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."<sup>cx</sup> It is appropriate then to explore each of these realms in turn.

It was first shown by Sorokin in 1956<sup>cxii</sup> that sexual decadence was directly related historically to the demise of most great civilizations. When they became morally lax, they became structurally weak and vulnerable to external attack and demise. And it is no secret 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-prostitutes<sup>cxiii</sup>; that homosexuals have higher rates of anxiety, depression, drug taking<sup>cxiv</sup> and violent death than non-homosexuals<sup>cxv, cxvi</sup> 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.<sup>cxvii, cxviii, cxix</sup> 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.<sup>cxx,cxxicxxii,cxxiii,cxxiv</sup>

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<sup>cxxv,cxxvi</sup> and New Zealand<sup>cxxvii</sup> 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 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 HSV<sup>cxxviii</sup>.

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,<sup>cxxix</sup> 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)<sup>cxxx</sup>, the five fold increase in herpes (1973-1993)<sup>cxxx</sup>, Chlamydia (where rates have tripled nationally 1991-2004 from 54.6 to 180.1 /100,000<sup>cxxxi,cxxxii</sup>), eight fold increase in cervical pre-cancerous lesions 1970-1988<sup>cxxxiii</sup>, doubling of pelvic inflammatory disease (1978-1983)<sup>cxxxiv</sup> (1990-1995)<sup>cxxxv</sup> and tripling of new cases of HIV from 100 to 283 cases in 1991-2003<sup>cxxxvi</sup>. 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 cancer<sup>cxxxvii</sup>, but so too did oral contraceptives for younger women<sup>cxxxviii</sup>. 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 rates<sup>cxix,cxi,cxlii</sup>. This is particularly pertinent because women on the pill have more partners because they are on the pill<sup>cxliii,cxliv,cxlv</sup>.

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 analysed 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 expression of love within positive moral guidelines can be a fire to warm our hearts and souls, but without boundaries it can damage individuals and the community at large.

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 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 submission 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.

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## Conclusion & Summary

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the *Inquiry into age verification for online wagering and online pornography*. We deeply thank the Senate for the opportunity for the members of Dads4kids to have input into such crucial law reform.

We are convinced that children are of great value. We strongly support the UN international conventions to protect and support children, to which Australia is a signatory.

We believe Sexual Integrity is critical to the healthy development of our children and our families.

We have presented research confirming the many harms that pornography poses to people—and especially to children. The statistics we've presented also establish just how widespread pornography is today, and how easily available it is. With all of this in view, we strongly believe that age verification is absolutely critical to protect children under 18 from the harms associated with pornography.

We believe that online gaming should be subjected to the same protocol.

We ask the Committee Secretary and Committee Members to take serious note of the information we have presented in our submission.

Yours for Our Children

Chairman Ryan Milne, CEO Warwick Marsh and Secretary Alison Marsh

**Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation**