

From: Wendy Francis
To: Childrens Committee
Subject: HPRM: FW: ATTN: Wendy Francis - Transcript and Questions on Notice - Sexualisation of Children and Young People

Sent: 23/05/2016 11:54:32 AM



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Transcript Letter - Australian Christian Lobby - Wendy Francis.pdf (89Kb) Uncorrected proof - 8 April 2016 - Francis.docx (48Kb)

Message

Tags

Dear Jacqueline

I apologise for the delay in responding to the questions on notice. I trust that it's not too late to supply my answers –

- 1. Many submissions the Committee has received emphasise the importance of distinguishing between 'sexualisation' and 'healthy sexual development.' How would you define sexualisation?**

Answer to question 1.

Sexualisation, defined most simply, is the act of giving a person a sexual character, but in the context of children a more detailed examination is warranted. The imposition of modes of viewing a person as a sexual object, or treating a person as a sexual object, is also encapsulated by sexualisation.

The imposition of adult sexuality and behaviour on children at developmentally inappropriate stages may have the effect of interrupting the natural healthy growth into adulthood and prevent a healthy development of sexuality.

Just as the depiction of children in a sexualised manner is reprehensible and harmful to a child receiving such a message or image, so is a hypersexualised environment saturated with adult sexualisation since it leads to children to become sexually aware and active before typical development.

Children's natural sexual and social development does not progress normally when it is interrupted by external interference such as that caused by the current sexually toxic culture. When the images and messages that children are receiving are neither age nor developmentally appropriate, there is the potential that real harm to a child's development will occur.

When we consider the many messages children receive in today's Western Culture from various forms of sexually saturated media, the mainstreaming of pornography, and the widespread practice of 'sexting', it is evident that there are many challenges to a child's healthy development of sexuality.

- 2. Is education for parents adequate to equip them to fulfil their responsibility to educate and protect their children? How could it be improved?**

Answer to question 2.

Many parents are challenged by the raising of children in today's hypersexualised environment since they want to protect their children from being sexualised. Education programs for parents are not an adequate solution, since they do not address the core issue, which is the exposure of children to sexualisation. Removing the broad daily exposure children are subjected to, is an issue that can only be addressed through public policy targeting advertisers and service providers. For example, ACL has advocated in our

submission for 'G' rated outdoor advertising, we have also advocated for a workable 'clean-feed' internet solution that is aimed at protecting children. Parents need help from the government to reduce the hypersexualised messages their children are receiving.

Kind regards, Wendy Francis

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