



## Corporate Creep Not Curtailed

National community groups Young Media Australia and Kids Free to be Kids, and many others who made representations to the Senate Environment, Communication and the Arts Committee Inquiry into the Sexualisation of Children in Contemporary Media were dismayed at the weakness of its report released in federal Parliament on June 26. They believe that the report has not adequately addressed the real problems faced by parents today. Julie Gale, comedian, mother of two and Founding Director of Kf2bK (Kids Free 2b Kids) said that "the level of evidence about current marketing and advertising practices directed at children, of the harm from them, and of community concern about these, which had been presented to the Committee's Enquiry, should have resulted in stronger recommendations".

Jane Roberts, President of the Australian Council for Children and the Media (trading as Young Media Australia (YMA)), agreed saying that there should have been a recommendation for a unified and child development-centred approach to regulating all media directed at children. "The fragmented system of advertising, broadcasting and publications codes should be brought together where the protection of children is involved. This has been a missed opportunity for a collaborative response to achieve positive outcomes for children".

Elizabeth Handsley, YMA's Vice President, was critical of the report's apparent faith in existing industry codes. "Even those which have been revised to add provisions supposed to fix the issues of sexualisation of children do not address the real problems", she said, "and are unlikely to result in any reduction of them. Further, the reliance on industry bodies to fix most of the issues is misplaced. If these bodies were willing to take effective steps to address the issues they would have done so by now. "

The Senate Committee has placed a great emphasis on letting the industry try to fix the issues, and has indicated that it would revisit the issues in 18 months time. In this context, the remarks of Colin Segelov (Executive Director of the

Australian Association of National Advertisers) as quoted in the Canberra Times 27/6/08 are very interesting. He said that "as far as advertisers and marketers were concerned, the issue had been dealt with when it reviewed its Advertising Standards Code in April and banned the sexualisation of children. "We don't see the need to bureaucratise the situation, we will monitor it and be forever happy to consult on it with whoever wants to consult with us"

(<http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/sexualisation-of-children-report-banned/798816.aspx>)

Kf2bK and Young Media Australia will continue to monitor the situation and to advocate for a change that really benefits children. They welcome other community or business support for this.

## The AANA Code : does it really do anything?

Young Media Australia has been very critical of the likely effectiveness of the revised AANA Code on Advertising and Marketing to children. YMA was one of the few bodies to have been able to critique the Code in the two days available before submissions to the Senate Inquiry [above] closed. In its submission, YMA said it represented a protection on paper only, and would be unlikely to change the situation. See [http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eca\\_ctte/sexualisation\\_of\\_children/tor.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eca_ctte/sexualisation_of_children/tor.htm)

It's worth noting that the AANA only acted to change its Code in the wake of the Australia Institute's reports of Oct and Dec 2006, and growing expressions of community concern. Apparently the industry didn't, before that time, see anything wrong in sexualizing children through advertising and marketing. It then called a review, but did nothing more than just call for written submissions and then produced their Code without further consultation, and included amendments that won't work and won't help. YMA has been dismayed to read in the FaH-CSIA Discussion Paper on a national framework for protecting Australia's children that

"The Australian Government supports the recent initiative of the Australian Association of National Advertisers (AANA), the peak body representing advertising and marketing communications to amend their Advertising to Children Code including the direct prohibition of the sexualisation of children or the use of sexual imagery in advertising/marketing communications to children.

The Code for Advertising and Marketing Communications to Children's new provision on sexualisation reads as follows:

### 2.4 Sexualisation Advertising or Marketing Communications to Children:

- (a) must not include sexual imagery in contravention of Prevailing Community Standards;
- (b) must not state or imply that children are sexual beings and that ownership or enjoyment of a product will enhance their sexuality.

The provision applies only to a narrow range of advertising and marketing communications, defined as those that, 'having regard to the theme, visuals and language used, are directed primarily to children **and** are for ... goods, services and/or facilities which are targeted toward and have principal appeal to children.' (Clause 1 – emphasis added)

YMA believes that while the term "sexual imagery" may be somewhat useful as a tool to discuss the issues, it is too vague to be used as a regulatory term.

YMA is not aware of communications in the past that have been *directed primarily to children*, and for *products of principal appeal to children*, that have included "sexual imagery"; rather the problem is with communications aimed at adults but to which children are frequently exposed.

Community concern, is about the way that sex is used to sell to children, in the sense that the media propagate an idea of how to look, dress and act that is infected with adult notions of sexual attractiveness.

So while the AANA's initiative might be welcome, the outcome of the AANA's review is neither satisfactory in itself,

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no. 243 June 2008

## small screen

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## EDITORIAL

### Broadcasting Codes Review

Most commentators on the Report of the Senate Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts Review of the Effectiveness of Broadcasting Codes, tabled in Parliament in June have taken the well trodden path of focussing on the Gordon Ramsay programs and the use of swear words. The issue of coarse language on TV was only one of three terms of reference for that Review.

The committee's report contained some positive recommendations which, if implemented, would make TV stations' codes, classification and complaints systems more useful. There were several welcome recommendations for clarifying program classification symbols and advice lines that would make them more consistently visible. The revision of the

*cont from page 1*

nor comprehensive enough to fix the problems. Some of the sexualizing depictions occur in advertising and marketing, others occur in children's magazines, and in TV music video programs. The AANA Code, even if effective, has no effect here.

### Teenagers as porn producers

Reports from Victoria have revealed a disturbing new trend in crime statistics. Adolescents last year outnumbered adult men as the main producers of child pornography. This is occurring as young people share nude images using new technology. Images are being shared through mobile phones and Internet sites such as MySpace.

In one case an eight-year-old was questioned by police over pictures on a mobile phone, while sexually explicit photos of a 13-year-old girl which she sent to her 17-year-old boyfriend were put onto a MySpace site by another 13-year-old girl.

Police say that much of the activity can be explained by innocence and naivety, but that the Internet has increased the risks of offending by young people with a propensity for criminal action.

A police spokesman warned that children and their parents should be aware that posting images on the Internet can have both short- and long-term damaging effects. Once the images are placed in Cyberspace, they are no longer under the control of the individual.

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,23957392-2,00.html>

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,23956258-421,00.html>

### Confusion over film rating

According to Entertainment reporter, Christine Sams from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, cinemas are being flooded with queries about whether *Sex And The City* is suitable viewing for their teenage daughters.

The film has an MA15+ rating which means

current time zones for TV was a further practical suggestion. One recommendation called for an investigation into whether the addition of age-specific symbols in the G and PG categories would offer advantages. YMA has long argued that a new system with categories of G, G8+ (OK for over 8s), and G13+ (OK for over 13s) would be more useful to parents than the present G, PG and M categories (which all focus on the age of 15yrs).



Barbara Biggins  
OAM  
Hon CEO

Australia's classification systems can and do offer valuable consumer information, and assistance to parents. This review offers ways to make them more effective if its given more than superficial consideration.

that younger children can see the film if accompanied by an adult. At least one Canberra cinema reported that they were advising parents against taking young teenagers. The cinema had initially posted an 18+ sign on a *Sex And The City* promotional poster to advise ticket buyers about its sexual content, but this was removed after the movie received its official MA15+ rating.

A Classification Board spokeswoman told Christine Sams that the Board did not consider the film suitable for under-15s because it includes several scenes of implied sexual activity.

She said in many cases cinema operators had been forced to ask for ID from teenagers who were not accompanied by an adult and conceded there might still be some confusion among parents trying to work out the movie ratings system.

The spokeswoman said the board also sometimes received calls from concerned parents.

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2008/06/21/1214009162186.html>

### ACMA finds Nine breached suicide report safeguards

An Australian Communications and Media Authority media release in June reported that ACMA has found that TCN Channel Nine Pty Ltd (Nine), the licensee of Sydney commercial television service TCN, breached regulatory safeguards for reports about suicide in relation to a segment on the *60 Minutes* program. Nine was found to have failed to adequately warn viewers about the potentially distressing material prior to screening the segment.

The finding arose from a complaint that a segment on the program about the suicides of two teenagers which was broadcast in May 2007, did not comply with the requirements for reports about suicide set out in the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice (the code).

The segment contained a detailed description of the method of suicide and although it contained

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# Clips 'n' Cuts

## small screen no. 243 June 2008

# Obesity time bomb warning

**OBESITY** is a time bomb waiting to go off in South Australia, with 13 per cent of four-year-old boys overweight, federal MP Steve Georganas said yesterday.

Chairing a Federal Government hearing into obesity in Adelaide, the member for Hindmarsh said the figures were "shocking". "Thirteen per cent of boys at the age of four are overweight and 5 per cent are obese," Mr Georganas said.

"There is a time bomb ready to go off. They are pretty horrendous figures with implications for the health of South Australia."

Mr Georganas said

all the witnesses at the inquiry yesterday indicated there was a need for more data on obesity and a centralised system to collect it.

He said the inquiry, due to wind up at the end of the year, would look at how to collect the data.

The committee yesterday heard from Peter Clifton, one of the co-authors of the CSIRO's *The Total Wellbeing Diet Book*.

"We asked why this particular book was so popular, not in sales but in terms of success for people losing weight," Mr Georganas said.

"What he put it down to was it was easy to manage and easy recipes."

*The Advertiser, 14 June 2008*

SOMETHING essential has been left out of the discussion of the Bill Henson photographs ("On the edge", *Review*, June 7-8). People in the arts world are focused on what is within the frame. They have lost sight of the vast world that lies outside the frame. A painting or a sculpture may be entirely the work of an artist's imagination. But whatever else it is, a photograph is a record of a real event that occurred in a real world. To discuss a photograph of a naked child in terms of artistic freedom misses the point. The precise question is whether the photograph is evidence of a crime having been committed, the sexual exploitation of a child. And once we consider it as evidence, it is irrelevant to ask whether the child or the parent consented.

Larry D. Nachman  
Banora Point, NSW

*The Weekend Australian Review, 14-15 June 2008*

## Flicked off

Recently I've been disappointed in not being able to organise a family-friendly get-together at any local cinema in the west as there were no suitable films showing.

The cinema managers were apologetic and blamed distribution restrictions, etc, but it means there are no G or even PG films showing through June until the school holidays. Surely there's a niche market there, especially on weekends, to cater for those with primary school-aged children.

JUDYTH ROBERTS  
Rosewater

*Messenger News, Weekly Times, 11 June 2008*

## Children to produce content for copyright infringement campaign

Lara Sinclair  
Copyright

THE industry body charged with fighting film and television piracy will ask schoolchildren to make their own films in a marketing push that aims to teach a new generation the importance of not infringing copyright.

An innovative marketing campaign that capitalises on the rise of user-generated content will be

piracy," Ms Pecotic said. "But we believe you can prevent the vast majority of people from behaving that way."

AFACT director of operations Neil Gane said in regional areas whole demographics of former cinema-goers had stopped paying to see new release films that they could download online using peer-to-peer websites or on pirate DVDs.

"(One regional cinema owner

launched in primary and secondary schools this month in a bid to instil in children an understanding of how making or downloading pirate copies of film and television works damages the industry.

The campaign, created by the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft, follows the dawning recognition that the battle to protect copyright has been all but lost among older

told us) he has seen a whole demographic of his audience — young males who were frequent attendees — stop coming to the movies," Mr Gane said.

AFACT, which is funded by the major film studios and distributors, is also attempting to persuade internet service providers to subscribe to its "graduated response" program of warning internet addresses that are identified with illegal downloads that

teenagers and young adults, many of whom are used to downloading music free of charge over the internet.

AFACT executive director Adrienne Pecotic said a whole generation of Australian teenagers had missed out on the copyright equivalent of simple lessons about why stealing is wrong.

"There's a whole generation of children who have migrated to their activity is illegal. "Nearly 90 per cent of people who get that one notice don't do it again," Ms Pecotic said.

Co-operation from ISPs has been slow, however. "Their reaction has been they don't want to do it," she said. "Some are worried about their customers migrating to (another) ISP. Some believe they just build the road and what happens on it is not their business."

*The Australian, 2 June 2008*

## Screenwriter dies

LONDON: David Mitton, a director and screenwriter who adapted children's favourite *Thomas the Tank Engine* for television, has died, aged 69

*The Weekend Australian, 14-15 June 2008*

# Ramsay won't f-f-fade away

By **JEWEL TOPSFIELD**  
CANBERRA

POTTY-MOUTHED chef Gordon Ramsay can continue to swear with impunity, with a Senate inquiry expected to reject calls for some obscenities to be banned from television.

The Age believes the Senate report, to be released today, rejects the notion that some profanities should be decreed unacceptable. It is expected to point out that community standards evolve, and to codify them would be exceptionally difficult.

Liberal senator Cory Bernardi instigated the inquiry into swear-

ing on the box after the crass cook described his sous-chef as "this little c---" and dropped the f-word 80 times on a recent episode of *Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares*.

Some witnesses and submissions to the inquiry called for the c-word to be banned from TV, arguing that those repeatedly exposed to bad language would blasphemise more often.

The Australian Family Association said offensive language was "increasingly incompatible with respect for women and girls and incompatible with healthy psychosocial development in children or young teenagers".

Channel Nine told the inquiry it had now banned the c-word from all programs.

The Senate committee could recommend that classification codes be clarified, to enable viewers to more accurately assess the content of programs.

For example, under guidelines set out by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, the MA (mature audience) classification states: "The use of coarse language must be appropriate to the story line or program context, infrequent and must not be very aggressive... It may be used more than

► Continued PAGE 2

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infrequently only in certain justifiable circumstances."

Senator Bernardi told a hearing last month that there was "a fair bit of wiggle room" in some of the classifications. The report could call for greater definition of terms such as "appropriate context".

And it is expected to call for a more robust complaints procedure. The commercial networks insist on written complaints and will not investigate email or phone gripes.

The report is likely to recommend that stations show the classification logo next to the watermark during programs, instead of for a brief period after an ad break.

On initiating the inquiry in March, Senator Bernardi said the "c-bomb" was grossly offensive to mainstream Australia. "If I stood up in Parliament and used the type of language that is now being broadcast over our television screens, there would be public outrage."

But the inquiry heard that, according to an ACMA survey, only 3% of parents stopped children from watching programs because of bad language last year, compared with 34% in 1995.

The Age, 19 June 2008

# Copycat risk puts heat on film censors

ANDREW FENTON

EXPERTS fear a wave of copycat suicides will be inspired by a new movie showing hundreds of people killing themselves.

*The Happening*, which was released on Thursday, is rated MA, enabling teenagers over 15 to watch graphic scenes of people dying.

The Australian Psychological Society, representing 15,700 practitioners, yesterday demanded the film be reclassified R.

"Not only does this movie romanticise and sensationalise suicide but it depicts many methods of achieving that end," APS president Amanda Gordon said. She claimed there was a clear link between media portrayals and increased rates of suicide.

"The more detailed the descriptions... the greater the risk that vulnerable people, including young people or people with mental health problems, may harm themselves."

Beyond Blue ambassador and adolescent psychologist Michael Carr-Greg labelled the film a "disgrace".

"I am terrified about the impact this film could have on young

## WHERE TO GET HELP

If you need help, call:

- ☐ Lifeline on 131 114;
- ☐ SANE Mental Illness helpline on 1800 688 382;
- ☐ Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800;
- ☐ Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636.

people at risk of suicide," he said. "It is beyond belief that it has an MA rating. What are the censors doing?"

*The Happening*, from *The Sixth Sense* director M Night Shyamalan, stars Mark Wahlberg as a science teacher trying to escape an airborne neurotoxin.

Australian Family Association spokesperson Angela Conway also demanded the Office of Film and Literature Classification to reclassify the film.

"This classification is a mistake," she said.

The classification board report said violence in the film has more impact than the thematic element of suicide because its depiction was "stylised and dramatic".

The Advertiser, 14 June 2008

I HAVE liberal views on censorship but something about Bill Henson's photographs of naked adolescents disturbs me. If his images had been found on a



pedophilia website, there would be no debate about their illegality, but as art they take on a different meaning; it seems context is everything. What worries me is how informed consent to be photographed naked was able to be given by a 13-year-old girl. There is an ethical issue here: as adults with experience of the world, do we have the right to ask young people, barely out of their childhood, to take their clothes off in the name of art? Does Henson's need for artistic expression carry more weight than the rights of children? Patrick McCaughey ("On the edge", *Review*, June 7-8) also talks about truthfulness to the artist's experience or imagination to observed reality, but he never mentions the model or asks about her truth. How will she feel about these photographs later in her life? Maybe she is just too young to articulate feelings that will surface later, when it will be too late to say no. I do not agree with the way the police raided the gallery. Rather, I see this as an opportunity for the community to have a much-needed debate. Perhaps it is time to put children before art and develop a new classification within censorship to deal with what may be inadvertent abuse.

**Sandie Price**  
Inman Valley, South Australia

Weekend Australian, 21-22 June 2008

# 'Art censorship isn't the answer'

*The Weekend Australian, 14-15 June 2008*

AUSTRALIA'S peak visual arts body has slammed suggestions from a child welfare activist that a vetting system be established to determine artists' bona fides in working with children.

At a Sydney censorship forum on Thursday — organised to discuss the furore over Bill Henson's photographs of naked young girls — Bravehearts executive director Hetty Johnston questioned the art world's ability to prevent pedophiles from passing themselves off as artists.

National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) executive director Tamara Winikoff said yesterday a panel of scrutineers making decisions about artists and their work was not an appropriate way to fight child pornography. "Real pornographers would laugh at the impotence of this kind of proposal, while the work of genuine artists may be compromised by the laboriousness and potential conservatism of such a requirement," she said. "We have

seen too many cases of artworks being misjudged or suppressed in their own time and later recognised as the defining cultural icons of their age."

Sydney's Roslyn Oxley9 gallery yesterday reported strong sales of Henson's works, including the images confiscated by police three weeks ago.

"It's not a case of people having come out of the woodwork because of this issue ... these are regular collectors," a gallery spokeswoman said.

The National Gallery of Victoria confirmed it had "expressed interest" in three works from the Sydney exhibition: two architectural images and one of a naked adolescent girl, whose body is covered by long hair.

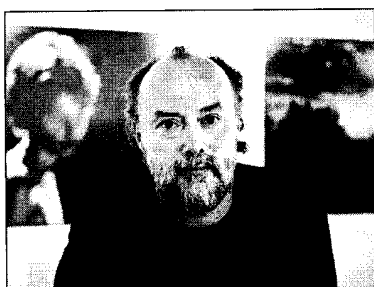
Director Gerard Vaughan maintained the gallery's commitment to displaying Henson's work. "Obviously any publicly funded gallery needs to act responsibly on the question of what it exhibits," he said. "A public gallery should try to avoid deliberately offending community values, but equally it cannot succumb to censorship."

**CORRIE PERKIN**



At Thursday's forum at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art, attended by more than 200 people, Ms Johnston said last week's decision by NSW police to abandon their case against the Melbourne artist was an example of how the law failed to adequately protect children.

"The Henson matter has raised the awareness of many in the community as to the power



**Notoriety raises prices:** Bill Henson

and importance of artistic freedoms, the vulnerability of children, the growing dangers our children face in their youth, the growing need to prioritise their protection in this increasingly technological world and the failure of the law to do just that," she said.

NAVA announced yesterday it would produce an art censorship guide to clarify the law over issues such as indecency, blasphemy, sedition, defamation, racial vilification and privacy. It also intends to include in the third edition of its code of practice, to be published in the next two months, a checklist for artists working with children.

Ms Winikoff said too often police, security guards, galleries and even artists themselves were unclear about what they could and couldn't do under the law.

Art adviser David Hulme predicted more Henson works would be on the market for the next round of auctions. "His prices now sitting at \$25,000, could be 20 per cent to 30 per cent higher by the time we see his work at the Melbourne Art Fair in August," he said.

## Guide to portrayal of children in media

**Nicola Berkovic**

A DEDICATED children's television channel, tougher scrutiny of music videos and stricter guidelines for advertisers have been recommended to combat the sexualisation of children.

The Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee said yesterday the sexualisation of children was of increasing concern and "a significant cultural challenge".

"This is a community responsibility which demands action by society," the report says.

The Senate committee report, tabled in parliament yesterday, recommends a children's television channel and a classifications system for magazines similar to that for television programs as two measures to combat sexualisation of children in the media.

Other recommendations include vetting of advertisements, for advertisers worried they are

pushing the limits or for repeat offenders, and a call for broadcasters to review their classification of music videos.

Clive Hamilton, former executive director of the Australia Institute, which triggered the inquiry, said the report failed to understand or reflect the level of community concern about the issue. "The recommendations of the committee veer from the weak to the pathetic and suggest that the inquiry allowed itself to be snowed by the advertising industry," Dr Hamilton said.

The Australia Institute's 2006 report, *Corporate Pedophilia*, which claimed that large retailers were sexualising children in their advertising, prompted heated debate about the issue and ultimately led to the inquiry.

Children's welfare advocates argued the report's recommendations for dealing with the problem did not go far enough.

*The Australian, 27 June 2008*

## Fresh ACMA board

ACMA announced this week it had appointed Geoff Luther and Jennifer McNeill as members and reappointed Johanna Plante and Rod Shogren. Gerrard Anderson has said he will leave ACMA when his term expires on June 30.

*The Australian, 5 June 2008*

## Disney wings it into the local online market

*The Age Green Guide, 26 June 2008*

Australian children will soon have many more online games from Disney as the entertainment giant begins to take the local market seriously.

The company is stepping up its efforts to capture the imagination of local children in the face of heavy competition from game and entertainment websites.

Taking the lead from the popular children's website Club Penguin ([clubpenguin.com](http://clubpenguin.com)), which it bought last year for \$775 million, it is now focusing more on games and virtual worlds rather than on promoting its

movie and television properties.

Tokyo-based Duncan Orrell-Jones, managing director Walt Disney Internet Group (Asia-Pacific), was in Australia last week to spruik recent changes to the company's main property ([disney.com.au](http://disney.com.au)) and to preempt the launch of three new virtual worlds for budding young cyber citizens.

"We've done a fair bit of research on this and there's an expectation by kids as well as parents that they will find great games and a lot of games (on the site), so we're very bullish on that being a core element of Disney

com as well as [disney.com.au](http://disney.com.au)," he says.

Club Penguin, which already counts on Australia as the second biggest traffic generator outside the US, will earn its own .au domain and local staff to ensure its content is relevant for local audiences.

Later in the year, pixies will be set loose with the launch of the Australian version of Pixie Hollow ([pixiehollow.com](http://pixiehollow.com)), a world where children can create but fairies, decorate their hollows, play games, watch movies and make other fairy friends.

Next year, the formula will be repeated when Cars (from the movie) is launched in the US and globally, followed by Pirates.

However, the target age group for the latter has not yet been determined.

"We hope that we will have a portfolio of properties that appeal to a range of age groups," Mr Orrell-Jones says.

He reiterated the company's commitment to online safety by hinting at a possible safety campaign with Australian authorities and ensuring parental controls and filters

are in place on all virtual worlds.

Commenting on the presence of M-classified movie trailers on the Disney site, the company's director, David Macdonald, said it was inevitable.

"We're always going to have trailers on the site, but we look to have balance and control in the deeper virtual worlds," he said.

"We need to make sure we can create tools to help parents.

"But to some degree parents have to make their own decisions to what they are comfortable with."

LIA TIMSON

# Low marks for computers in schools

**Justine Ferrari**  
Education writer

THE digital education revolution remains a long way off, with a report suggesting the use of computers in schools is limited, largely ineffective and teachers are sceptical about their application.

The report, commissioned by the federal Government, highlights an "avoidance culture" among many teachers who are unwilling to use computers and says there is little evidence of profound improvements in student learning or teaching.

The report, Partnerships in ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Learning, says Australia remains in the early phase of integrating computers into the classroom and the curriculum, and is yet to determine how they can be used effectively.

It says computers and other information technology do not guarantee improvements in student performance and

teachers are sceptical about their use. "There were examples of teachers unwilling to be involved in projects because they saw ICT use as more work, peripheral to the main game in schools, avoidable, not guaranteeing improved learning outcomes and outside their experience and expertise," it says.

One of the authors, John Pegg from the University of New England, said the federal Government's program to deliver computers into high schools was the easy, albeit expensive, stage.

Professor Pegg said considerable differences existed in "e-maturity" between schools, teachers, academics and city and rural areas. "It isn't a level playing field; the adoption of computers and information technology across the nation is patchy," he said.

Professor Pegg said many schools were still teaching computer skills rather than using computers as a teaching tool.

"Googling isn't learning," he said. "Computers are highly motivational for the kids; they're great for capturing kids'

attention but in terms of learning it's not really clear. If teachers don't change their teaching to support that ... you can expect no difference."

Professor Pegg said it was just as important for teachers to know when not to use computers. A study by the European Commission released last year found computers improved student achievement in English and slightly in science, but not in maths. The effects were most evident in primary schools.

The Australian report trialed a model for developing better use of computers based on a partnership between schools and universities.

The study highlighted the lack of assessment about the use of computers.

"Processes and learning gains should be tested in some form. It is not sufficient to report that there are benefits to embedding ICT into the curriculum based on hunches or feelings that it was effective," the report says.



For the latest technology news, log on to [australian.it.com.au](http://australian.it.com.au)

*The Australian*, 18 June 2008

## Board clears Henson images

**David Marr**

**IMAGES** declared "absolutely revolting" by the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, at the height of the Bill Henson controversy have been cleared for general release.

Late last week the Classification Board swiftly assessed five Henson images taken from media websites and rated them all "G" or "very mild". Some or all of the images are partly censored with black bars covering nipples and genitals. The assessment followed a complaint about images on media websites after NSW police closed his Sydney exhibition on May 23. The main complaint is said to involve a slide show of seized photographs on *The Daily Telegraph's* website.

Last Thursday, the Minister for Home Affairs, Bob Debus, said images from media websites has been referred to the Classification Board. They were cleared the same day. An internet censorship expert Irene Graham told the *Herald*: "The fact that the Classi-

## Exploitation of children

**WITH** regard to the recent police investigation into Bill Henson's exhibition at Sydney's Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery and his other photographs, it's our view that the issue is not about art versus pornography, nor is it about censorship. The central issues are the exploitation of children and their inability to give consent. It's also our view that parents do not have the right to give consent to such activities on behalf of their 12 or 13-year-old children.

We also wish to express our concern about much of the public comment. We are particularly concerned that many people appear to suggest that Henson's photographs are in some way so special as to be above the question of consent. This argument appears to be based on his position as a "highly distinguished" artist, who has been "photographing young models for more than 15 years", whose work has been widely exhibited, and whose work follows "a tradition of the nude in art".

It is our view that artists should be subject to the same ethical standards and laws as others in our community in relation to these principles. It is also our view that a long "tradition" does not justify the continuation of an activity. Forcing children to work for 40 hours a week in mines and factories, for example, is now regarded as exploitation and is no longer legal.

There have also been suggestions that trial by media is distressing and has somehow diminished and corrupted Henson's art. For us, the most distressing aspect is that it appears that too little thought has been given to the present and future needs for protection of Australia's children.

We therefore ask the Prime Minister that all issues concerning consent, ethics and the law now be clarified or revised so that in future these concerns may be effectively addressed.

**Chris Goddard**

Director, Child Abuse Research Australia  
Monash University, Notting Hill, Vic (and 30 other signatories including Steve Biddulph, Eleonora Gullone, Joe Tucci, Moira Rayner, Chris Riley, Freda Briggs and Brenda Clare)

*The Australian*, 11 June 2008



**'It's a sign of how politically sensitive the Henson issue has become.'**

**IRENE GRAHAM**  
Internet censorship expert

*Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 June 2008

ation Board has become involved in this and then worked so quickly to reach its verdict is a sign of just how politically sensitive the Henson issue has become."

Responsibility for policing the net was given to the Australian Communications and Media Authority in 2006. Since then, it has referred less than a dozen complaints to the Classification Board. The Henson complaint is the first to be cleared absolutely by the board, which is expected to release a full report on each of the five images today.

Mr Rudd also assessed the photos on the basis of images partly obscured with bars. "That's the first time I have seen them," he told Channel Nine on the day of their seizure. He declared them revolting and without artistic merit.

Uncensored Henson images are also being investigated by the authority following police complaints about the original photographs on the Roslyn Oxley9 gallery website. That website is hosted on a foreign server.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

## ADVERTISING

Batada, A; et al (2008)  
**Nine out of 10 food advertisements shown during Saturday morning children's television programming are for foods high in fat, sodium, or added sugars, or low in nutrients.**  
*Journal of the American Dietetic Assoc, Vol. 108, No. 4, Pp673-678*

Alvy, LM; Calvert, SL (2008)  
**Food marketing on popular children's Web sites: A content analysis.**  
*Journal of the American Dietetic Assoc, Vol. 108, No. 4, Pp710-713*

Nelson, JP & Young, DJ (2008)  
**Effects of youth, price, and audience size on alcohol advertising in magazines.**  
*Health Economics, Vol. 17, No. 4, Pp551-556*

## COMPUTERS &amp; INTERNET

Mitchell, KJ; et al (2008)  
**Are blogs putting youth at risk for online sexual solicitation or harassment?**  
*Child Abuse & Neglect, Vol. 32, No. 2, Pp277-294*

Buller, DB; et al (2008)  
**Randomized trials on *Consider This*, a tailored, Internet-delivered smoking prevention program for adolescents.**  
*Health Education & Behavior, Vol. 35, No. 2, Pp260-281*

Dehue, F; Bolman, C; Vollink, T (2008)  
**Cyberbullying: Youngsters' experiences and parental perception.**  
*Cyberpsychology, Vol. 11, No. 2, Pp217-223*

McCabe, KA (2008)  
**The role of Internet service providers in cases of child pornography and child prostitution.**  
*Social Science Computer Review, Vol. 26, No. 2, Pp247-251*

Geriets, P; et al (2008)  
**Competent information search in the World Wide Web: Development and evaluation of a web training for pupils.**  
*Computers in Human Behavior, Vol. 24, No. 3, Pp693-715*

## COMPUTER &amp; VIDEO GAMES

Staude-Muller, F et al (2008)  
**Hostile and hardened? An experimental study on (de-)sensitization to violence and suffering through playing video games.**  
*Swiss Journal of Psychology, Vol. 67, No. 1, Pp41-50*

Kim, EJ; et al (2008)  
**The relationship between online game addiction and aggression, self-control and narcissistic personality traits.**  
*European Psychiatry, Vol. 23, No. 3, Pp212-218*

## MEDIA EFFECTS-PHYSICAL

Eisenmann, JC; et al (2008)  
**Combined influence of physical activity and television viewing on the risk of overweight in US youth.**  
*International Journal of Obesity, Vol. 32, No. 4, Pp613-618*

Mondini, L; et al (2007)  
**Overweight, obesity and associated factors in first grade schoolchildren in a city of the metropolitan region of Sao Paulo, Brazil .**  
*Cadernos de Saude Publica, Vol. 23, No. 8, Pp1825-1834*

## MEDIA EFFECTS-SOCIAL

Primack, BA; et al (2008)  
**Adolescent smoking and volume of exposure to various forms of media.**  
*Public Health, Vol. 122, No. 4, Pp379-389*

Barr-Anderson, DJ; et al (2008)  
**Characteristics associated with older adolescents who have a television in their bedrooms.**  
*Pediatrics, Vol. 121, No. 4, Pp718-724*

Fulikerson, JA; et al (2008)  
**Family meals: Perceptions of benefits and challenges among parents of 8- to 10-year-old children.**  
*Journal of the American Dietetic Assoc, Vol. 108, No. 4, Pp706-709*

Cleveland, A & Striano, T (2008)  
**Televised social interaction and object learning in 14-and 18-month-old infants.**  
*Infant Behavior & Development, Vol. 31, No. 2, Pp326-331*

## VIOLENCE

Lieberman, EJ (2008) [Book Review]  
**Grand theft childhood: The surprising truth about violent video games and what parents can do.**  
*Library Journal, Vol. 133, No. 6, Pp100*

Polman, H; de Castro, BO; van Aken, MAG (2008)  
**Experimental study of the differential effects of playing versus watching violent video games on children's aggressive behavior.**  
*Aggressive Behavior, Vol. 34, No. 3, Pp256-264*

Olson, CK; et al (2008)

**The role of violent video game content in adolescent development: Boys' perspective.**  
*Journal of Adolescent Research, Vol. 23, No. 1, Pp55-75*

## SPECIAL ISSUE

*American Behavioral Scientist, Vol 51, No. 8, April 2008, Pp1061-1279*

Gunter, Barrie.  
**Media violence: Is there a case for causality?**

Savage, Joanne.  
**The role of exposure to media violence in the etiology of violent behavior: A criminologist weighs in.**

Twemlow, Stuart W; Bennett, Tanya.  
**Psychic plasticity, resilience, and reactions to media violence: What is the right question?**

Comstock, George.  
**A sociological perspective on television violence and aggression.**

Murray, John P.  
**Media violence: The effects are both real and strong.**

Glymour, Bruce; Glymour, Clark; Glymour, Maria.  
**Watching social science: The debate about the effects of exposure to televised violence on aggressive behavior.**

Anderson, James A.  
**The production of media violence and aggression research: A cultural analysis.**

## EVENTS

**Screen It**

Closing date for entries  
 October 17, 2008

*Screen It* is Australia's national moving image competition for school students, designed to encourage imagination and inventiveness in Australia's primary and secondary school students.

For details and entry form go to  
<http://www.acmi.net.au/screenit>.

