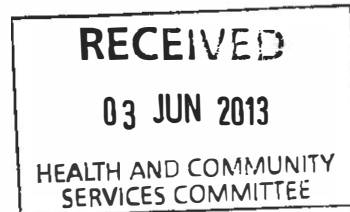




29 May 2013

Mr Trevor Ruthenberg MP
Chair
Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE Q 4000



Dear Mr Ruthenberg MP

Re: Inquiry into sexually explicit outdoor advertising

Thank you for your letter dated 6 May 2013 seeking comment on the above Inquiry.

Please note that Protect All Children Today Inc. (PACT) is a not for profit community organisation established in 1986 as a service provider of court support as well as advocating on behalf of children, young people and their families.

PACT's Child Witness Support Program provides support for children and young people (3-17 years) who are required to give evidence in the courts, either as victims of, or witnesses to, a crime.

PACT supports the Terms of Reference established and any initiatives that better protect children from being exposed to sexually explicit and inappropriate outdoor advertising. However, we suggest the inability to police the information that children are being subjected to in their own homes, poses a greater risk to the child than outdoor advertising. Sadly, for some children, this kind of material is easily accessible through their private family and peer networks.

Further, the introduction of social media such as Facebook, Internet Chat Rooms, SMS messaging, etc. all provide potential avenues for children to be exposed to sexually explicit materials.

Given that children's exposure to sexualised and violent imagery is extremely difficult to curtail, PACT believes that Government efforts would be better placed at ensuring that children have access to education programs that empower a child to put such exposure into an appropriate context.

We commend the Health and Community Services Committee Inquiry and wish you well in tackling this challenging issue.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Chairperson.

rks

Chairperson

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Chief Executive Officer.

Chief Executive Officer

PACT's Vice Regal Patron: Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AC, Governor of Queensland

PO Box 6011, Logan Central, Q 4114
51 Jacaranda Avenue, Logan Central
Website: <http://www.pact.org.au>

ABN: 38 133 812 087

Telephone: (07) 3290 0111
Fax: (07) 3290 0499
Email: pact@pact.org.au

