



Australian Sex Workers Association

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To the eSafety Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the eSafety's *Call for Evidence on Age Verification*.

Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association is the national peak body representing a membership of individual sex workers, and sex worker networks, groups, projects, collectives and organisations from around Australia since 1989. Through our objectives, policies and programs, Scarlet Alliance aims to achieve equality, social, legal, political, cultural and economic justice for past and present workers in the sex industry, in order for sex workers to be self-determining agents, build their own alliances and choose where and how they work. Scarlet Alliance represents sex workers on a number of Commonwealth committees and Ministerial advisory mechanisms.

We provide the below evidence for your consideration. These sources cover the following topics

- [The efficacy of regulating porn online](#)
- [The impact that regulation of content has on sex workers](#)
- [Porn and young people](#)
- [Sex education and health promotion with porn](#)
- [Porn research methods and theory](#)
- [Sex work and technology](#)

For quick reference, key sources have been **bolded** throughout.

THE EFFICACY OF REGULATING PORN ONLINE

The following sources provide overviews and critiques of current efforts to regulate and censor pornography. Majority of these sources consider the UK's recent attempt to implement an age verification system and whether this approach was based on evidence.

Australia

- Zahra Stardust 2014, 'Fisting is not permitted criminal intimacies queer sexualities and feminist porn in the Australian legal context', *Porn Studies*.
- Anne Webster MP 2021, '[Human Rights Scrutiny Report 5 of 2021](#)', *Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights*, p.45-88 (Chapter 2).

United Kingdom

- Clarissa Smith 2018, 'Policy, politics and porn', *Sexualities*.
- Pandora Blake 2018, 'Age verification for online porn: more harm than good?' *Porn Studies*.
- Majid Yar 2020, 'Protecting children from internet pornography? A critical assessment of statutory age verification and its enforcement in the UK', *Policing: An International Journal*
- Clarissa Smith and Feona Atwood 2010, 'Extreme Concern- Regulating 'Dangerous Pictures' in the United Kingdom', *Porn Studies*
- Anna Carline 2011, Criminal justice, extreme pornography and prostitution: Protecting women or promoting morality?, *Sexualities*
- Open Rights Group (date of publication unknown)- [Age Verification, Risks & Recommendations](#)
- Neil Thurman and Fabian Obster 2021 'The regulation of internet pornography- What a survey of under-18s tells us about the necessity for and potential efficacy of emerging legislative approaches', *Policy Internet*.
- David Kaye 2017, *Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*
- Eleanor Wilkinson 2017, 'The diverse economies of online pornography: From paranoid readings to post-capitalist futures', *Sexualities*
- Jim Waterson 2021, '[UK's porn age-verification rules can be circumvented in minutes](#)', *The Guardian*.

THE IMPACT THAT ONLINE REGULATION OF CONTENT HAS ON SEX WORKERS

The following sources illustrate the negative ramifications that can occur for sex workers when governments enact online regulatory or legislative standards. Increasing third party liability for the content uploaded onto their sites can result in the exclusion of sex workers in online spaces such as through deplatforming, shadowbanning, stigmatised censorship and take-downs of websites that we use for our business and safety.

Journal Articles

- Nick Cowan and Rachela Colosi 2021, '[Sex work and online platforms what should regulation DO?](#)', *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy*.
- Heidi Tripp 2019, 'All Sex Workers Deserve Protection: How FOSTA/SESTA Overlooks Consensual Sex Workers in an Attempt to Protect Sex Trafficking Victims', *Penn State Law Review*
- David Eichert 2019, 'It Ruined My Life FOSTA, Male Escorts, and the Construction of Sexual Victimhood in American Politics', *Virginia Journal of Social Policy & the Law*.
- Kendra Albert et al. 2021, 'FOSTA in a legal context', *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*.

Media Articles

- Zahra Stardust 2021 '[A new online safety bill could allow censorship of anyone who engages with sexual content on the internet](#)', *The Conversation*.

- James Purtil 2021, '[Sex workers fear a new wave of deplatforming — and the proposed Online Safety Bill](#)', *ABC News*.
- Josh Taylor 2021, '[Fears online safety law could censor all adult content and force sex workers off internet](#)', *The Guardian Australia*.

Reports

- Danielle Blunt and Ariel Wolf 2020, '[Erased: The Impact of FOSTA-SESTA](#)', *Hacking//Hustling*.
- Danielle Blunt et al. 2021, '[Posting into the Void](#)', *Hacking//Hustling*.
- Salty 2019 Exclusive: [An Investigation into Algorithmic Bias in Content Policing on Instagram](#)

Web pages

- Hacking//Hustling, [Online platforms and sex work discrimination](#)
- Hacking//Hustling, [Discriminatory tech actions](#)

PORN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Australia

- Leila Green et al. 2020, 'National Contexts for the Risk of Harm Being Done to Children by Access to Online Sexual Content' (Chapter 11) in *Discourses of Anxiety Over Childhood and Youth Across Cultures* by Liza Tsaliki and Despina Chronaki.
- Paul Byron et al. 2021, 'Reading for Realness: Porn Literacies, Digital Media, and Young People', *Sexuality and Culture*.
- Alan Mckee 2010, 'Does pornography harm young people?', *Australian Journal of Communication*
- Alan Mckee 2010, 'Healthy Sexual Development: A Multidisciplinary Framework for Research', *International Journal of Sexual Health*,
- Megan S.C. Lim et al. 2020, 'Censorship is cancer': Young people's support for pornography-related initiatives, *Sex Education*
- Building Realities Less Limited Than Their Own: Young People Practising Same-Sex Attraction on the Internet (Hillier & Harrison 2007)
- Images of gay men in the media and the development of self esteem. (McKee 2000)

International

- Alana Goldstein 2021, Learner, laughter, lover, critic: young women's normative and emerging orientations towards pornography, *Porn Studies*
- Liza Tsaliki 2015 Popular culture and moral panics about 'children at risk': revisiting the sexualisation-of-young-girls debate, *Sex Education*
- Jochen Peter, Patti M. Valkenburg 2016, 'Adolescents and Pornography: A Review of 20 Years of Research', *Journal of Sex Education*.
- Jessica Clark and Robbie Duschinsky 2020, 'Young masculinities, purity and danger: Disparities in framings of boys and girls in policy discourses of sexualisation', *Sexualities*

- Cicely Marston 2018, 'Pornography and young people's health: evidence from the UK sixteen18 project', *Porn Studies*
- Feona Atwood, Clarissa Smith and Martin Baker 2018, 'I'm just curious and still exploring myself': Young people and pornography', *new media & society*.
- Feona Attwood 2011, Investigating young people's sexual cultures: an introduction , *Sex Education*
- Clarissa Smith and Feona Attwood 2011, 'Lamenting sexualization: research, rhetoric and the story of young people's 'sexualization' in the UK Home Office review', *Sex Education'*
- David Buckingham et al. 2005, '[The Media Literacy of Children and Young People: A review of the research literature](#)', *Report*
- Emily F. Rothman et al. 2015, "Without Porn ...I Wouldn't Know Half the Things I Know Now": A Qualitative Study of Pornography Use Among a Sample of Urban, Low-Income, Black and Hispanic Youth', *Journal of Sex Research*
- Enjoyment, Exploration and Education: Understanding the Consumption of Pornography among Young Men with Non-Exclusive Sexual Orientations (McCormack 2017)

SEX EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION AND EROTIC IMAGERY

Australia

- Alan McKee et al. 2021, 'Learning from pornography: results of a mixed methods systematic review', *Sex Education*.
- Kath Albury 2014, 'Porn and sex education, porn as sex education', *Porn Studies*.Maree
- Alan McKee et al. 2020, 'What and how: doing good research with young people, digital intimacies, and relationships and sex education', *Sexualities*
- Kath Albury and Paul Byron 2018, 'Taking off the risk goggles Exploring the intersection of young people's sexual and digital citizenship in sexual health promotion in *Youth, Sexuality and Sexual Citizenship*, p.168-183.
- Alan McKee 2017,'Learning from commercial entertainment producers in order to create entertainment sex education', *Sex Education*
- Kath Albury 2018, 'Porn and participation: implications for learning and teaching practice', *Porn Studies*
- Alan McKee 2012, 'The importance of entertainment for sexuality education', *Sex Education*.
- Kath Albury, 'Young people, media and sexual learning: rethinking representation', *Sex Education*.
- Kath Albury 2015, 'Iloveclaude.com: pornographic vernacular in sexual health promotion for women, *Porn Studies*

International

- Alanna Goldstein 2020, **Beyond porn literacy: drawing on young people's pornography narratives to expand sex education pedagogies**, *Sex Education*.
- Feona Attwood et al 2015, **Sense about sex: media, sex advice, education and learning**, *Sex Education*.

- Rebecca Ruiz 2018, '[Internet gatekeepers block sex ed content because algorithms mistake it for porn](#)', *Mashable*.
- Azy Barak and William A. Fisher 2001, 'Toward an Internet-driven, Theoretically-based, Innovative Approach to Sex Education', *The Journal of Sex Research*
- Kate Dawson, Saoirse Nic Gabhainn and Pádraig MacNeela 2019, 'Dissatisfaction with school sex education is not associated with using pornography for sexual information', *Porn Studies*.
- Laura Simon and Kristian Daneback 2013, 'ADOLESCENTS' USE OF THE INTERNET FOR SEX EDUCATION: A THEMATIC AND CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE', *International Journal of Sexual Health*.
- Justin Hancock & Meg-John Barker 2018, 'The use of porn in sex and relationships education' *Porn Studies*.
- Emily F. Rothman et al. 2018, 'A Pornography Literacy Class for Youth: Results of a Feasibility and Efficacy Pilot Study', *American Journal of Sex Education*.

PORN RESEARCH AND THEORY

Australia

- **Alan McKee et al. 2021, 'Sexual objects, sexual subjects and certified freaks- rethinking 'Objectification', *MAI: Feminism and visual culture*.**
- **Alan McKee 2010, 'The Objectification of Women in Mainstream Pornographic Videos in Australia *Journal of Sex Research*.**
- Alan McKee 2016, 'Pornography as a creative industry: challenging the exceptionalist approach to pornography', *Porn Studies*
- Alan McKee and Roger Ingam 2018, 'Are there disciplinary differences in writing about pornography? A dialogue for two voices', *Porn Studies*
- Identifying the challenges of interdisciplinary research on pornography use (2020 Byron & Litsou)
- Alan McKee 2015, 'Methodological Issues in Defining Aggression for Content Analyses of Sexually Explicit Material', *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*.

International

- Emily A. Vogels 2019, 'Loving Oneself: The Associations Among Sexually Explicit Media, Body Image, and Perceived Realism', *The Journal of Sex Research*
- Taylor Kohut et al. 2020, 'Surveying Pornography Use: A Shaky Science Resting on Poor Measurement Foundations', *The Journal of Sex Research*
- Kate Dawson, Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, and Pádraig MacNeela 2020, 'Toward a Model of Porn Literacy: Core Concepts, Rationales, and Approaches', *The Journal of Sex Research*
- Katherine Angel 2018, 'Special section: writing on pornography', *Porn Studies*.
- Feona Attwood et al. 2017, 'Mediated intimacies: bodies, technologies and relationships', *Porn Studies*.
- Feona Attwood and Clarissa Smith 2014, 'Anti/pro/critical porn studies', *Porn Studies*
- Feona Attwood 2007, "Other" or "one of us"?: the porn user in public and academic discourse, *Participations: journal of audience and reception studies*.

- Ronald Weitzer 2011, 'Pornography's Effects: The Need for Solid Evidence', *Violence Against Women*.
- Antonius J. Van Rooij & Nicole Prause 2014 'A critical review of "Internet addiction" criteria with suggestions for the future, *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*.
- David Ley, Nicole Prause and Peter Finn 2014, The Emperor Has No Clothes: A Review of the 'Pornography Addiction' Model, *Current Sexual Health Report*.

SEX WORK AND TECH

- Stardust [What can tech learn from sex workers?](#)
- 2021 [Katrin Tiidenberg: Sex and platform power](#)
- 2020 Tiidenburg [Sex and social media](#)
- 2019 Paasonan [Sex, Humor, and Risk in Social Media](#)
- 2021 Nalubega Ross: [Sexual Rights and Digital Intimacies: A proposed framework for intimate exchanges online](#)
- Basset et al [Technological Feminism and Digital Futures](#)