

Submission
No 1

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACTS OF HARMFUL PORNOGRAPHY
ON MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

First, I want to say that this is an excellent initiative, and I sincerely hope the findings will lead to better protection for our children.

One of my children was groomed online during the two years of COVID. The groomer gained access to my child through the school's iPad/laptop and popular games like Roblox and Minecraft. From there, they lured my child onto the DISCORD platform and exposed to sexual messages and images as part of a group with 4 minors + the adult groomer.

Fortunately, I discovered what was happening, took screenshots, and initiated an ACCCE investigation. However, the response from ACCCE was disappointing. They informed me that they couldn't intervene and advised me to seek support from DISCORD and remove my child's access to the platform. Unfortunately, when I restricted DISCORD access at home, my child ran away from home under the groomer's influence. I then realized that despite being blocked at home, DISCORD remained easily accessible at school (a public school). I approached the principal and showed them how the school's network wasn't blocking access to pornographic content, including anime porn sites, or DISCORD. However, NSW public school IT said there was nothing they could do, even after I explained the steps I had taken to block it at home. Luckily enough our child came home after this incident.

The complaint to DISCORD was also ineffective. Four months later, they responded by asking for the individual IDs of explicit messages, which was impossible to provide as DISCORD's design makes it impossible to retrieve ID messages sent months prior on a server which probably got deleted in the meantime.

When I relayed DISCORD's response to ACCCE, they told me that without a letter from DISCORD, they couldn't investigate further.

I then went to the local police and tried to file a report. I was refused on the spot, told to leave my number, and promised a call that never came.

Faced with these obstacles from DISCORD, the police, the school, and ACCCE, I had no choice but to take matters into my own hands. After two years of costly therapy, we finally managed to help our child escape this DISCORD group.

For months, I had to monitor internet access at home and block porn and anime porn sites one by one, as the group continued to send them to my child. They also provided instructions on how to bypass routers and avoid detection. I tried numerous parental control apps, but none were effective. Parents are paying for services that give them a false sense of security, while kids can easily bypass these apps. I'm tech-savvy and figured out a solution after months of trial and error, but non-tech-savvy parents would be overwhelmed, leaving their kids vulnerable to predators who use porn to capture their attention.

Fortunately, the groomer was based in the US, and their long-term plan was to meet when my child turned 18. Other children in the group were from QLD and Singapore.

As a final thought, please note that I've seen significant improvement in my child's mental health as I've been able to stop access to these harmful sites, especially anime porn, proving how bad explicit content is damaging teenagers. When this started our child was 14 years old.