

Submission  
No 24

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

**Organisation:** Domestic Violence NSW

**Date Received:** 1 November 2024

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The Hon. Dr Sarah Kaine, PhD MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Social Issues  
NSW Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

1 November 2024

Dear Chair

**Re: Inquiry into impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional, and physical health**

Please accept this letter as Domestic Violence NSW's submission in response to the inquiry into the impacts of harmful pornography. We thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission and consent to our submission being made public.

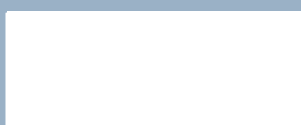
[Domestic Violence NSW](#) is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW. We have over 180 member organisations across the state. Domestic Violence NSW members represent the diversity of specialist services working in NSW to support women, families and communities impacted by domestic and family violence. Our member organisations include crisis and refuge accommodation services, transitional accommodation and community housing providers, Aboriginal controlled organisations, specialist migrant and refugee organisations, men's behaviour change programs and networks, specialist women's legal support services, women and children's support services, women's health centres and Safe at Home programs.

Domestic Violence NSW is the convenor and chair of the [NSW Women's Alliance](#), a coalition of peak organisations and state-wide specialist service providers with expertise in preventing and responding to sexual, domestic and family violence.

Domestic Violence NSW endorses and supports the submission of [Our Watch](#) – a national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia.

In line with the submission of Our Watch, Domestic Violence NSW:

- Recognises Respectful Relationship Education (RRE) as a priority area for action, as a mechanism through which young people are taught the principles of respect and consent and supported to critically engage and analyse the societal context in which pornography is mainstreamed.
- Recognises that this Inquiry provides an opportunity to build on the approaches outlined in the NSW Government's newly released *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the*



*Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2028*, which includes commitments to implement RRE in NSW schools.

- Supports building on, and complementing, the work of the eSafety Commissioner to ensure NSW communities are equipped and supported to critically engage and prevent the impacts of harmful pornography.
- Encourages the NSW Government to work closely with experts and people with lived expertise in the implementation of any associated reform, including people from the sex work community.

**Recommendations:**

Domestic Violence NSW supports and endorses the following recommendations presented by Our Watch –

That the NSW Government:

- Ensures, as part of its commitment to Respectful Relationships Education (RRE) across school sectors in NSW, that:
  - Information on the topic of pornography is integrated in age-appropriate and sequential ways into RRE, comprehensive sexuality education and media literacy education.
  - A professional learning strategy that provides ongoing professional learning on sexuality and RRE, which includes information on pornography to ensure schools are prepared to undertake this work effectively and appropriately, is developed.
  - Communication materials for a range of audiences including school staff, parents and community members to support understanding of the impacts of pornography on young people's attitudes and beliefs about sex, relationships and gender roles and identity, are developed.
- Work in partnership with experts and uses co-design processes with young people to develop information and practical resources specifically for young people in relation to pornography,
- Work collaboratively with the Commonwealth Government and research organisations to collect robust nationally representative data about young people's pornography exposure and access, to inform the development of suitable responses.
- Apply an intersectional approach, which considers gender in relation to multiple forms of discrimination and oppression, to all work in this area.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission and support and endorsement of the Women's Legal Services Australia recommendations. If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact me at

Yours sincerely

**Chief Executive Officer  
Domestic Violence NSW**