

Submission
No 77

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

Name: Mrs Dominique Pruehss

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As a young teenager in the early 2000s, the effects of my pornified male peers and their expectations and opinions of how a girl's body should look drove me to develop an eating disorder. This was a desperate attempt on my part to become what I thought I had to become to be considered a desirable woman. Although the teen magazines would pay lip service to body positivity and "inner beauty", those messages were drowned out by the porn industry, whose messages seemed to trickle down into Hollywood and mainstream media and ultimately drip-fed my peers and I. Money speaks louder than body positivity slogans and platitudes and one would have to suffer complete cognitive dissonance to believe that some government created curriculum to teach "consent" is going to stand a chance against the multi-billion dollar porn industry. (Don't get me wrong, consent is important but it's the bare minimum). If I'd grown up today around boys who had access to the kind of content that is available on the internet, billions of videos of millions of girls who will do whatever you want at the click of a button, I shudder to think where I'd be. As a bare minimum, there should be measures in place to stop under 18s from accessing this content. I also think there should be robust research into the harmfulness of pornography, especially on children, and there should be government campaigns to warn of the damage it can cause. I am quite flabbergasted that I should even have to write this, it is such an obvious and foreseeable public health risk that destroys so many relationships and torments many people who are in the throes of addiction and feel unable to develop healthy views of people, especially women.