

The Online Safety Bill needs to be changed.

I couldn't believe what I was reading through parts of this Bill.

Giving control to just ONE person to review what's acceptable to be seen by ALL Australian residents?

The internet does not need policing around sexual and fetish content when it's performed between consenting adults.

What we NEED is more education around sex and developing bodies! Education for parents on how to talk to their children about such issues, education in schools to help children understand their changing bodies and that it's normal, education that there are more ways to explore and enjoy sexuality than just man + woman with interlocking genitals = sex & babies.

Of course, I understand the need to protect young children from being exposed to real life horrific violence (like things you see on the news that's okay for all ages to view), but there's also a need for safe online spaces where people can learn, grow and educate themselves.

Not to mention that many sex workers rely on safe online spaces and communities to stay informed and help avoid dangerous situations and people.

If Australia is really concerned about how viewing certain content may affect a child, then what we really need to focus our attention on is EDUCATION!

Teach parents how to talk to their children and how to comprehend things they may see online.

Let's be realistic here - no matter what laws are in effect, people will always find a way to work around them, usually in a way that makes things much more dangerous too.

If we try to police the internet, not only do we take away the independence and freedoms of all Australians, but we also take away safe spaces that offer acceptance, education and support - all of which are vital for the healthy development of a person.

Is it really a good idea to shield children away from so much that when they start to feel changes in their bodies, they have no idea what it is or how to handle it, no safe space to turn to, nowhere to search for answers or for other people who are experiencing the same.

Trying to shield children from the real world will alienate them, stunt their emotional growth and likely cause them mental health problems later in life.

Censorship is not the solution, it's actually part of the problem.