ACCM Small screen

News Digest of Australian Council on Children and the Media (incorporating Young Media Australia) ISSN: 0817-8224

Launch of new app review service

Australian Council on Children and the Media was proud to launch its *Know Before You Load* App Review service (KBYL) on Monday April 7th 2014 at Colonel Light Gardens Primary School. Adelaide business woman, journalist and mother of twin boys, Lainie Anderson performed the launch, noting the need for this new service and her appreciation of its range.



The Hon Steph Key & Lainie Anderson

KBYL will provide reviews of the content of apps most popular with children across the Facebook, iTunes and Google Play platforms, and will additionally create a Watchlist of apps that contain simulated or elements of gambling content. The new service has been initiated and funded by the South Australian Attorney General.

A number of speakers contributed to the interesting and engaging launch.



Professor Elizabeth Handsley

ACCM president Professor Elizabeth

No. 306 March/ 307 April 2014

Handsley described the background for the creation of *Know Before You Load* for the audience , which included The Hon Steph Key, member for Ashford, representing the Minister for Education and Child Development, government officers and community and parent representatives. Prof Handsley noted that the Australian Council on Children and the Media's past work in identifying and building public awareness of the need for age appropriate media for children had been recognised in gaining funding to provide this service.

Prof Handsley said that there was growing concern about gambling content in apps that are freely and widely available to children. This had led to the Premier of SA, the Hon Jay Weatherill setting up the Children, Technology, and Gambling Expert Forum in August 2013. The Forum's view was that the evidence of correlation between problem gambling, and exposure to gambling-like games and simulated gambling by children indicated a risk of developing problem gambling behaviours.



Professor Malcolm Battersby

Prof Malcolm Battersby, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Flinders Centre for Gambling Research presented some aspects of the Forum's and the Flinders Centre's work.

Dr Kate Highfield from Macquarie University's Institute of Early Childhood, was the principal consultant to the ACCM apps review project. She spoke about the great learning opportunities that technology provides. But she also highlighted that there are aspects of the digital world that parents and carers need to be aware of. These



Dr Kate Highfield

include in-app purchasing, advertising and product placement, gender stereo types, sexual references and simulated gambling.

Kate illustrated these problems by sharing her experience of a review that she completed for a Facebook game called Fashion Designer. She explained how this game targeted young girls, although Facebook users are supposed to be 13+. Within the game, a player can risk virtual coins (purchased with real money) on a simulated roulette wheel and simulated poker machines in order to earn more points. Another way in which a player could earn more points was to watch advertisements. One of the ads featured was for a men's sexual health product. This game also encouraged purchasing of tools and points through in-app purchasing, to speed the game's progress.

Lainie Anderson spoke of her delight that the new service had been created and her amazement that Children and Gambling Watch List had been developed so quickly from the time she had chaired the Children, Technology and Gambling Forum in early February to the launch in April.

Public discussion and contribution of reviews are encouraged. For more information, go to the ACCM website:

Know before You Load Reviews

childrenandmedia.org.au/app-reviews

Children and Gambling Watchlist

childrenandmedia.org.au/app-reviews/ watchlist

LAUNCH OF NEW APP REVIEW SERVICE

COMING CONFERENCE

EDITORIAL: SPA SPEAKS OUT ON SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S STORIES **CLASSIFICATION ENQUIRY**

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH ON MEDIA VIOLENCE



306 March/ 307 April 2014 small screen

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Australian Council on
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PO Box 447 Glenelg 5045 South Australia info@childrenandmedia.org.au www.childrenandmedia.org.au

Tel: +61 8 8376 2111 Fax: +61 8 8376 2122 Helpline: 1800 700 357

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EDITORIAL

SPA speaks out on support for children's stories

Following is an edited extract from a speech given by Matthew Deaner, Executive Director, Screen Producers Australia at the Kidscreen Summit in New York, earlier this year.

A number of challenges face children's producers in Australia. These include financing pressures amid unfavourable economic conditions and domestic commissioning levels that are largely, if not entirely, predicated on content obligations by commercial free-to-air broadcasters, the very occasional expenditure by subscription television drama channel providers and public investment through the ABC and screen agencies.

Recent announcements regarding deregulation and efficiency audits, has led SPA to work with the Australian Government to ensure that our elected officials understand that any negative effect from these reviews will threaten small business, a large number of jobs and our industry's growing export potential. This risks damaging our economy, and more importantly, short-changing the Australian public, particularly Australian children. It has the potential to undermine what is arguably our most culturally important yet financially vulnerable type of television content.

The strength of a community can be defined by how its young are engaged within the fabric of the society. Crucial to this are local stories and reflection of self in accents and idiosyncrasies in the most powerful storytelling medium around.

So how then are we tracking?

The ABC in Australia makes the largest investment and broadcasts the largest quantity of content having added many hours to their children's production slate following additional funds that coincided with the launch of ABC3 in 2009 and the rebadging and allocation of funding to ABC4Kids. The ABC made the single largest contribution in children's drama in 2012/13. Yet, this is not to say they are in a position to make up for any programming shortfall should commercial broadcasters produce less hours. On the contrary, in the search for operational efficiencies the programming budgets for drama and children's must be ring-fenced and openly

and proudly defined so as not to see plummeting levels of production reminiscent of the mid-2000s.

The ABC needs to publicly loudly and proudly re-assure the production community and the Australian public that there has not been and will not be a reduction in the level of investment it makes in children's content. In particular, 2012/13 budget levels must be maintained in order for ABC to successful deliver on its two children's channels, as was the intention of Government.

The commercial sector is equally important. Its modest yet vital contribution ensures competition that improves the quality of our children's content. Less than 1 per cent of the commercial broadcasters hours are devoted to kids programming. The research suggests that there would be no children's programming at all on these platforms without some form of requirement.

Expenditure by commercial free-to-air broadcasters on children's programming over the last five years has been cyclical but ultimately static, declines in expenditure on high cost children's drama (around \$550,000 per hour) have been offset by an increase in cheaper high volume factual and light entertainment (just \$38,000 per hour). These content obligations cannot be thought of as onerous. It is sobering to note that just 1.6% total programming expenditure across the combined networks is spent on children's programming on average each year.

Media reforms in March 2013 allow commercial networks to schedule children's programs on any channel. Prior to introduction of multi-channels, these had to be screened on their primary or original channel. Broadcasters could now more effectively program blocks of children's content, building children's engagement and interest.

Will they seize the opportunity?

It is crucial that all platforms, free or subscriptions (and increasingly over the top online services) are motivated to play a part in contributing towards our children's storytelling; as part of our community, where these businesses operate in very privileged positions.

Coming ACCM Conference

Quality Play and Media 2014Care and education in childhood

July 8th 2014, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Venue: Salvation Army Ingle Farm, cnr Bridge Rd and Maxwell Rd Ingle Farm.

Keynote speakers: Dr Kate Highfield, Prof Margaret Sims, Dr C Glenn Cupit

This event is being held in conjunction with Communities for Children

Further details to follow shortly.

Clips 'n' Cuts small screen no. 306 March/ 307 April 2014

Protect kids from dodgy apps

ELISA BLACK PARENTING WRITER

CONCERNED parents will be able to protect their kids from unsuitable apps – including those that promote gambling – thanks to a South Australian initiative.

Know Before You Load, an app review service from the Australian Council on Children and the Media funded by the SA Government, will target apps with pitfalls such as in-app purchasing, product placement, substance abuse, and violence, as well as incorporating a children and gambling watchlist.

ACCM president and Flinders University law professor

Elizabeth Handsley said, "There are concerns about children being groomed, if you like, through apps that get kids used to being excited by things like taking risks," she said.

"We are looking at the potential influence from these apps and evening the score with information so people can make an informed choice."

Childrenandmedia.org.au will provide, from today, short videos discussing how to get the best out of apps.

The public will be able to submit reviews, suggest titles for review, and enter a discussion forum.

Project consultant and apps expert Dr Kate Highfield said the onslaught of new media platforms and content raised many challenges for parents.

"It's not easy to manage children's media use, get the best of what is on offer and avoid the risks," she said.

"Tablet technology is being promoted as a learning tool in schools and there are some great apps available to provide a fun ... way to learn new skills and knowledge. This project will arm parents with knowledge on which apps are most suitable."

The service was launched as a digital sociology expert raised concerns about children and the internet.

Professor Deborah Lupton, of the University of Canberra, said more research was urgently needed to understand the issues related to effectively forcing a social media presence upon children before they are able to give their consent.

"It is now typical for an Australian to begin to have a digital presence before they are even born, with the customary ultrasound photo posted to Facebook by the expectant mum or dad," she said.

with knowpps are most
slaunched as logy expert sout children or Canberra, rch was urThe Advertiser, 7 April 2014

"Nobody knows what the implications will be of documenting and publishing every milestone of children from the foetal stage through to their birth and beyond. We need to consider how this public profile may affect children later in their lives, given the permanence of digital records."

BEWARE OF THE DANGERS

Many apps for children are marketed as educational but don't contain much more than "drill and practice" activities. An important issue for parents is to consider what habits of mind they'd like to encourage in their children.

Parental awareness is vital.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Super Stickman Golf — contains gambling content that is not apparent from its title.
Talking Angela — has an easy turn-on feature to an adult chat site.
Hay Day — contains a wheel of

fortune and elements of gambling.

ENCOURAGE CREATIVE PLAY BUT HAVE DOWNSIDES

Icemochi Match the Dots contains recurring ads for another game 4 Pics 1 Word Circus — has in-app purchases Scribblenauts Remix — low level in-app purchasing

RECOMMENDED

Cowzat The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore Drawing pad

The Advertiser, 7 April 2014

Girls can't cut the cord

WE all like a natter, but women spend an incredible two months of their lives on the phone – and that's just to their mothers.

Fathers, on the other hand, only get to chat to their daughters for a total of eight days.

A British study of 2000 women found they made an

average of three calls a week to their mothers.

Each call lasted just over 16 minutes, making 49 minutes a week, two days a year, or almost two months between the ages of 18 and 50.

Poor old dad gets just one call a week lasting less than seven minutes.

The Advertiser, 3 April 2014

Boy, 5, finds Xbox secret

AN INQUISITIVE youngster has outwitted the sharpest minds at Microsoft – by finding a backdoor to the Xbox.

Five-year-old Kristoffer Von Hassel managed to log in to his dad's Xbox Live account.

When the password log-in screen appeared, Kristoffer, of San Diego, California, simply hit the space button a few times and hit enter.

His father noticed his son playing games he supposedly couldn't access and reported the issue to Microsoft, which fixed the bug and recently listed Kristoffer on its website as a "security researcher".

A Microsoft statement says "we take security seriously".

Sunday Mail, 6 April 2014

ACMA backs TV program rules

NATASHA BITA NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT

A PUSH to broadcast adultsonly TV shows before children's bedtime was hosed down by the media watchdog yesterday.

Free-to-air television stations want to abolish the longstanding ban on screening sex and violence before 8.30pm.

But the Australian Communications and Media Authority has declared there is "justification for safeguards to enable parents to protect children from inappropriate or harmful content".

Existing legislation states that free-to-air stations can only broadcast M-classified shows for "mature audiences" after 8.30pm, or between noon and 3pm on school days. More violent shows, classified as MA 15+, can only be broadcast after 9pm.

ACMA revealed strong public

ACMA revealed strong public support for the children's programming restrictions in its final report yesterday, following a nine-month inquiry.

It said eight out of 10 Australians surveyed by ACMA agreed that time restrictions were "essential for protecting children".

"A substantial proportion of parents and carers felt that if time restrictions were removed, other methods would not be able to replace them to manage children's viewing." the report states.

dren's viewing," the report states.
The ACMA research found that 43 per cent of parents did not use "parental lock" technology to restrict what their kids watched on TV.

ACMA said it would be a "matter for government" to decide whether to maintain the time-zone restrictions.

"On the one hand, there is conspicuous community support for maintenance of some time zone restrictions on free-to-air television and, on the other, well-reasoned arguments about their diminishing value," the report says.

Free TV, representing major free-to-air stations, had told ACMA the ban on adults-only TV before 8.30pm was "outdated" in the digital age, when children could watch adult programs at any time on pay TV or the internet.

Australian Council on Children and the Media chief executive Barbara Biggins called for the time restrictions to remain. "Families still expect to sit down and watch something together that is not going to be harmful to their children," she said.

ACMA chairman Chris

ACMA chairman Chris Chapman said the time zone restrictions were "enshrined in legislation" "We're not saying we would advocate moving an amendment to these classifications," he said. "But maybe how they're regulated can be opened up to greater flexibility."

The Australian, 6 March 2014

Review tipped for media law

ADAM BENNETT

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Malcolm Turnbull has reignited the debate on media ownership laws by declaring he is "fairly sympathetic" to the view they be relaxed.

Mr 'Turnbull says the government is "looking very carefully" at changes, which could include cross-media ownership restrictions and the 75 per cent reach rule.

Mr Turnbull, who met telecommunications and media broadcast chiefs on Friday, said yesterday that some in the industry had put a "very cogent"

cont...

competition monopoly rules that apply?" he asked. "We're looking at it very carefully. I think (that argument) makes a very powerful point."

Prime Minister Tony Abbott said that the government was currently consulting with the media industry on ownership restrictions.

The Coalition had a "deregulationist instinct", he said.

"Our mindset is always to make rules less, rather than more onerous, but let's wait and see where those consultations go," Mr Abbott said in Adelaide yesterday.

Talk of relaxing ownership

argument about the need to overhaul ownership laws.

Mr Turnbull questioned if restrictions, such as those which prevent television networks reaching more than 75 per cent of the population, were relevant in the internet age.

"Why do we need to have platform-specific ownership rules dealing with newspapers, radio and television?" he asked in an interview on Sky News.

"My view is that the arrival of the internet, and the additional diversity and avenues for competition that it brings, really says we should have less regulation and more freedom."

restrictions comes a year after Labor's failed attempt to toughen regulation of the media.

The former government had wanted to introduce a new public-interest test for media mergers and acquisitions, and to establish an advocate to ensure that press councils upheld standards and dealt with complaints properly.

However, it was forced into a humiliating back-down when key independents refused to back the measures.

In the wide-ranging interview, Mr Turnbull also said he thought the ABC's reputation

Our mindset is always to make rules less, rather than more, onerous

PRIME MINISTER
TONY ABBOTT

Mr Turnbull cited the launches of *Guardian Australia* and the *Mail Online* in Australia as examples of growing media diversity.

"Why not just leave media mergers and ownership issues to the ACCC, to the standard

had been tarnished by the airing of spying allegations involving Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

However, he backed underfire ABC boss Mark Scott, describing him as an "outstanding chief executive".

Mr Turnbull also rejected suggestions he had been referring to Rupert Murdoch when he took aim at "demented" media plutocrats at the Saturday Paper's recent launch.

"I've known a lot of media moguls, a lot of them," Mr Turnbull said. "In terms of normality, Rupert is the most normal of the lot."

The Advertiser, 10 March 2014

United 'sexting' defence

THE South Australian and Victorian governments will join forces to develop a national legal framework for dealing with minors caught consensually "sexting".

SA Attorney-General John Rau raised the issue with his interstate counterparts at a meeting in Sydney yesterday after becoming concerned about the growing number of teenagers being charged with child-pornography offences.

Minors prosecuted over the sending of sexually-explicit images of themselves risked being placed on child sex offender registers for life.

Mr Rau and Victorian Liberal Attorney-General Robert Clark have agreed to work on the issue together on behalf of the other states and territories.

Options include creating a legal defence of consensual sexting which could be used by minors in court. Alternatively, a new offence could be created that was less serious than antichild pornography laws.

In 2012-13, 44 South Australian minors were charged with child-pornography offences.

The Advertiser, 12 April 2014

Tuning out a boon

CHILDREN who spend less time in front of a television or computer screen get more sleep, are slimmer, do better at school and are better behaved, a new study has revealed.

Researchers found parental monitoring of the time children spend watching television, playing video games and being online can be associated with more sleep, improved school performance and better behaviour in children.

The study, published in JAMA Network Journals, included figures from more than 1300 schoolchildren from two

US communities, along with data provided by primary caregivers and teachers.

Lead author Dr Douglas Gentile, of Iowa State University, said the results suggested reducing total screen time led to children getting more sleep, doing better in school and having less aggressive behaviour.

The findings back up a Deakin University study which showed children who watch a lot of television have more family problems. It found that for every hour of screen time, the risk of family life being disrupted may be doubled.

The Advertiser, 2 April 2014

FORGET expensive play equipment, just give kids whatever is lying around the house or school shed. A study by RMIT University, published in the journal BMC Public Health, has compared traditional play equipment, such as monkey bars and slides, with makeshift equipment such as buckets, pipes, exercise mats, haybales and swimming pool noodles. Kids playing with everyday household objects took 13 more steps a minute and played more intensively and vigorously than those in the traditional playground. "Conventional playgrounds are designed by adults (who) don't take into consideration how the children want to play," says lead researcher

Brendon Hyndman.
SEAN PARNELL

The Australian, 11 March 2014

Gamers are angry losers

COMPUTER games do make people angry — when they lose.

Research shows that violent and non-violent games both lead to players losing their temper. Lack of practice, awkward controls and games that were unnecessarily difficult all caused frustration. But the actual content of the game had very little effect.

The finding comes from Oxford University researchers who did experiments in which university students played games and underwent aggression tests. They ranged from simply asking people how angry they felt to noting how they reacted when given the chance to inflict pain on an unknown volunteer.

Violent games had no clear effect on anger, but people became noticeably more aggressive when the game or controls were difficult or frustrating.

The Advertiser, 9 April 2014

Facebook fuels fears

GIRLS who spend just an hour a day on Facebook could be at greater risk of developing eating disorders, a study claims.

Researchers found girls who spend a lot of time on the social network waiting for friends to like or comment on their status updates, or checking out their friends' photos

are more likely to suffer from body image problems.

The study involved 960 girls at university and found that more time spent on Facebook can have an impact on mental health. It found that Facebook can reinforce concerns about weight and shape, resulting in increased anxiety.

The Advertiser, 8 March 2014

Toy giants struggle as kids switch to digital

LISA POWER

THE digital tsunami is transforming playtime but simple old-fashioned toys are managing to defy the wave of change.

Insatiable demand for tablet devices continues to soar as iconic brands like Barbie, Hot Wheels and Fisher Price have sagged in popularity, sales figures reveal.

Cheap and free apps are also providing stiff competit-

ion to traditional toy-makers and have led to an explosion of play choices, said Richard Gottlieb, of Global Toy Experts.

"There are more than a million apps, and between them and video games and traditional toys and outdoor play equipment, there is more than can be consumed," Mr Gottlieb said. "Four years ago there were no iPads or tablets and suddenly it is this incredibly important aspect of play.

"What is working very well now is phygital play, which is digital and physical, and doesn't treat the digital element like an add-on. Skylanders are a tremendous example – they are now the No. I action figure and they aren't counted as a toy, but as a video game accessory."

Toy giant Mattel last month reported worldwide sales for Barbie and Fisher Price fell 13 per cent, while Hot Wheels dipped eight per cent. In contrast the love affair with tablets saw 195.4 million devices sold last year.

IBISWorld said children want technologically sophisticated, interactive toys at a younger age but the traditional toy market remained strong.

"Traditional toys and games are thought to offer greater educational value and promote creativity," the IBISWorld research found.

The Advertiser, 10 March 2014

ABC'S BUDGET SHUFFLE

Drama, kids' TV raided for wages

EXCLUSIVE

MICHAEL BODEY
BUDGETS

MORE than \$6 million has been siphoned from the ABC's children's and drama television budgets to boost spending in news and pay for rising salaries, in a steady drain of funds that has shocked producers.

Producers have been told by ABC management that budgets have been cut in children's TV and drama, even though the funds in those areas were "quarantined" when the Rudd government allocated funding to specific genres in its 2009-10 budget.

Sources said most of the funds had likely been redirected to news, with some diverted to cover rising salaries and costs across the organisation, which rise more than the indexed 2 per cent annual rise in ABC funding.

The Australian understands the incoming head of children's TV, Deirdre Brennan, was shocked when confronted by the budget shortfall. She did not respond to an interview request.

Up to \$4m had been taken from children's television and about \$2m from the drama budget, according to multiple sources within and outside the ABC.

The cut in funds for children's programs was of particular concern as speculation mounted that the children's content quotas for commercial TV broadcasters would be wound back or abolished by the federal government.

The ABC was also widely be-

The ABC was also widely believed to be facing budget cuts or the imposition of a cost-cutting efficiency dividend in the May federal budget.

"They're eroding that commitment before there's any need to do it in efficiency dividends or budget cuts," said one producer, who wished to remain anonymous due to ongoing dealings with the ABC.

An ABC spokesman said the corporation "does not comment on specific genre allocations"

on specific genre allocations".

"Like all media organisations, the ABC continues to manage ongoing cost and revenue pressures and as a result it has been necessary to trim budgets across the board," he said.

"It continues to prioritise Australian drama and quality children's content as the key planks of our overall content plan.

"The ABC has a long and rich tradition in these programming areas."

It is understood that management was able to reappropriate the funds partly because of an accounting practice under which some money from committed projects that haven't yet started production rolled over from one year to the next.

That money was siphoned into other areas of the ABC, thereby diminishing the following year's production budget for the child-ren's genre

There has been speculation that ABC News 24 program The Drum would be one beneficiary of the money shuffle, receiving another injection of resources to try to build the show to imitate successful Ten Network program The Project.

The annual budget for programming, acquisition and broadcast of the children's genre is believed to be \$35m-\$40m.

There are no legislative requirements for the ABC to allocate its overall budget to particular areas, beyond the broad requirements of its charter.

However, in the 2009-2010 federal budget, the former Rudd government allocated new and specific funding for both kids' TV (rising to \$27m a year) and local drama (rising to \$40m), in addition to the ABC's triennial funding.

Consequently, the ABC lifted its production of Australian drama from its low of 10 hours in the mid-2000s to 128 hours in 2012-13.

The additional funds helped establish the advertising-free, digital children's channel ABC3, which the ABC initially hoped would screen 50 per cent local content.

Companies that produce children's television said they were alarmed by the corporation's diminishing commitment to a genre in which the ABC is now the dominant player, despite not having the same children's content quota that the commercial broadcasters do.

It doesn't have any obligation to air children's content, or a particular proportion of local content, although it has used the ABC3 and ABC4Kids brands as examples of its community importance.

The Australian, 17 March 2014

WE all know today's kids aren't as active as previous generations. But did you know that may put them at greater risk of injury in the schoolyard? According to research published in the Journal of Sports Medicine and Science, an increase in arm and wrist fractures among primary school kids appears to be directly linked to a decrease in physical activity and motor skills. "In simple terms, many children no longer know how to play," says lead author Evert Verhagen. New national guidelines recommend kids and teens exercise for at least 60 minutes a day and limit electronic media use to no more than two hours a day. Cancer Council Queensland's Katie Clift says parents should lead by example. "Seize opportunities to help your kids move more - walking or riding to school, participating in organised sports like netball or soccer during the week, or scheduling a visit to the park." Clift says. "Even if children are very physically active, they may experience negative health effects from sitting for long

SEAN PARNELL

The Australian, 4 March 2014

ABC's cream on top

periods."

I REFER to your report "Drama, kids' TV raided for wages" (17/3). It is not true ABC-TV has been asked to distribute some of its budget from children's and drama programming to cover costs in other divisions. Nor are the figures you report reflective of the amount spent by the ABC on children's content year on year. While there has been an efficiency-driven reduction in spending, it is far less than your reported figure.

Spending on drama and narrative comedy, which is allocated over a three-year period due to the realities of production, is significantly higher than the original projection. Your report also ignores the fact that allocations to genres can vary according to priorities.

We focus on Australian content, reducing overheads where possible to maximise efficiencies.

When I was appointed director of TV last year, I inherited a lower budget for FY13. Indexation does not cover all cost increases and revenue contributions from ABC Commercial have fallen.

Richard Finlayson, director of ABC-TV, Ultimo, NSW

The Australian, 18 March 2014

NEW PUBLICATIONS

ADVERTISING

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University Journal of Education, Vol. 28, No. 2, Pp408-428

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COMPUTERS & INTERNET

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Peers, predators, and porn: Predicting parental underestimation of children's risky online experiences.

Journal Computer-Mediated Communication, Vol. 19, No. 2, Pp215-231

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BMC Public Health, Vol. 14, No. 6, Pp61

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Marsh, S et al (2013)

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WORLD NEWS

Senate Classification Bill enquiry

On 27 March 2014, the Australian Senate referred the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Amendment (Classification Tools and Other Measures) Bill 2014 to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report. The committee is inviting individuals and organisations to send in their opinions and proposals in writing.

The closing date for submissions is 1 May 2014 with a reporting date of 19 June 2014.

www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_ Constitutional_Affairs/Classification_

New report on Cyberbullying

Canadian organisation, Media Smarts, has published a new report, Young Canadians in a Wired World, Phase III: Cyber bullying: Dealing with Online Meanness, Cruelty and Threats. The report is part of Media Smarts' ongoing research project, Young Canadians in a Wired World

About one in four Canadian children surveyed admitted they had been "mean or cruel" to someone online, while more than one in three said that they'd been a victim.

The researchers found that boys and older students are more likely to make online threats. Students in younger grades are most likely to report that online threats are a serious problem for them, peaking in Grade 5. Girls are twice as likely as boys to see online threats as a serious problem.

Parents were seen as having an important role in preventing cyberbullying. Students

with no family rules about treating others with respect online are 59 percent more likely to be mean or cruel than students with rules at home, and twice as likely to make threats. This indicated a need for better resources for the home so that parents can help their children learn to treat others with respect and to handle online conflict.

http://mediasmarts.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/publication-report/full/YCW-WIII_Cyberbullying_FullReport.pdf

Cross-country differences in how content influences movie ratings

A new study explores how different countries decide on movie ratings. Across all countries, the USA and Asian countries place the largest weight on sex, while Scandinavian countries place the least weight on sex but the largest weight on violence. The US was found to place the most weight on profanity but the least weight on violence.

The authors suggest that the approach that the USA takes toward assigning ratings is puzzling since, of the three types of content, violence has the strongest body of evidence to document harm to children.

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17482798.2014.880359#. U09UYKLnCW-

PMI still marketing tobacco to youth

A report issued by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and other international public health organizations exposes how Philip Morris International's (PMI) 'Be Marlboro' marketing campaign uses themes and images that appeal to youth

across the globe. The campaign has expanded to more than 50 countries despite being banned by a German court for targeting teens and generating similar complaints in other countries.

The report, You're the Target, calls on PMI to immediately end the 'Be Marlboro' campaign. It also calls on governments to enact comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship in accordance with the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

http://global.tobaccofreekids.org/content/what_we_do/industry_watch/yourethetarget_report.pdf

New research summary on media violence

The US Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) has released a new summary of research into the effects of media violence. The authors, eminent researchers Craig A. Anderson, Brad J. Bushman, Edward Donnerstein, Tom. A. Hummer, & Wayne Warburton, conclude that:

What is supported by the vast body of research is the following: Media violence is an important causal risk factor for increased aggression and violence in both the short- and long-term. Moreover, media violence is one of the few known risk factors that parents, caregivers, and society in general can reduce at very little cost.

http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1899&nodeID=1