

Dear Sir,

As is usual, the Australian nanny state is proposing legislation that again undermines the freedoms that we are seeing constantly eroded, especially under this government.

The beginning of the legislation hints at the sneaky way that this is happening when the title ends with “and for other purposes”.

The particular legislation that I am referring to within this proposed act is section 9 which details the depiction of fetishes and adult oriented materials and proposes that they become censored to the extent that any website carrying such can be removed (taken down) and indeed delisted from search engines. This is an extreme reaction to material that doesn't actually cause a problem. The act describes in quite painful detail to what extent this draconian censorship would apply.

I presume that the idea here is to legislate for the closing down of everything and then grudgingly back off to allow 'some' freedoms thereby seeming generous and accomodating - this is an appalling way for my elected representatives to carry on and a shoddy indictment of the arrogance of politics and the law.

While the more puritanical within government and legislation would think this is more that reasonable, I can assure you that a very large proportion of Australians do enjoy this material without harm. This especially since the advent of the 50 Shades phenomenon which has brought fetishes, kink and BDSM to the general public.

As part of an increasingly society where sexuality, ideas of gender and personal interests are so diverse, I would encourage the whole section be revised to accomodate a far more liberal approach to what grown, voting, adults can approach online and that the government applies itself to a solution that instead encourages education rather than legislation which has always been the better solution. Frankly, investment in education itself would be a far more fruitful ambition to pursue rather than the 'margarine' of education which we currently have.