**House of Representatives**
**Parliament House**
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**
**AUSTRALIA**

**TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

We, the undersigned citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House "The mandatory Internet filtering initiative" and hereby express our condemnation of the forthcoming legislation to implement mandatory filtering of web pages by ISP's in Australia.

**We believe:**
- That having all Australians' internet access subjected to a secret and unaccountable government blacklist is completely unacceptable.
- That Australia already has laws in place preventing the possession or viewing of child pornography, and other materials found objectionable by the vast majority of Australian's. Filtering objectionable web pages will not stop those wishing to view such materials from obtaining them and will slow down the internet.
- That there are numerous effective, low cost, commercially available software packages that give parents the power to filter the internet web pages that their children can view. Imposing mandatory, blanket internet filtering upon the public is objectionable to the majority of Australian's.
- That the highly vocal, religious minority that supports mandatory filtering of web pages are not representative of mainstream Australia. Australia has a long and proud history of secularism, whereby the state remains free of religious interference.

In addition we condemn all efforts by governments and telecommunication firms that attempt to implement restrictions of the free exchange of speech.

Your petitioners respectfully call upon the House to take legislative action to keeping the internet unfiltered. We do not support the introduction of mandatory filtering of content by ISP's nor to the $44.2 million dollars it will cost Australian's and we uphold our fundamental human right to the free expression of ideas and opinions.

**PRINCIPAL PETITIONER**

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