

# **Paedophilia, Pets and Porn**

## **International Action Needed to Prevent Child Pornography**

An international approach is needed to prevent internet child pornography before it starts states NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect).

“The internet has no boundaries, so state or country based regulations are practically meaningless,” says Adam Foster, Executive Officer for NAPCAN who suggests a two-pronged approach to the problem. “Western countries need to partner with developing countries – where most of the exploited children come from – to develop a global strategy. It’s not an impossible goal. If our leaders put the child pornography trade on the table with other issues of general trade, or included it in their discussions on security, we could make significant inroads into halting this terrible exploitation of children.”

Foster also urges countries such as Australia to address the underlying causes of child sexual exploitation. “UNESCO has identified that street children, poor children, juveniles from broken homes, and disabled minors are especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation and to being seduced or coerced into the production of pornographic material.<sup>1</sup>

“Unless we address both the forum in which these images are traded, and the underlying causes, such as poverty, the lives of countless innocent children will continue to be exploited.”

Foster cites a recent report which identified that Australia spends more money on caring for pets than foreign aid,<sup>3</sup> which would have a substantial impact on poverty. “All Australians, governments, and the business community need to reconsider their priorities to prevent child pornography,” he said.

“NAPCAN applauds the recent police work on finding people who use internet child pornography but, given that the average paedophile commits 56 offences<sup>4</sup> before being caught, it is clear that considerably more effort needs to be put into preventing the offences in the first place.”

The sexual exploitation of children is of grave concern to the public. However, it is only one part of the serious social problem of child abuse & neglect in Australia and abroad. Last year Australia experienced a 33% increase in the number of children proven abused. Sexual abuse accounted for 1 in 10 cases.<sup>5</sup>

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**NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect)** is a not for profit organisation formed with the goal of creating a united national community to protect children from abuse and neglect.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unesco.org/webworld/child\\_screen/conf\\_index\\_2.html](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/child_screen/conf_index_2.html).

<sup>3</sup> Over consumption of Pet Food in Australia, the Australian Institute, July 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Woods Royal Commission. (1997). Final Report on the Paedophile Inquiry. Volume 4.

<sup>5</sup> Child Protection Australia 2002-03 Report, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2004.