



Wonderfully Made

To: Ms Lee Ee Jia
Director (Policy)
Media Development Authority of Singapore
(Attention: Ms Alicia Chay)
Email: policy_consultations@mda.gov.sg

Feedback on Internet Parental Control tools

Dear Sir / Mdm,

Wonderfully Made, a counselling and coaching consultancy that does cyber wellness education, concurs with the views of the Media Literacy Council that access to parental control tools should be a priority, and that they should be made available by all IASPs in the "default-on" mode.

In our many cyber wellness talks and counseling conferences conducted with parents, almost all of them see pornography on the internet as an *unnecessary danger* that *cannot be regulated*. It does seem like there is absolutely no way to regulate pornography for our young today. I will provide some examples. Schools are beginning to teach internet use to children in Primary one – a *vulnerable* age where their minds are *incapable of evaluating responsibly*, highly addictive pornographic visuals. With internet use widely promoted even in our Primary schools' curriculum, chances are, students will get exposed to pornography e.g. accidentally, pop-ups, peer influence. When High School Musical (a very popular series with Primary school children) star Vanessa Hudson was heard to have posted nude, many school children with SMART phones and internet accessible devices were sharing her photos with their classmates. Telling a Primary school kid that curiosity kills the cat when his friends are all sharing Vanessa Hudson's nude photo, will not help him avoid pornography very much.

Pornography is addictive, and for all its harms, should not be encouraged among our young. Unfortunately, under current circumstances like that described above, it is almost impossible for parents to prevent their child from pornographic exposure. Based on anecdotal evidences, a child on average gets exposed to pornography at a very young, vulnerable age e.g. during his primary school years. This is unnecessary and can be avoided. Wonderfully Made hence welcomes MDA's initiatives to study parents' concerns and implement policies that can help parents and our children.

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Being parents ourselves, we hope to receive MDA's support to provide internet parental controls, switched on by default, for *child protection purposes*, and only those subscribers who do not have young children in their homes, or unique parents who do not see this as an issue can "opt out" to have the filters removed.

Additionally, this will help our schools and computer labs to be safe environments. Young primary school kids with network filters on their mobiles will not be able to access pornography and share it with their friends. School labs and computer lessons will not be hijacked to become a pornographic feast. This would booster Singapore's strong education standing globally as well.

To encourage a high adoption rate by parents of this newly implemented measure, MDA should aim to keep costs as negligible as possible. The IASPs could also see this as a form of social give back, a measure of goodwill as well as responsibility in aiding our nation in continuing to build into our young, and in turn, receive more of the public's value and support.

The *ultimate onus of sexuality education lies on the parent*, but we can do with a few more undisturbed years to prepare our children to face the risks on the internet.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,
Leo Hee Khian
Principal Coach and Counselor
Wonderfully Made