

8 May 2002

Hon Andrew Cheng Kar Foo
Chairman
Bills Committee on Prevention of Child Pornography Bill
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Hong Kong

Dear the Hon Mr Cheng,

Bills Committee on Prevention of Child Pornography Bill

The Hong Kong College of Paediatricians (“College”) has submitted our views on the proposed amendments to Consultation Paper for the Prevention of Child Pornography to the Security Bureau on 30 November 2001. Since your committee will meet on 17 May, I would like to take this opportunity to submit our comments to you again.

The College noting the significant harmful effect of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse on children, strongly supports legislations that protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse as depicted in Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

According to the CRC, a child is defined as “being below the age of 18 years”. Hence all individuals less than 18 years old should receive similar and the higher level of protection, instead of having differential treatment for those “under the age of 16” and “between 16 and 18” in both child pornography and child sex tourism.

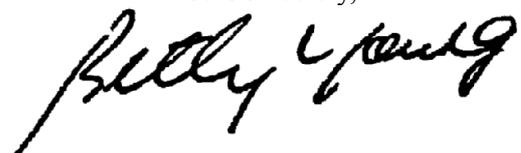
Apart from what were listed in paragraph 10, child pornography could mean not only “visual depiction” but any means of depicting or promoting sexual exploitation of a child including written or audio material.

The College supports the proposed legislation against the possession of child pornography as the production of child pornography is a form of exploitation and abuse of children and child pornography could aggravate paedophilia practice.

Protection of children from pornographic material including that transmitted via internet needs urgent government attention. Strategies need to be in place to prevent children falling prey to sexual exploitation and to rehabilitate victims of exploitation.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Betty Young
Chairman

Professional and General Affairs Committee
Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

cc: President
Honorary Secretary