

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2003

## Media alert

---

Contact: Jacqui Rees (02) 6249 8659 or 0427 154 522

# New study of youth and pornography

The Australia Institute has released a new report entitled *Youth and Pornography in Australia: Evidence on the extent of exposure and likely effects*. The report features prominently in today's *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*.

Among the findings of the report are:

- A special Newspoll survey of 16-17 year-olds shows that 84% of boys and 60% of girls have had exposure to Internet pornography.
- 73% of boys and 11% of girls have watched X-rated videos.
- 38% of boys but only 2% of girls say they have *deliberately* sought out sex sites on the Internet.
- Around 4-5% of boys identify as frequent (weekly) users of pornography.

Looking at hard-core pornography is widespread amongst teenagers and is regarded as normal behaviour, especially for boys. Among the great variety of pornography on the Internet, children see sites depicting rape, sexual torture, bestiality, coprophilia, incest and much more.

A wide range of studies indicates that young men who use violent pornography, or who are frequent users of pornography, are more likely to engage in sexual aggression. This association may be particularly strong for the 4-5% of teenage boys who use pornography every week.

A summary of the report can be found under What's New on the Institute's website [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au).

The Australia Institute is a public-interest think tank based in Canberra.

[www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au)