
New Draft Internet Content Code of Practice: Notice of Public Consultation

(in particular, children's access to in
appropriate material)

On the November 22, the Internet Industry Association released for public consultation new draft industry Codes governing ISP, internet Content Host and Mobile Carriers' obligations under the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (as amended).

The IIA has pioneered work in Australia in the online content regulatory arena. Our Online Content Virtual Taskforce has developed and had registered four industry codes of practice with the Australian Broadcasting Authority. The IIA's work in this area demonstrates a recognition that the internet industry has a role to play in helping end users assume more control for the kind of content accessible in the home, particularly by children.

The Online Content Virtual Taskforce is currently redrafting the current Content Codes of Practice in the light of developments in the area of content delivery, and is now addressing internet content accessible via mobile phones and related devices.

Issues for consideration in relation to children's access to inappropriate (such as pornography) include:

- whether chatrooms should be moderated or restricted to adult participation only;
- whether internet service providers should be allowed to carry news groups that contain pornography or inappropriate material;
- whether (and how) the industry should cooperate with the Australian Broadcasting Association in relation to whether or not they carry newsgroups that contain pornography or inappropriate material;
- whether content filters should be offered to the public at cost price;
- whether mobile phones should be internet-enabled automatically or opt-in; and

- what is the internet industry's obligation compared to that of the government in the matter of pre- and post-paid plans and opt-in or opt-out plans?

Comments on the Codes should be emailed to:

contentcodes@iia.net.au by Thursday 23 December 2004.

The draft is available for download in pdf and MS Word formats from:

<http://www.iia.net.au/contentvt.html>

Also see

Internet Industry Association Tackles Mobile Internet Content

Monday, 8 March 2004

<http://www.iia.net.au/news/40301.html>

Call for Articles

Australian Children's Rights News depends on the input of members affiliates and subscribers to keep providing you with a wide-ranging and informative update on children's rights issues. Others with a viewpoint on children and young people's rights are also invited to submit.



We are now seeking articles to be considered for the first edition of 2004. Contributions of between 700 and 1500 words are preferred and should be e-mailed with full author details to judycash@nsw.bigpond.net.au

Suggested graphics or photos to accompany the article are most welcome. The closing date for receipt of material is 1 March 2005 but please advise the editors as soon as possible if you are planning to submit.

If you have an idea which you would like to discuss, please phone Judy Cashmore 02 9880 2286

Articles published in Australian Children's Rights News may also be placed on the DCI-Australia Website: www.dci-au.org/