Dr Vaughn Koops  
Executive Officer  
Law Reform Committee  
Parliament of Victoria  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne 3002  

Dear Sir  

Submission to Sexting Inquiry  

The Centres Against Sexual Assault Forum is the peak body for the 16 CASAs in Victoria. We understand that the Law Reform Committee has been asked to inquire into the creating, sharing, sending or posting of sexually explicit messages or images via the internet, mobile phones or other electronic devices (sexting).

We would like to make the following points in relation to this Inquiry:

- Juveniles should not be registered on the Sex Offender Register as a general principle and in relation to sexting, a common practice amongst young people, it is an inappropriate penalty.
- The provisions of the criminal law which were designed to combat child pornography and child exploitation are draconian when used against young people in a consenting relationship. Sexting between two people in an intimate or boyfriend/girlfriend relationship should be decriminalised.
- Transmission of an image or message without consent should be dealt with by a diversion program which allows for assessment and/or treatment of the young person concerned depending on the level of risk of repeating the behaviour that brought them to the attention of the authorities.
- There needs to be a comprehensive program for children and young people that promotes respectful relationships and ethical decision making in a digital world.

Yours faithfully  

Carolyn Worth  
Spokesperson  

SECASA  
PO Box 72  
EAST BENTLEIGH 3165  

Ph: 03 9928 8741  
Fax: 03 9928 8749  
Email: carolyn.worth@southernhealth.org.au