

**Lutheran Church of Australia:  
Commission on Social and Bioethical Questions**

## **X-RATED VIDEOS**

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*Prepared by the Commission at the request of General Synod, October 1990*

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The Lutheran Church of Australia calls for a total ban on the production, importation, distribution and sale of pornographic (X-rated) and violent videos in Australia.

The church, together with many other organisations and citizens in this country, views with alarm the corrupting and destructive influences this material is having on people in Australia.

Human life, including human sexuality, is a gracious gift and blessing of God. X-rated and violent videos are an assault on God's gifts; they pervert his gift of sexuality, and deny the dignity of human beings.

This is especially the case when acts of violence and sexual perversion are depicted. Evil influences from pornographic and violent videos are evident in many areas of society. These influences are insidious.

The trite comment, 'Evil is in the eye of the beholder', does not take seriously the evil in all people, including those who profit from the exploitation of men, women and children who are used in the production of this material. It also ignores the addictive and controlling influence of X-rated and violent videos.

The church commends members of our parliaments, including the attorneys-general of the six States, for their consistent opposition to video pornography. The church calls on Federal, State and Territory parliaments to:

- ban all X-rated videos (hard-core pornography);
- define more clearly and closely all video classifications;
- make all video outlets subject to appropriate regulations;
- ensure that X-rated videos are kept in separate rooms in video outlets (for protection of minors);
- make it an offence to expose minors to X-rated and R-rated videos (as is the case with alcohol and cigarettes sales).

The church declares its readiness to assist and counsel children and adults who are exploited and abused in the production of these offensive videos, and also those who have become addicted to this material.

The church calls on all members to exercise their Christian responsibility in home and community in taking a stand against the use and spread of this destructive material. The church urges all members to do all they can to help those who are exploited, abused, and dehumanised as a result of their involvement in the production or viewing of this material.