Dr Richard Lim  
Deputy Leader of the Opposition  
Chairman, Policy Development Committee  
Shadow Minister for Education, Employment and Training,  
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System fails children suspended for accessing pornography  

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CLP Shadow Education Minister Dr Richard Lim said the Martin Government has failed in its responsibility to protect vulnerable young school children from exposure to pornography following the suspension of four year seven students caught accessing porn on school computers.

“The suspensions beg the question to Government: Why are pornography sites accessible on school computers?” Dr Lim said.

“Parents rightly have an expectation that their children when in the care of Government at school, are being protected from exposure to what the Minister himself describes as ‘unsuitable and harmful’ material.

“Why is it then that the Government's Content Filtering system failed to protect these vulnerable and impressionable young year seven students.

“The Education Minister's response in parliament today that it is possible for young children to access pornography on school computers will give parents no comfort that the Martin Government is acting in a meaningful way to prevent this.

“Typing in words such as ‘dirty porn pictures’, as I understand happened in this case, is hardly a sophisticated attempt by year seven students to breach whatever filtering system the Government has in place.

“The Government's claim that it was acting in the best interests of parents by keeping it from them that their children could potentially access pornography through school computers serves only the interests of Government.

“Parents have every right to know what ‘unsuitable and harmful' material their children are being exposed to because of the Government's failure to properly protect them.”

Ends