HAVE YOUR SAY ON COVERT PHOTOS ON NET

Territorians are being urged to have their say on what needs to be done to prevent unauthorised photos from appearing on websites.

Covert photos on the internet are being targeted by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG).

Northern Territory Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne has, along with his interstate counterparts, released the discussion paper Unauthorised Photographs on the Internet and Ancillary Privacy Issues.

“This is a complex issue which requires much thought and discussion,” Dr Toyne said.

“I urge all Territorians to consider the discussion paper which has been posted on the Department of Justice website.

“There have been interstate incidents involving school children at sporting events where their photos were taken without their consent and then posted on various websites.

“Some of these had links to sexually explicit websites.

“In Queensland there was a website containing hundreds of images of children which were taken covertly at parks in the state,” Dr Toyne said.

Dr Toyne said the paper also discussed issues relating to people taking unauthorised photos using mobile phones and digital cameras.

“The new technology provides opportunities for exploitation which weren’t even contemplated when the original laws were created,” Dr Toyne said.

The discussion paper seeks to:

- identify the issues, including privacy issues, associated with unauthorised publication of photographs on the internet;
- discuss the adequacy of existing State and Territory laws in their application to these issues; and
- identify legislative and non-legislative options to address these issues.

It can be found at www.nt.gov/justice. Submissions to the discussion paper close on 14 October 2005.

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