

Schools fight the filth

PLAY IT SAFE

Netbox Blue and Net Nanny can be installed on computers to help control what children can view on the internet.

Adam Przytula, from Armed for Life, recommends Net Nanny because it can also track messages on social media.

Users can also install applications for specific browsers, but children could then choose to use a different browser.

Experts say parents must talk to their children and teenagers about the things they could potentially come across online, be it deliberate or by accident.

Google SafeSearch can restrict sexually explicit content. Visit www.google.com/preferences - make sure **Filter Explicit Results** is selected and then **Lock SafeSearch**. You can also access the search history here, to see what children have been seeking.

Tools > Internet Options > Content click **Enable in Content Advisor**.

Ratings: Set levels of acceptance for categories.

Approved Sites: Deal with specific website.

Head to the Chrome web store (chrome.google.com) and search for **Parental Controls** and make sure **Extensions** is selected. This will give you a variety of different applications to protect your children.

Add-on for Firefox that filters content and is free.

Go to **Start key, Control Panel, User Accounts**.

Set Up Parental Controls. Select account to control, click **On**, then visit filters.

Advice cybermart.gov.au

AMY WILSON-CHAPMAN

WA schools are holding workshops to fight pornography addiction in students as young as 14.

In some cases students are using school computers at home to surf the web for explicit images into the early morning, even though they know their usage is monitored by teachers.

It comes as research shows a large number of teenagers rely on pornography to learn about sex, making them more likely to engage in risky behaviour, get pregnant and use drugs.

Elizabeth Handsley, president of the Australian Council on Children and the Media, said children could be exposed to "hardcore" pornography by searching innocent terms on Google such as "puppies".

A recent study by the University of Canberra found that more than 90 per cent of boys aged 13-16 and 60 per cent of girls had seen pornography online.

And research by the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and Youth Empowerment Against HIV/AIDs found 64 per cent of young people learnt about sex via pornography.

Kennedy Baptist College chaplain Adam Przytula has visited six WA schools to discuss pornography addiction.

His company Armed for Life runs school workshops for struggling students. He set up the company after he was alarmed by the number of teenagers struggling with bullying, low self-esteem, and pornography addiction, problems he faced when he was young.

"(One Perth school) said students that had devices provided by the school, even though they knew the school was monitoring what they were doing, were staying up to anywhere between 4am and 6am looking at porn because they needed to, because there was an addictive drive to do it," Mr Przytula said.

He shared his personal demons with students to make them comfortable enough to ask questions about pornography.

"Kids are going to be talking about it and if we don't talk about it and advise them on



Life lessons: Armed for Life director and Kennedy Baptist College chaplain Adam Przytula, centre, discusses issues with, from left, Georgia Owen, Brad Engelbrecht, Hannah Pillinger and Ben Trezona. Picture: Theo Fakos

Early exposure spells risky behaviour

YOUNG people watching pornography are more likely to have sex, take part in risky behaviour such as drug taking and end up pregnant.

Research has revealed alarming consequences associated with the early exposure to explicit material.

And there could be more dangers, but Edith Cowan

University professor Donna Cross said a lack of funding meant there were significant gaps in understanding the impact of pornography on a child's development.

The impact was highlighted when the Federal Government banned the explicit material from sections of the Northern

Territory, claiming it was contributing to an unsafe environment for children.

A report by the English Children's Commissioner found young people exposed to porn were more likely to take part in risky behaviour, including sexting where children shared explicit images on their mobile phones.

But she said pornography definitely left viewers with unrealistic expectations of relationships.

"(It fails) to provide useful tools for negotiating relationships and making informed decisions about engaging in

sexual activity," she said. Sex education was the best way to prepare children for healthy relationships and allow them to "dismiss the nonsense that is presented in pornographic material".

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition deputy director Josh Genner said most young people got sex education through pornography, though just three in 10 believed it was an appropriate source.

He said young people were happy to learn about sex at school, but it was taught too late and the content was too narrow. It had to be more than just teaching students how to use a condom.

"It's not just about which bits go where and how to not contract diseases," he said.

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