

Pride and Porn: How pornography plays a role in Australia's culture of normalised violence against women and girls.

On Tuesday, September 15, a 46 year old Brisbane man was sentenced to 2 years in prison, pleading guilty to the indecent treatment of his nine-year-old daughter.

Judge Burnett heard in Brisbane District Court that the father showed a sexually explicit live-stream to his young daughter, asking her to read the text on the screen.

The live-stream depicted two women in fully nudity performing sexual acts with themselves and each other.

A psychologist ruled that the defendant's request to his daughter stemmed from his own illiteracy, court hearing the offender had the reading and writing skills of a grade one child.

The defendant also pleaded guilty to three counts of common assault against the same child.

His daughter, now 13, has been withdrawn from his custody and the defendant will serve 12 months in prison, remaining on probation for another 12 month period.

This case is not an isolated tragedy, it is a symptom of a broader pattern linking pornography consumption to attitudes that normalise violence toward women.

A [2026 national research study at the University of Melbourne](#) found pornography is among the top three drivers of misogynistic behaviour and violent extremism in Australians.

[The Domestic, Family, and Sexual Violence Commissions 2026 Yearly Report to Parliament](#) also found in 2024, reports of sexual violence in Australia reached the highest recorded level in 33 years.

Carol McAlea, a domestic violence counselling specialist, said the harm happens on two fronts: the violent content pornography promotes, and the social script it pushes boys to conform to.

"Pornography is violence against women," Ms Maclea says.

"You don't watch people making love who are in this loving, equal, consensual relationship — people [aren't] watching that... that's not what's on Pornhub."

A [content analysis from the National Institute of Health](#) found that 88% of pornography includes rough sexual acts, and 96% of these acts inflict pain upon a woman.

This includes slapping, strangulation, force, and degrading language.

Psychologist of 23 years Jorge Ruiz, said pornography functioned like any other source of dopamine, “pornography is addictive”, he said.

“Like alcohol, you need ‘higher levels’, in this case more intense and graphic media, to sustain similar levels of dopamine in the brain.”



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With enough exposure, “it can teach them that it’s ok to treat women poorly as long as it’s in private,” said Mr Ruiz.

Ms McAlea added, this type of content teaches boys to be dominant and aggressive, while girls should be submissive and pleased by their subordination.

“They are told to subscribe to a specific way of life, if they don’t, then they’ll be an outsider,” Ms McAlea said.

21 year old, Elijah Heath, stopped watching pornography two years ago after realising it depicts women as “gross”, his own exposure beginning at nine.

“The first time I saw porn it was at a sleepover in primary school,” Mr Heath said.

Mr Heath said vulgar pornography shaped his own early understanding of sex, believing many of his peers had not shaken off the same violent preconceptions in fear of losing masculinity.

“A guy is supposed to be totally horny all the time,” he said.

“It’s an insult to call someone a soft cock or a limp dick when they’re pathetic, helpless or whiny...their competence and valour are tied to sexual eagerness,” said Mr Heath.

Ms Mcalea says this reality is unfortunate and the script needs to be shifted, “we need our boys to understand that they need to protect girls. This is what makes you masculine, not getting an erection,” she says.

Both experts pointed to the same solution, earlier and better-resourced parenting support paired with government regulation.

Ms Mcalea calls for a mandatory, government-funded parental education program on pornography and consent, delivered before children start high school.

“There’s so much pressure on parents to keep up with so many things these days, but we don’t give them the tools to do it.”

[The Section Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032](#) is scheduled to commence and be released in early 2027.

“The stats are there,” Mcalea said.

“The Second Action Plan gives us the opportunity to make the stats stop being there. We’ve got to use it right.”