



Media Release

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Catholic Church welcomes move to make Internet safer

The Catholic Church today welcomed the federal government's announcement that it will move ahead with plans to filter out violent and pornographic websites containing material which has been refused classification, saying it was a sensible step towards internet safety.

Bishop Peter Ingham, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's delegate for media issues, said it was good news that the government had declared the trial carried out by some Internet Service Providers had been a success.

"It has always been our position that if it could be shown that such filtering can be done without serious adverse effects to the internet, then this would be a very positive step towards ensuring the safety of children on the Net," Bishop Ingham said.

"The Government has trialled the filter and found that ISP filtering can be achieved with negligible impact on Internet speeds and we look forward to the implementation of the policy."

Bishop Ingham said that despite alarmist reports, ISP filtering of sites which have been blacklisted for containing unclassified material was a sensible measure to ensure that such material is banned from distribution on the Internet in the same way that it is banned in relation to publications or movies.

He said similar schemes already operated in a number of European countries and were working well.

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