



Tony Simpson MLA

Opposition Spokesperson for Consumer
Protection; Information Technology and
Communications

30 May 07

Government must protect children online

Consumer Protection and ICT Shadow Minister Tony Simpson has called on Attorney-General Jim McGinty to work with online networking site MySpace to track down online predators.

MySpace, which has three million Australian users, has requested that Australian Governments establish a system that would allow it and authorities to share information about possible sex offenders using the site.

“The WA State Labor Government should do everything in its power to make sure that users of this site are protected from sex offenders,” said Mr Simpson.

“Many of the sites users are children and teenagers.

“Although the initial responsibility lies with their parents, if the Government can do something to help, it has a moral responsibility to do so.

“Parents cannot be watching their children all the time.

“There have been numerous reports of children being lured into dangerous situations by adults much older than themselves.

“The owners of MySpace are offering to work with the authorities to stop this from happening.

“They want to work with the Government to protect our children.

“To do nothing wouldn’t be far short of criminal.”

MySpace is already working with US authorities on a similar program. So far 7000 profiles belonging to previously convicted sex offenders have been removed from the site.

Media enquiries: Shaun Ratcliff
E-mail: shaun.ratcliff@mp.wa.gov.au
Mobile: 0405 440 345