



**MEDIA STATEMENT**

# **Tony Simpson** MLA

Opposition Spokesperson for Information  
Technology and Communications

26 June 2007

## **Kobelke passes buck on child protection**

John Kobelke's decision to pass the buck on online child protection<sup>1</sup> has become more serious in light of the recent news from the US that 29 000 sex offenders have been found on online networking site Myspace.<sup>2</sup>

Opposition Spokesperson for IT and Communications, Tony Simpson has claimed that Mr Kobelke's decision to not make a decision was a sign of moral cowardice that has prolonged the exposure of children in WA to the dangers of sex predators online.

"The Minister and his Government should be ashamed of themselves," said Mr Simpson.

"Three million Australians use MySpace. Many are young children.

"MySpace asked the Carpenter Government for their cooperation in establishing a system to police sex predators on their network and Mr Kobelke passed the buck.

"He has missed a chance to protect our children online and should be held accountable.

"In the United States, State Attorneys General are screaming for more protection for children. Here in WA our Ministers can't wait to pass responsibility to someone else.

"It is still not too late, however, for Mr Kobelke to change his mind and protect our children."

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<sup>1</sup> The West Australian, 29 June 2007. Available from:  
<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=30&ContentID=32800>

<sup>2</sup> The West Australian, 25 July 2007. Available from:  
<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2007/07/25/1185043145104.html>