

Government re-think needed on net censorship, GetUp! says

Online Advocacy group, GetUp! has said the Federal Government needs to re-think its plans to censor the internet and consider the impact it will have on thousands of Australian households and businesses.

Less than one week after Federal Government said it would press ahead with its internet censorship plans for December 24, GetUp! has attracted the support more than 75,000 thousand Australians who fear it will slow internet speeds to a crawl and fail to stop unwanted content.

The Federal Government's plan is expected to reduce internet speeds, make internet access more expensive for Australian households and businesses but fail to stamp out illegal and unwanted content.

GetUp! National Director Simon Sheikh, who launched the organisation's 'Save the net' campaign with an online petition last week, said Australians understood the Federal Government's good intentions but had serious questions about their common sense.

"Australians agree that criminal activity needs to be stopped but they know that this net censorship plan won't work," Mr Sheikh said.

"The Government's net censorship plans will do little more than slog Aussie families and businesses with slower internet speeds and higher internet bills - without making a significant dent in criminal activity. Unfortunately, what the Government doesn't realise is that the majority of the criminal activity they are targeting cannot be stopped through the internet filter they are proposing.

"Criminals use peer-to-peer software to distribute illegal content which is highly encrypted and impossible to detect under their proposed plan."

Mr Sheikh said the Federal Government's aims to stamp out illegal and unwanted content would be better served by arming parents and the Australian Federal Police with the resources they need to look after our kids.

"GetUp! would like to see the Government better arm parents to combat illegal and unwanted content by funding a scheme for free PC-based filtering software for all Australian families," Mr Sheikh said.

"Such a scheme would give parents the power to track and monitor their kids' internet access without slowing internet speeds to a crawl or making internet access more expensive for Aussie families and businesses.

"In addition, the Government should ensure that the Australian Federal Police's Online Child Sexual Exploitation Team has all the resources they need to stamp out child exploitation and abuse on the internet.



GetUp! plans to step up its campaign against the Federal Government's internet censorship plans with a major online advertising burst and offline activities.

For more information contact Tim Fitzsimmons on 0423 375 522 or Ed Coper on 0408 662 575.

***About GetUp:** GetUp.org.au is an independent movement to build a progressive Australia. GetUp brings together like-minded people who want to bring participation back into our democracy. GetUp has over 230,000 members, more than every political party combined. www.getup.org.au*