



The Law - Young People, Parents and Schools

STUDY GUIDE

Program 5: Our Kids and Media Devices

First broadcast – 8.30pm Monday 28 September 2009. 89.7, PBA FM in Adelaide, South Australia

Producer/Presenter: Tony Ryan Education Consultant: Greg Carey

Program summary

The importance of digital media to young people is highlighted by the fact that today's children have never known a world without electronic media. As well as being part of their learning environment, it is also an integral part of their social world. But the instantaneous nature of digital media is not always understood by young people – one press of a button and that message or that photograph cannot be retrieved. How people will use digital media is not always obvious to the engineers, so there is a need for policy and regulation around the use of media devices. The program ends with a reference to the challenge that this can present for many parents. These issues will be further explored over the next few programs.

Interviewees

Professor Elizabeth Handsley, Faculty of Law, Flinders University, Adelaide

Senior Constable First Class Michael Schooley, from South Australia Police

Dr Matthew Sorell, Senior Lecturer in Telecommunications and Multimedia Engineering at the University of Adelaide

Listen

Download this program – from www.learningworksradio.com – and listen at home or in your car, or in a group around a table at home or in the staff room. Duration approx 15 mins.

Table Talk

Use these questions as springboards to a discussion on some of the issues raised in the program. Before you end the discussion, agree on some action outcomes.



Young people have never known a world without electronic media; it is part of their social circle, their learning environment, it is at home and everywhere they go. What are the advantages they see, and why are they so passionate about it?

Today the individual is much more in control of the media than ever before. An individual can produce a single sentence that can be sent to hundreds of people instantaneously. But it cannot be retrieved. Are young people aware of the legal and personal implications of this?

Discuss what has happened in the last ten years as digital cameras have rapidly replaced film. What has changed? And have society's sense of right and wrong, and concepts of censorship, kept up?

Tools such as web filters that control the upload and download of material can only slow a determined young person, it cannot stop them. What are some of the challenges this presents for parents and teachers?

Resources

To guide your discussion,

Cyber Smart for parents <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/en/Parents.aspx>

Australian children getting smarter about online risks says ACMA research

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=pc_311798