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Attention: Maddison Evans, Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Dear Maddison

***Inquiry into mandatory registration of children and young people on the WA Sex Offenders Register***

Thank you for the correspondence from the Committee to the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) dated 15 April 2019, inviting a submission to the above inquiry into the *Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004*.

The AFP has reviewed the invitation and the terms of reference for the inquiry, and on this occasion we will not be making a submission to the inquiry.

The AFP notes that at a Commonwealth level, the consent of the Attorney-General is required before proceedings for a Commonwealth offence under section 474 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995*, where the young person is under 18 years of age. This ensures age is appropriately considered before any prosecution, conviction outcome or inclusion on a sex offender register. The AFP notes that WA does not have a similar provision under WA criminal laws.

The AFP also advocates for national consistency with respect to offender registers and, acknowledges the vulnerability of young people in the developing technological environment.

Further, the AFP leads the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), which bring experts together to counter online child exploitation, and engages in partnership with industry to deliver the 'ThinkUKnow' e-safety program. This program seeks to ensure school children and adolescents receive preventative messaging in relation of inappropriate online behaviour and risk avoidance.

We hope the information above is of assistance. Thank you once again for inviting the AFP to make a submission to this inquiry.

Regards, Susie

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