

MEDIA RELEASE

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Festival of Light Australia

Henson should realise that *Little Children are Sacred*

"Children deserve protection from being treated as sexualised beings, whatever the stated purpose," Dr David Phillips, national president of Festival of Light Australia said today.

"NSW police have acted properly in seizing Bill Henson's sexualised images of naked children from the Roslyn Oxley9 gallery," Dr Phillips said.

"Sexualised images of children invite the viewer to see a child as a sexual object," he said. "This is wrong - regardless of how 'artistic' the image is claimed to be.

"In any case, how can a 12 or 13 year old child give valid consent to being photographed naked or in a suggestive pose?" Dr Phillips said.

"Everyone agrees that there are some things that art should not portray under any circumstances, such as an adult actually having sex with a child. Most parents would share the view expressed by Premier Morris Iemma and the Prime Minister, that these photographs of naked children in a sexual context have crossed the line," Dr Phillips said.

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