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The sexualisation of girls and the digital age:

navigating the debates, averting moral panics and responding to another challenge for gender equality

THE 2012 GRACE VAUGHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Donna Chung,
Winthrop Professor of Social
Work and Social Policy,
The University of Western
Australia

In the last decade there has been increasing concern by a cross section of the community about what has been termed the sexualisation and 'pornification' of children, particularly young girls. This has led to government inquiries in Australia and the US in recent years with a particular focus on the role of the media in this phenomenon. There is no doubt that various forms of digital media have changed how images are produced, circulated and accessed, however, we cannot assume that digital technologies have created this concern.

In this presentation the origins of the concerns and the various debates will be examined as they relate to gender equality and women's status. The question of what all this means for future actions and responses will be discussed.

Donna Chung currently holds the position of Winthrop Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at The University of Western Australia. She previously held academic positions at the University of Warwick and University of South Australia. Her research interests have been in the areas of gender equality, gendered violence and heterosexual relationships.

As a result of her research Donna has worked as a consultant to governments advising on policies and programs aimed at stopping gendered violence and promoting gender equality.

The Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture

The annual Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture is a partnership arrangement between the Australian Association of Social Workers, The University of Western Australia and Department for Communities, Women's Interests, Western Australia.

The Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture is held annually to commemorate the life and achievements of Grace Vaughan who died in 1984. She was a social worker, social activist and parliamentarian who was dedicated to the improvement of life at all levels and had a deep commitment to Australia's participation in the Asian region and to ensuring women's full participation in society.

Event Details

When: Thursday 15 March 2012 at 6pm

Venue: University Club Theatre Auditorium, UWA.

- The nearest carpark is P3 off Hackett Drive Entrance 1.
- Wheelchair accessible venue.

This is a free public lecture, All Welcome.

Please RSVP your attendance to GVL@communities.wa.gov.au by 7 March 2012.

Enquiries: Janelle Veitch, 6217 8209.



Government of Western Australia
Department for Communities
Women's Interests



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