

# OpenAustralia.org's experience with Open-source and content - a tiny case study

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Unlocking IP 2009

# What is OpenAustralia?

- Website to make it easier for the general public to follow what their elected representatives are up to

# Senate debates

Tuesday, 11 November 2008

[What are Senate debates?](#)

## Questions without Notice National Broadband Network

[All Senate debates on 11 Nov 2008](#)  
[« Previous debate](#)      [Next debate »](#)

2:27 pm



**Scott Ludlam** (*Australian Greens*) [Link to this](#) | [Hansard source](#)

My question is to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the [Digital Economy](#), Senator Conroy. I refer to the statements made by Minister Conroy in Senate estimates hearings on 20 October 2008, in which the minister said that Sweden, the [UK](#), Canada and [New Zealand](#) had mandatory internet filtering systems similar to those now being trialled in Australia. Can the minister explain why he made the statement in light of the fact that in not one of those countries is the filtering system mandatory and, in fact, the various systems in those countries are entirely voluntary if they exist at all?

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**Stephen Conroy** (*Australian Labor Party, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate*) [Link to this](#) | [Hansard source](#)

I thank the senator for his question and further thank him for providing me with notice of the question. The government's [ISP](#) filtering policy is one component of the government's comprehensive, \$125.8 million cyber-safety plan. This plan contains a comprehensive set of measures to combat online threats and help parents and educators protect children from inappropriate material. I can assure the senator that the government will implement the ISP filtering component of this policy in a considered and consultative way. We are aware of technical concerns with filtering technology. That is why we are conducting a pilot—to put these claims to the test. We are happy to have an open debate about these technical issues.

ISPs in a number of Western countries, such as the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France and Canada, have voluntarily introduced ISP-level filtering. The government is of course considering the experience of these countries in the development of its own policy. This international experience will also inform the government's upcoming real-world live pilot.

On 10 November I released an expression of interest, seeking the participation of ISPs and mobile telephone operators in this live pilot. The pilot will specifically test filtering against the [ACMA](#) black list of prohibited internet content, which is mostly child pornography, as well as filtering of other unwanted content. While the ACMA black list is currently around 1,300 [URLs](#), the pilot will test against this list as well as filtering for a range of [URLs](#) to around 10,000 so that the impacts on network performance of a larger black list can be examined. The live pilot will provide valuable real-world evidence of the potential impact on internet speeds and costs to industry and will help ensure we implement a filtering solution that is efficient, effective and easy for Australian

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# A feature taster

- Read debates
- “Digital Dossier” for Representatives / Senators
- Email alerts
- RSS feeds
- Powerful / Easy to use searching

# Who runs OpenAustralia?

- Volunteers
- Non-partisan

**Everything  
is  
open-source**

Based on  
TheyWorkForYou.com

**twfy code BSD licensed**

**Our parser Affero GPL**

**What about the  
content we use?**

# Content

- Photos
- Hansard
- Hand collected information about Representatives / Senators
- Register of Interests

# Hansard

- “Copyright Commonwealth of Australia”
- First request to Commonwealth Copyright Administration beginning of Dec 2007
- No response
- Tried again in Jan 2008
- 10 Jan: copyright belongs with Australian Parliament House

# Hansard

- 13 Feb: Parliamentary Web Manager, Parliament House, passes request to “web content” section.
- 18 Mar: “You do not require permission to reproduce Hansard extracts, as the Hansard report is considered to be public domain material”



REGISTRY OF  
5 - MAR 2008  
MEMBERS' INTERESTS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**  
**STATEMENT OF REGISTRABLE INTERESTS**

Returning Members - declare at p1-6, interests as at the  
dissolution of the last Parliament (17 October 2007)  
and at p.7 alterations since that date

Newly elected Members - declare at p. 1-6, interests as  
at the date of election, and at p.7 alterations since  
that date

Notes:

- (1) It is suggested that the accompanying Explanatory Notes be read before the return is completed.
- (2) The information which you are required to provide is contained in resolutions agreed to by the House of Representatives on 9 October 1984, a.m. as amended on 21 March 1985, 13 February 1986, 22 October 1986, 30 November 1988 and 9 November 1994 and 16 October 2003. It consists of the Member's registrable interests and the registrable interests of which the Member is aware (a) of the Member's spouse and (b) of any children who are wholly or mainly dependent on the Member for support. For the definition of "dependent children" see the introduction to the Explanatory Notes.
- (3) If there is insufficient space on this form for the information you are required to provide, you may attach additional papers for that purpose. Each paper attached to this form should be signed personally by you and dated.

Surname SHORTEN Other Names BILL  
Electoral Division MALIBYANONG State VICTORIA

1. Shareholdings in public and private companies (including holding companies) indicating the name of the company or companies

Name of company (including holding and subsidiary companies if applicable)	
Self	<u>NIL</u>
Spouse	<u>TSV HOLDINGS</u>
Dependent Children	

# Register of Interests for Senators and Representatives

- financial interests
- stocks and shares held
- gifts received over a certain value, and
- memberships of Clubs and Associations

# Register of Interests for Senators and Representatives

- No clue what the copyright / licensing situation is despite numerous requests