



 [back](#)

Violent response

HEAVY exposure to screen violence in adolescence is changing the development of young people's brains, leading to increased aggression and reckless behaviour and decreased empathy.

Evidence presented at the Australian Council on Children and the Media conference in Sydney yesterday showed brain imaging studies which recorded the way violent material changes brain activation in the short term and brain function in the long term.

Experiencing screen violence reduces the development of the frontal lobe, which is responsible for impulse control and inhibits aggression, according to Dr Wayne Warburton, deputy director of the Children and Families Research Centre at Macquarie University.

Exposure to violent material also activates the brain's limbic system, which is responsible for emotional response.

— RACHEL BROWNE