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Q1:

The ALRC should focus on improving the existing framework through the introduction of added ratings classifications. A new framework isn't necessary, and will only muddy the waters of what's previously known to people. Focusing on making higher awareness of current classifications and adding new categories where appropriate would be much more beneficial. Ensuring retailers and providers are obligated to hold to these classifications.

Q2:

The key objectives of a national classification scheme should be to:

Prevent access to those who are unsuitable for consumption (i.e. Children)

Educate parents and guardians on the Classification schemes, and why they are important.

Ensure retailers are obligated to only sell restricted content to those who are of age.

Ensure personal freedoms of those who are of age, and let them make their own decisions regarding their media consumption. (Adults)

Q3:

Yes. Whilst films may portray violence, videogames allow the user to perpetrate violence virtually, and thus should be held under stronger classification rulings. Thus the need for higher classification ratings to prevent access to young children, whilst not infringing on the rights of adults.

Q4:

No. The classifications board should make a decision regarding the content and apply a rating. The mass opinion surrounding complaints usually is focused on popular items, and is subject to exaggeration and misinformation. Lots of content can easily escape scrutiny, whilst other big titles may receive undeserved scorn due to their large reach and influence.

Q5:

Yes. Young children should not be watching films or playing videogames of an overall violent manner, however it is a parent's responsibility to make a judgement on the suitability of PG or M rated films for older children. Adults who wish to consume this content should be given the freedom to make their own decision for themselves, and should not be restrained by ratings designed to protect children.

Q6:

No. All content should be classified according to the same set of standards, regardless of market position or exposure.

Q7:

To a degree. Art is subjective, but it is important for consumers to understand what they are getting into. Art will continually push the boundaries of what is socially acceptable, and it should be allowed to do so, provided that people are forewarned.

Q8:

Yes. Music and musicians can be a large influence on young children, and a classification system allows parents to see at a glance what is suitable for them.

Q9:

No. All content should be classified according to the same set of standards.

Q10:

No. Parents should be given the responsibility to make a decision about what is publicly acceptable at home, however (non-private) public performances should be subject to some scrutiny if they have a potential audience of children.

Q11:

As above

Q12:

Education of parents and guardians in understanding what content is suitable for children.
Legislation for retailers and providers in prevention of selling content to minors.
Giving consenting adults the freedom to consume content at their own discretion.

Q13:

Education, education, education.

Young children should not be given unsupervised access to online content, and parents should be educated in appropriate controls to prevent access to such content.

These access controls need to be enforced by adults at a household level, not at a government level.

Adults need the personal freedom to do what they want online, but must be aware of what children have potential access too.

Q14:

Any explicit content that isn't in a area where it is suitable (i.e. an adult book shop) should be controlled access. The current classification system, using non-transparent covers for sexually explicit magazines is quite adequate in this regard.

Q15:

Content should always display classifications on the cover. Access should be refused to minors without parental permission. Parents should be forewarned if buying for their children, but must be given their own responsibility for the decision.

Q16:

Regulation of content, in the form of classifications and ensuring retailers hold to these classifications. Education for parents and children in what is suitable, and how it can be controlled.

Q17:

Yes. This could be practical, however care will need to be given that government and industry codes align.

Q18:

R18+ Classification for videogames and interactive content. The current classification system gives minors access to games they shouldn't be playing through lowering of the same rating standards (as opposed to other countries), and restricts access to adults to games they are mature enough to access, through censorship and refusing classification.

Q19:

Depending on the audience and who it is being delivered to. A small independent film that is only being played to a small theatre can escape scrutiny provided the creators/theatre are diligent in explaining the appropriateness. A independent film with a wide release, or a release on television should have a classification associated with it. This could be assigned by the media body, or if in the case of a large release on DVD, the classifications board.

Q20:

The existing classification categories are reasonably well understood. The lack of a R18+ classification for videogames can cause confusion whether content is appropriate for minors.

Q21:

The current classification systems of G, PG, M, MA15+ represent an adequate age range. However the lack of a R18+ classification for videogames is a large cause for concern, as it both prevents adults from accessing content refused classification, and provides minors access to content that should be restricted to 18+

Q22:

Adopt the same standards between all content. Education in understanding what the content classifications are and why they are important.

Q23:

Definitely. Videogames may be held to a higher degree of classification, but they should use the same guidelines standards to reduce confusion and increase understanding for parents.

Q24:

The internet should be an open environment for adults, with young children only given supervised access to appropriate sites. Content such as child pornography and terrorism networks should be monitored and watchdogged by the police to prevent harm to people and children.

Q25:

To a degree. It is very difficult to regulate the internet, and attempting to do so will not yield satisfactory results.

The current system of educating adults and children to internet content is the best course of action.

Q26:

Yes. The same classification systems should be used across Australia, particularly with the increases in online shopping.

Q27:

A scheme which unifies the states with the same standards of classification that allows adults freedom in their choice of content, and prevents unauthorised access to minors.

Q28:

Yes. For reasons stated above.

Q29:

Understanding of the content and its consumers. Videogames and violent films are not products for children, but are legitimately enjoyed by adults and the consumers should be treated as such.

Other comments:

Restricting access of content to everyone is the wrong approach. Adults should have legitimate access to content and should be able to make their own decisions regarding their consumption of media.

Proper education of parents, service providers and retailers on what they can provide children should be paramount