

CI 64 Ben Morgan

Ben Morgan

## List of Questions

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Approach to the Inquiry

**Question 1.** In this Inquiry, should the ALRC focus on developing a new framework for classification, or improving key elements of the existing framework?

Elements of the existing framework

Why classify and regulate content?

**Question 2.** What should be the primary objectives of a national classification scheme?

To thoroughly inform the public about the content of entertainment media. Including books, games, comics and music.

I, personally do not want to be surprised by sex scenes, violence, drug use etc...in a computer game, movie or book. E.g. a movie classification of "Adult Themes" is too broad and not specific enough about what is contained therein.

What content should be classified and regulated?

**Question 3.** Should the technology or platform used to access content affect whether content should be classified, and, if so, why?

No media platform should be above regulation.

**Question 4.** Should some content only be required to be classified if the content has been the subject of a complaint?

It's too late by then. It should be classified well before release to the public.

**Question 5.** Should the potential impact of content affect whether it should be classified? Should content designed for children be classified across all media?

Low impact content still needs to be classified so that parents can know what is safe and what is not for their kids to be watching.

**Question 6.** Should the size or market position of particular content producers and distributors, or the potential mass market reach of the material, affect whether content should be classified?

No, size doesn't matter. People need to know what they are about to see/hear before they open the cover of any media product.

**Question 7.** Should some artworks be required to be classified before exhibition for the purpose of restricting access or providing consumer advice?

Yes, restricting access to younger viewers is a responsible thing to do. And it would also help prevent a larger public backlash against such things.

**Question 8.** Should music and other sound recordings (such as audio books) be classified or regulated in the same way as other content?

Of course. Why should they be exempt. People need to know what they are about to see/hear **before** they open the cover of any media product.

**Question 9.** Should the potential size and composition of the audience affect whether content should be classified?

No, size doesn't matter. And there will always be newcomers to any audience composition. They deserve to be informed about what they are purchasing/attending etc...

**Question 10.** Should the fact that content is accessed in public or at home affect whether it should be classified?

No, it doesn't matter where the content is being viewed. It is still being viewed. The action of listening/watching etc... is the same regardless of the venue.

**Question 11.** In addition to the factors considered above, what other factors should influence whether content should be classified?

If it's being distributed, it should be classified. People deserve to be informed beforehand. That's the purpose of a classification.

**How should access to content be controlled?**

**Question 12.** What are the most effective methods of controlling access to online content, access to which would be restricted under the National Classification Scheme?

Parental lockout helps to protect kids at home. Parents need to be able to easily do this, and educated how to do so. And it needs to be non over-ridable.

If it's too high impact then it just shouldn't be online in Australia.

**Question 13.** How can children's access to potentially inappropriate content be better controlled online?

see Q12

**Question 14.** How can access to restricted offline content, such as sexually explicit magazines, be better controlled?

Keep it out of sight in newsagents etc.. E.g scantily clad women on covers in newsagents and service stations is just teaching people to see women as objects for

sex.

It's not just playboy and penthouse, It's "ZOO magazine", "Black & White", "Sports Illustrated" and other soft porn mags too that work as an introduction to the harder stuff.

It's the old saying...Out of sight, out of mind.

**Question 15.** When should content be required to display classification markings, warnings or consumer advice?

As soon as men or women are bearing their flesh on the covers of magazines

Or there is "adult" themes in books, music, movies etc...

**Who should classify and regulate content?**

**Question 16.** What should be the respective roles of government agencies, industry bodies and users in the regulation of content?

government agencies and industry bodies need to give a detailed description of what content is in the product to inform the users. E.g sex scenes, drug use, violence, coarse language in all media types, not just movies.

**Question 17.** Would co-regulatory models under which industry itself is responsible for classifying content, and government works with industry on a suitable code, be more effective and practical than current arrangements?

No, content should always be regulated by an impartial body.

With self regulation, the temptation is to water down the content advice in order to reach a larger audience, and thus make more money.

**Question 18.** What content, if any, should industry classify because the likely classification is obvious and straightforward?

sex scenes, drug use, violence, coarse language

**Classification fees**

**Question 19.** In what circumstances should the Government subsidise the classification of content? For example, should the classification of small independent films be subsidised?

All media should be classified.

How hard is it to have an agency who sit down and watch/read/listen everything that is for release and distribution.

**Classification categories and criteria**

**Question 20.** Are the existing classification categories understood in the community? Which classification categories, if any, cause confusion?

distinguishing between M and MA seems a bit unclear.

Also, how is it that cinemas are clearly flaunting classifications by selling tickets to children who are clearly under the recommended age. Even if they are accompanied by an adult, they are still under age.

E.g, when I saw I Am Legend (MA15+) at the cinemas, a kid of about 8 years old burst out in tears, terrified out of his wits by flesh eating zombies, was taken out half way through by his Mum. Now his Mum should have known better, but so should the cinema. This needs to somehow be policed in order to prevent media outlets (including video shops and music shops) from profiting at any cost.

**Question 21.** Is there a need for new classification categories and, if so, what are they? Should any existing classification categories be removed or merged?

No mergers. But provide more info with the classification, not generalisations

**Question 22.** How can classification markings, criteria and guidelines be made more consistent across different types of content in order to recognise greater convergence between media formats?

Stick to the movie classification logos, they are simple and quick to read. But provide more specific info.

**Question 23.** Should the classification criteria in the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (Cth), National Classification Code, Guidelines for the Classification of Publications and Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games be consolidated?

Yes, it should be one classification. E.g coarse language is the same thing, be it presented in a comic, a book or a song.

"Explicit Language" on a CD cover doesn't tell us what else the CD contains. E.g does a CD contain references to drug use using non-explicit language, and therefore has no warning label.

**Refused Classification (RC) category**

**Question 24.** Access to what content, if any, should be entirely prohibited online?

That which glorifies Pornography, Violence, Drug Use and Coarse Language.

**Question 25.** Does the current scope of the Refused Classification (RC) category reflect the content that should be prohibited online?

If anything, it needs to include more.

**Reform of the cooperative scheme**

**Question 26.** Is consistency of state and territory classification laws important, and, if so, how should it be promoted?

Yes It's important to have a national standard. If states wish to go beyond the

standard then they should be free to do so. No need or promotion, Just keep it simple and people will understand.

**Question 27.** If the current Commonwealth, state and territory cooperative scheme for classification should be replaced, what legislative scheme should be introduced?

A National body who regularly asks for community feedback and advice. And who enforces it's classifications.

**Question 28.** Should the states refer powers to the Commonwealth to enable the introduction of legislation establishing a new framework for the classification of media content in Australia?

Yes It's important to have a national standard. If states wish to go beyond the standard then they should be free to do so.

#### **Other issues**

**Question 29.** In what other ways might the framework for the classification of media content in Australia be improved?

Ask for advice from community stakeholders, including community workers and counsellors who see first hand the effects of loose classification policies on their young charges. And please include the churches of Australia in your decision making, as this is after all a moral question. AND if you need an answer, ask an expert.

Thank You

Mr Benjamin Morgan