

# List of Questions

## 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? **Both**

## Why classify and regulate content?

**Question 2.** What should be the primary objectives of a national classification scheme? **To provide a safe media environment for children and a guide to care-givers of children.**

## 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, it should apply regardless of the platform/technology because it needs to cater for all levels of technological literacy that can be attained by under-aged consumers.**

**Question 4.** Should some content only be required to be classified if the content has been the subject of a complaint? **No.**

**Question 5.** Should the potential impact of content affect whether it should be classified? Should content designed for children be classified across all media? **Potential impact is subjective and current knowledge of it could be something that becomes obsolete in the not too distant future. The classification should apply uniformly across all media, eliminating ambiguity and establishing clear guidelines.**

**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? **Mass market etc. should be all the more reason why content should be classified.**

**Question 7.** Should some artworks be required to be classified before exhibition for the purpose of restricting access or providing consumer advice? **Yes because artworks are still a form of communication.**

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

**Question 9.** Should the potential size and composition of the audience affect whether content should be classified? **No.**

**Question 10.** Should the fact that content is accessed in public or at home affect whether it should be classified? **No**

**Question 11.** In addition to the factors considered above, what other factors should influence whether content should be classified? **The possible creation of new forms of technological communication either visual or auditory.**

## **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? **I have insufficient knowledge about this to be able to answer this question.**

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

**Question 14.** How can access to restricted offline content, such as sexually explicit magazines, be better controlled? **By giving it less prominence in stores.**

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

## 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? **No idea.**

**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? **Definitely, providing that they are not in competition or have separate agendas, and, providing that there are EFFECTIVE and meaningful penalties imposed on the industry's taking of liberties with the regulations in a way that suits their purposes rather than the way they were intended.**

**Question 18.** What content, if any, should industry classify because the likely classification is obvious and straightforward? **Content that contravenes accepted social mores. Things that are extreme in terms of violence and sex and/or unsuitable for viewing by younger audiences, in line with accepted community standards.**

## 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? **Public funds should be extremely scarce in such instances and producers should have responsibility for carrying cost of classifying materials that originate from them and ensuring that the materials comply with established guidelines – with substantial**

**penalties for breach of such guidelines.**

## **Classification categories and criteria**

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

**Current classification needs consistency and, although I am not aware of the particular categories causing confusion, I know that many parents complain about classification being unclear. The film “Black Swan” comes to mind as one that even some adults found to be confronting as they had expected to see something entirely different.**

**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? **They should be standardized to give consistent indication of content.**

**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? **By using uniform guidelines across the board and developing the same classifications for all formats.**

**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, they should.**

## **Refused Classification (RC) category**

**Question 24.** Access to what content, if any, should be entirely prohibited online? **Pornography, violence against children and animals and excessive/unnecessary general violence.**

**Question 25.** Does the current scope of the Refused Classification (RC)

category reflect the content that should be prohibited online? **To a large extent, yes.**

## **Reform of the cooperative scheme**

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

**Question 27.** If the current Commonwealth, state and territory cooperative scheme for classification should be replaced, what legislative scheme should be introduced? **I have no idea about this.**

**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, states squabble about everything else and the same would happen with the classifications or anything connected with them.**

## **Other issues**

**Question 29.** In what other ways might the framework for the classification of media content in Australia be improved? **Who should classify and regulate content? - An independent body that has a 50% representation of parents.**