



Council for the
humanities, arts
& social sciences

16 August 2011

Professor Terry Flew

Commissioner, Australian Law Reform Commission

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Dear Commissioner Flew

The Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) is the peak body supporting more than ninety member organisations in their relationships with policy makers and the broader community and acting as an important network for knowledge exchange and skills. CHASS was established in 2004 to promote and provide advocacy services for the humanities, arts and social sciences. The Council serves as a coordinating forum for teachers, researchers, professionals and practitioners in the sector.

The Council is seriously concerned about the scope of the Review of the National Classification Scheme currently being conducted by the Australian Law Reform Commission.

The Council understands this Review will examine how the classification system can cater for advances into the future to enable Australians to be confident with it, and for it to help them, make informed choices about what they choose to read, see, hear and play.

The Review has shown interest in whether it is feasible to apply the National Classification Scheme to artworks, in all their forms, and music and other sound recordings, such as audiobooks **before** they are open to the public.

If the Review proposes extending the classification scheme to include the work of artists, arts organisations, musicians, and musical societies, the Council is seriously concerned that such a system would impose a completely unnecessary level of censorship and control over the work of artists.

The Council strongly encourages you to reconsider the scope of the Review in the context of its implications to Australian artists, arts organisations and Australian audiences and move to clarify the context so as to alleviate any such concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sue Willis, President