

CI 76 Eric Jones

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Dear Sir/Madam,

In making this submission I am simply going to answer as many of your 29 Questions as possible by reference to their number without posing the question.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Approach to the Enquiry.

Q 1.Improve elements of the existing framework.

Why classify and regulate content?

Q 2.To be able to inform parents and consumers of the materials content.

Prevention of harm to children from sexualisation/sexual manipulation or exposure to violent material.

Prevent women from being demeaned.

Cause unreasonable offence to peoples beliefs - political, social and religious.

What content should be classified and regulated?

Q 3. Yes. The platform could provide the gate for the standards.

Q 4. Ideally all should be classified in the general sense. However, where substantial complaints have been made in an area the classification should be reviewed to, perhaps be reclassified to the prevailing standard or to see that it meets what the general community wants.

Q 5. Yes and Yes. A comprehensive approach is required in both areas.

Q 6. The potential market reach of the material should be classified.

Q 7.Artistic merit should not apply where the depiction of the sexual or violent exploitation of children is involved. Even to the extent of it being offensive. In essence such material should be refused classification.

Q 8. Yes. Some music lyrics have demeaned women.

Q 9. Yes.

Q 10. No.

Q 11. National security. Terrorist matters. The moral health of our society.

How should access to content be controlled?

Q 12. Platform base (Mandatory filtering of internet content at the ISP level of RC, X18+ or R18+. Opt-in access to R18+ could have with it a process for age verification.) together with parental home control systems for parents to screen out material that gets through.

Q 13. Stopped at platform level and better parental control. Better education for parents in this regard.

Q 14. A full cover for the magazines which shows only the magazines name combined with storage of such items under the counter of outlets. Children should not have access to such an area.

Q 15. At all stages of access. People should not be offended by inappropriate material being accessed without understanding or receiving information on classifications.

Who should classify and regulate content?

Q 16. Upgrade powers of Classification board to regulate, review and enforce standards. Have appropriate legal powers combined with firstly a strong consultative approach with the general public and the industry.

Q 17. Not able to fully answer this but I tend to think, if I am correct, that the present "defacto" self-regulation (in effect) does not work. A stronger role for a government body is required.

Q 18. If this is accepted only the mundane and uncontroversial.

Classification fees.

Q 19. No. It is a production cost.

Classification categories and criteria.

Q 20. Not always.

Q 21. The X18+ category for films should be abolished. Films containing explicit depiction of sexual acts should be refused classification. Such films exploit and demean woman. They have been associated with sexual abuse and the sexualisation of children.

No R18+ classification for computer games because of the violence associated with them.

Otherwise, generally, I think the other classifications should remain.

Q 22. Interaction and dialogue with media outlets to standardise approach with a reserve power for the government body to act subject to jurisdiction powers.

Q 23. Yes, provided there is no change in the overall effective power content in the consolidation process.

Refused Classification category.

Q 24. RC, X18 + or R18+ should be prohibited to the general user. Opt-in access to R18+ could be provided, subject to age verification process.

Q 25. I tend to think not.

Reform of the cooperative scheme.

Q 26. Yes, by government cooperative federalism through the COAG process. Attorney-General Standing Committee COAG.

Q 27. No comment.

Q 28. No. A split of powers is healthier for the citizens of our Commonwealth. Legislation should be by co-operation between the Commonwealth and the States.

Other issues.

Q 29. Overall generalisation. The guidelines need to be tightened.

Comment. I am not aware of the penalties and powers of the Classification Board but I suspect that they would, in all probability, be pretty weak. If this is so perhaps this area needs to be improved.

Eric Jones