CI 1133 G Calilhanna

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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?

There appears to be a move to lessen the grade of films that may require an R rating to an MA rating. If there is explicit sexual content then it should go to an R rating. I think we are losing this perspective. Black Swan would be a good example.

Why classify and regulate content?

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

Protection of children and the dignity of human beings. If you set a standard of classification then stick to it and do not find 'justifications' for relaxing these standards. Also, if something is PG then make it clearer for parents why this is so. I do not want my children having nightmares, or other disturbances, from not being able to identify something that may cause this that I could have easily.

If anything violates these standards then prevent it from circulating.

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 exemptions. Games where a player can beat up prostitutes – Grand Theft Auto – should certainly receive a higher classification, but I would suggest in this case, that versions without this kind of content be permitted only.

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

Impractical. How could you separate it from the rest? Unless you remove it, it will effect the whole product.

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

Yes and Yes.

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, this would mean that niche distributers could move their products through "under the radar".

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

Any artwork that utlises children in a way which exploits them, sexualises them or is offensive must have classification refused. We should have a no tolerance policy here.

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

Yes. That which advocates rape, other forms of sexual exploitation, murder, should not escape classification depending upon the medium. Again, refusing classification must be pursued here.

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?

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?

Mandatory filtering of internet content at the ISP level to exclude all material classified RC, X18+ or R18+. Opt-in access to R18+ could occur depending upon verification of age

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

Developing standards for more effective screening packages for parents and this encouraged by the Government.

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

All publications classified as *Restricted* (R) should only be allowed to be sold in a separate area which children are not permitted to enter.

Legal protections for agents who object to selling such content, i.e. from bullying and intimidation by suppliers, is also necessary.

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

When being sold

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?

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?

If so it must be enforceable.

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

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

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

MA+ - comes across as not that bad/problematic, but it can be.

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?

The existing classification categories should remain, apart from the X18+ category for films which should be abolished. Films containing explicit depictions of sexual acts should be Refused Classification, as they exploit and demean women. They have been implicated in the sexual abuse and premature sexualisation of children.

• No R18+ classification should be introduced for computer games, because the violence in these games is associated with an increase in violent attitudes and behaviour.

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?

Clear explanation on nominated government website which the classifications themselves should point the user towards

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?

A single authoritative guide would be clearer and more effective in principle

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

Access to all material that would be classified RC, X18+ or R18+ should be prohibited to the general user. Opt-in access to R18+ could be provided, subject to strict age verification procedures.

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

Reform of the cooperative scheme

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

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

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?

Other issues

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

Gerard Calilhanna