

The Executive Director
Australian Law Reform Commission
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The logo for Melbourne Fringe, featuring the text "Melbourne Fringe" in a sans-serif font. To the right of the text are several colorful, geometric shapes resembling folded paper or origami, in shades of blue, yellow, and red.

Melbourne
Fringe

Friday, 15 July 2011

**SUBMISSION: NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SCHEME REVIEW
AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION**

I welcome the opportunity to contribute to this review.

Melbourne Fringe is the leading organisation for the independent arts in Victoria. We facilitate the presentation of contemporary work across all artforms. Our artistic program gives both emerging and established artists opportunities to gain diverse professional skills and present new work. The 2010 Melbourne Fringe Festival presented the work of 3,989 artists in 331 shows, presented at 132 venues and locations across Victoria, to audiences of 459,003. This generated \$21.4m in total expenditure, as independently assessed by EconSearch. Melbourne Fringe is pivotal to the success and the sustainability of the independent arts community who make Victoria the state of the arts.

I wholly endorse the Arts Law Australia submission to this review, and I make the following additional contributions from the Melbourne Fringe perspective:

- No classification scheme for artworks is necessary. There is no identified need in the sector to which such classification would be responding; there are no problematic gaps among the existing publication classification schemes; there are existing criminal codes in place which adequately safeguard against child pornography.
- It would be unfortunate – and detrimental to the quality of the National Classification Scheme – if any significant changes were to be precipitated by the disproportionate media response to the reception of Bill Henson’s 2008 exhibition at Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery;
- It would be a matter of serious concern if Australia were to breach Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which we are a signatory: “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.”
- It would be a matter of serious concern if Australia were to breach the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, to which we are a signatory.

I look forward to an outcome which is truly reflective of the nature of arts practice today, as well as the complexity of our mediatised environment and the informed choices made by Australians. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Esther Anatolitis".

ESTHER ANATOLITIS CEO