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CI 1242

First name:*

Andrew

Last name: *

Herron

QUESTIONS

Please answer as many or as few of these questions as you wish. There is a space at the bottom of this page to provide any additional comments, and/or upload supporting files or a pre-prepared submission.

Q1:

In this Inquiry, should the ALRC focus on developing a new framework for classification, or improving key elements of the existing framework?

Improving the existing framework.

Q2:

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

To provide a more complete range of classifications that allow the release of adult-oriented content in an appropriate classification category.

Q3:

Should the technology or platform used to access content affect whether content should be classified, and, if so, why?

In general, no. See Q6 for a more detailed response.

Q4:

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

No. While I believe parents should be the gatekeepers to content their children are exposed to, that would be very difficult to achieve if content was released by default and only classified after complaints are lodged.

Q5:

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

Yes.

Q6:

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?

Yes. I believe that classifying mobile applications will put an unnecessary burden on application developers to the detriment of mobile application stores in Australia (eg Apple iPhone app store, Android marketplace). These devices have two advantages:

- * The manufacturers (Apple/Google) provide their own classification requirements
- * The devices themselves make it easy to completely prevent the purchase of adult material (unlike a retail store where a human element is involved).

Q7:

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

Yes.

Q8:

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

Yes.

Q9:

Should the potential size and composition of the audience affect whether content should be classified?

No.

Q10:

Should the fact that content is accessed in public or at home affect whether it should be classified?

No.

Q11:

In addition to the factors considered above, what other factors should influence whether content should be classified?

Q12:

What are the most effective methods of controlling access to online content, access to which would be restricted under the National Classification Scheme?

There are none.

Q13:

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

Educating Parents.

Q14:

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

Perhaps tighter control over retail distribution? Or placement in retail stores?

Q15:

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

Content should not. The packaging should.

Q16:

What should be the respective roles of government agencies, industry bodies and users in the regulation of content?

Controlling offline distribution, and Education of the public about online distribution. Attempting to control online distribution is unviable and a fool's game.

Q17:

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?

For mobile gaming, I think that's a great idea. I think the current classification board for movies, games etc is fine; the levels of classification are the problem.

Q18:

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

That's a pretty ambiguous question. I could be here all day.

Q19:

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

I would like to see independent content of all types subsidised. There are a lot of independents in games, for example, that produce wonderful experiences.

Q20:

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

MA15+ is confusing to me. There are a lot of games that wind up squeezed into that category when they are clearly intended for adults; but that's the highest rating we have. The classification board lets far too many games into this category.

Q21:

Is there a need for new classification categories and, if so, what are they? Should any existing classification categories be removed or merged?

We need an R18+ rating for games. Urgently. I don't want to see adult games released to 15 year olds, which is the situation we're forced into today. I do however want to play these games.

Q22:

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?

Classification isn't consistent across movies and games, so that would be a great place to start.

Q23:

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.

Q24:

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

There are many things I wish I'd never seen on the internet. But I don't think you can stop me finding them, no matter how hard you try. It's a waste of taxpayer money.

Q25:

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

Absolutely not. It's far too broad.

Q26:

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

I believe classification is a national issue, so yes they should be consistent. I'm not sure what you mean by "promoted" though.

Q27:

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

One that is consistent across all forms of media. The interpretations of each rating level can be different for each type of media, but all forms of media should have access to the same levels.

Q28:

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?

I believe that's a good idea.

Q29:

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

I think I'm out of time, so I can't elaborate. Sorry.

Other comments:

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