

CI 1971 E Burdinat

First name: Evelyn

Last name: Burdinat

Q1:

Develop a new framework - this will help to eliminate inconsistencies across the broad range of different media that are present in the existing framework.

Q2:

Not treating the public with contempt. That is, people must be aware of the sort of content being made available to them but have the capacity to choose for themselves whether to subject themselves to it. Certain protections must be continued to prevent exploitation: that is, maintain a blanket ban on child pornography, bestiality and public display or broadcast of any content deemed unsuitable for minors.

Fairness for all advertising bodies and their audiences. Consistency of classification across all types of media.

Q3:

It is impossible to police everything - the resources simply do not exist. Rather, it would be more sensible to make consumers aware of the classification of content before it is viewed and allow them to make their own decision on whether or not to access such content.

Q4:

Not at all. It is impossible to please everybody and many people have varying degrees of what constitutes distasteful, offensive or otherwise objectionable material. Complaints certainly must be investigated but a complaint alone is no reason to apply or change a classification on some particular content. For example, recently there were complaints made about a "Rip and Roll" advertising campaign in Queensland. The complaints were unfounded yet the advertisements were removed until a counter-protest saw them reinstated.

Q5:

Absolutely not. People *become* offended - content on its own does not offend. This is because, as humans, we apply meaning to things whether they were intended to have meaning or not. Every person will apply their own meaning to content, whether that be the content is offensive or otherwise. Content designed for children must be subject to review to ensure the safety of children however, once reviewed, the content must be classified in the most appropriate way.

Q6:

Absolutely not. In the interests of a free trading society both advertisers and consumers must be treated with absolute fairness.

Q7:

Art must have the same classification applied as to any other media. Making exceptions for one medium would imply making exemptions for all other media.

Q8:

Yes. Making exceptions for one medium would imply making exemptions for all other media.

Q9:

Classifications exist to restrict content to certain ranges of age and to inform audiences of the nature of the content. The classifications on content need to reflect these two things: 1) Whether or not the content is suitable for viewing by a certain maximum age or for adults-only versus adults and children; 2) What kind of content is being classified as a way to inform the potential audience of the content. The audience itself can therefore decide for itself, within reason, whether the classification of the content makes that content appropriate for that audience on an individual, case-by-case basis and adults able to make an informed decision as to whether minors may view be audience to such content.

Q10:

Never. The person accessing the content must be responsible for the audience of the content - that is, if a person is displaying content suitable to adults then they must, with reasonable effort, take precautions to ensure that there are no minors in the audience.

Q11:

The proportionate size and demographic of complainants within the projected audience. A fairly narrow demographic or significantly small proportion of the audience would be reasonable grounds to investigate a complaint but not enough on its own to influence the classification of content.

Q12:

Educating parents, places of education and places of business in dangers inherent in online content and methods that could be used to control access to such content. Under no circumstances is it reasonable or just to censor the public, without their knowledge and consent, from accessing online material.

Q13:

Educating parents and legal guardians in methods to teach their children to responsibly access online content. Nearly all web browsers feature built-in content filtering that can be enabled on an as-needed basis which would allow access control at a local level for parents and guardians of children to set to filter content accordingly. Alternatively, relatively inexpensive software can be purchased and installed - such as "Net Nanny" - that allows the same level or better control of content.

The most important thing to remember is that, by making people aware through education and advertising, they can easily be responsible for the safety of their child(ren) online by complying to very simple, straightforward practises.

Q14:

It is possible that such magazines could be made available in adult-restricted premises, such as adult-only stores. Newsagents, libraries and other facilities that hold such content may need to restrict it to a locked section that may be opened upon request by an appropriate adult.

Q15:

Art exhibitions/galleries: outside the gallery and on tickets where available.

Films, books, music: on advertisements and media covers with a brief message before the main feature that describes the nature of the content.

Television and live performances: on advertisements with a brief message before the main feature as appropriate. At the box office and on tickets where appropriate. (That is, seeing a live performance that is well known to contain mature content needs no announcement message before the feature if it

is implied.)

Online: In the interest of protecting minors, any title page for online content must contain an advisory to the audience if it contains content of a mature nature, where access to such content is restricted or limited if the title page is bypassed or authorisation for consent of age is not provided. The title page must act as a gateway to access the content. Without a certified age or identity verification system, as such a feature is not always available or viable, access to content would need to be based on an honesty system whereby a user explicitly consents to abide by the terms and conditions of the site and in accordance with their local laws and provides that consent by using an active verification system such as CAPTCHA or selecting a check box and clicking a "yes" or "no" button.

Q16:

Government agencies check standards and investigate complaints.

Industry bodies produce content that is classified according to the defined standards.

Users alert government agencies and/or industry bodies in cases of possible non-adherence to those standards.

Q17:

Yes. The industries themselves are more in touch with their consumer base and statistics relating to the material that they produce.

Q18:

There is no federal standard for certain types of material that covers all state acts. The MA15 rating on video games means that many video games never reach the consumer if they warranted instead an R18 category rating. X rated material is particularly confusing as certain types of content may be Refused Classification due to arbitrary descriptions of what kinds of material may be considered inappropriate or offensive and because the classification of X rated material varies by state and territory and federally.

Q19:

Unsure. Subsidies are useful in that they can help to promote a wider and newer range of business and organisations, thus providing some competitive benefit against larger and more well established businesses and organisations. However, subsidies may be construed as unfair given equality between the scale of business or organisation when considering all other factors being equal.

Q20:

All existing classification categories are generally understood. The problem appears to be that some classifications are awarded arbitrarily, in terms of different standards for "Low Level [content type]" versus Medium and High Level content.

Q21:

Existing classification categories could perhaps be simplified. M15 and MA15 seem that they could be merged since PG is grounds enough for an M15 classification.

Q22:

Forming a framework of standards that describe the classification markings so that industry can adhere to those standards using the framework provided.

Q23:

It should be removed entirely and brand new criteria considered.

Q24:

It is difficult to police everything available on the Internet. Most content that is accessible on the World Wide Web is a very small proportion of all the content that is available through other means of access, from traditional Gopher, News Groups and Bulletin Boards to newer methods such as P2P, Torrents and other methods - which make up the majority of content. In essence, content is not to be filtered as it takes away the presumption of innocence from anybody accessing online content. This is a grossly unconstitutional action.

Q25:

No. The Refused Classification only prevents people without adequate means from accessing the content anyway. Any person with the right tools and/or knowledge can still access such content.

Also note that content that has been put in the RC category is not necessarily fairly judged as such: for instance, certain types of content are classified on the grounds of being "morally" objectionable but there seems to be no standard to which these morals are compared against and morals are different from person to person. Additionally, Some content that was previously RC may no longer be considered objectionable by today's standards.

Q26:

Consistency is greatly important. Persons travelling or relocating between states must enjoy the same classification of content from one state or territory to another.

Q27:

One that is fair for all residents in Australia. One that has consistency right around the country. One that makes content accessible for people to access responsibly at their own discretion. One that provides methods for people to become educated in the scheme and educated in how to provide protections for children in regard to accessing content.

Q28:

Yes.

Q29:

Regulation by an impartial body, including the removal of any and all religious influence from the regulating body. Ethical treatment of the framework would be more desirable than moral treatment in regard to material.

Other comments: