

CI 403 A Creek

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Q1:

Improve key elements while expanding all classification ratings to further cover all age groups in the video game medium.

Q2:

For the benefit of adults to read/watch/play what they deem fit for their own education, purpose, consumption and entertainment. Classification not to be used for the purpose of censorship and Internet filters.

Make adults fully aware of the content so that even the youngest child is adequately protected from concepts and visual images that are beyond their understanding.

Q3:

Yes. Content should be classified for education and advice purposes only. To help prevent minors from being exposed to adult themes and images. Depending on how readily accessible the content is able to be viewed. Cover/First page of book, opening scene of movie/video game.

The internet should be above all forms of censorship and classification as a medium. For the purposes of access to education materials on all topics.

Q4:

Yes, due to technology and the speed at which content can be generated and sold now that this would place extra work and undue pressures on the Classification Board. A self/co-regulatory approach seeking advice from the Classification board on sticking points would be better especially in regards to games and applications created for mobile mediums and the internet.

Q5:

a)Yes. b)No

Q6:

No. However when it comes to the Internet and the size of the amount of content found within there should be care taken towards attempting to censor/classify or filter content.

Q7:

Restricting access no. Consumer advice yes. It should always come down to a legal guardian's consent for minors to view or not view material based on their first hand knowledge of the minor and whether they have the ability to understand the context and content.

Q8:

No. Consumer advice should always be given however.

Q9:

No.

Q10:

Yes, private viewing and education is exactly that. Public viewing needs to

Q11:

Q12:

There is none. There will always be a method of circumventing filters and blocked content. For people who have committed sexual criminal offences or who have been flagged as mentally ill or seeking ongoing treatment, maybe they should have a hardware based filter hardwired to their internet line of communications at their cost. Till such time that they have their illness adequately managed and notorised by a suitable member of authority in their individual case.

Q13:

We have a service that is available to all now and its free. Parental Supervision.

Parents who cannot supervise should purchase a suitable hardware based filter that cannot be circumvented by physical or software means.

Educated adult supervision. Education on the uses of computers how easy it is to be duped into infection of said pc with trojan and spyware which more causes hijacking of browsers and popups with inappropriate content.

Unless key words, which aren't usually used in childrens vocabulary, are typed into search engines the chances of stumbling across inappropriate content aren't that high. Google even provide a kid friendly search engine. So education is the key.

Q14:

I think the current format of blacked out/plain label covers is doing a good enough job as it is.

Q15:

Anything that contains shock values, with severe bodily trauma, violence or sexual in nature and Adult themes. I would suggest all entertainment has the necessary markings, warnings and consumer advice to best educate adults (particularly parents and guardians) as to what they are about to purchase.

Q16:

Government = to suitably research and set legislation that allows Adults to entertain themselves how they see fit without bringing harm to others. Also to enforce laws upon those in breach of criminal legislation.

Industry bodies have shown in other countries to be able to self regulate with reccomendations from non-enforced classification boards. I

think that they (publishers) should bear the majority of the burden with the amount of content created per annum, even independent

developers should shoulder the responsibility of adequately classifying their product due to the ability and ready availability to sell cheap applications and games.

Users should be able to make recommendations and have an impact on classification if something is wrongly classified whether too heavy or lightly.

Q17:

Yes. Considering the amount of content created per annum and ongoing increase of speed and ease in which content is created.

Q18:

Content targeted for children Under 12.

Anything containing Violence or Sexual in nature and other content not suitable for minors.

Some adult themes can be suitable discussion material for the more mature teenagers however co-regulation and consulting with the classification board will help procure a rating suitable for the teenage bracket.

Q19:

Yes. However there wouldn't be a need if a more co-regulatory approach with advice from the classification board was taken up. Content creators generally know what their target audience is at the start. If they feel that their vision has changed during the course of production then they should seek advice on the final product.

Q20:

I feel M and MA are too close in how they are interpreted by some parents. Between PG, M and MA there is a lot of room for misinterpretation. Some parents take a near enough is good enough approach. With current games such as Splatter House they can be potentially be played by 14 year olds. When clearly the content is aimed at Adult consumers. 17 compared to 14 is a big difference in the way some people raise their kids.

In fact what exactly is M for again?

Q21:

There should be clearly defined standard classification categories across all content. Where classifications do not currently exist for certain media should be implemented.

Maybe a change for the MA15+ to a R15 minor to be accompanied by an adult for purchase. More so to distinguish the difference between M and MA. If still too ambiguous with R18+ then, change the R to an A18+/AO or something similar to denote unequivocally Adult Only.

Q22:

R15 minor to be accompanied by an adult for purchase using the typical diamond surround.
AO18+.

All logos should have clash colours, that deliberately make them stand out against covers designed to remove the obviousness of or take away the impact of the rating.

If the "MA15+" logo is on a dark or predominantly red cover design then use a fluorescent colours to make it stand out. It is just a matter for the printer/designers to follow correct law when applying logos. Should the products be of parallel import origin then up to point of sale to apply appropriate stickers.

Q23:

Emphatic YES! for the purpose of uniform classification categories across all media.

Q24:

None. Criminal undertakings will not be hampered by classification legislation. If anything driving it further underground and making it harder for investigations to be successful. One could argue that the entire Internet could be classed as an education source. All it will do is make society ignorant to the ills of man globally and locally.

Q25:

No. As there are a number of issues that are currently RC that goes against civil liberty viewpoints such as euthanasia. Adults should be allowed to educate themselves on all aspects of life and death. RC should not now or ever be associated with illegal media and content. What it should be is a list of media that doesn't fall within any of the classification guidelines and down to the Mature Adult to undertake their own decisions whether they wish to view that material or not.

Illegal content such as child porn should be kept in the realm of the law and never a suggestion for submission to the classification board.

The myth that RC material is illegal is wrong. And continuing to trot it out as a reason to implement the filter is disingenuous and intellectually offensive.

Let's clarify this, shall we?

Without question, and obviously, child sexual abuse material is 100 per cent illegal in Australia. Quite rightly. But such material is not RC, it's simply illegal. They are two very different things.

Currently It is illegal to sell RC material in, say, a newsagent. It's also illegal to make it available for viewing publicly.

But it's not by any means illegal for me to own or possess these things myself and view them in the comfort of my own lounge room. It's quite legal, for example, for me to own and view (or read, or listen to):

- An RC film, TV program or other video such as Ken Park or Baise Moi;
- Material on euthanasia such as The Peaceful Pill Handbook;
- Material that instructs on bomb-making, theft or any other crime.

Now, sure, some of these things are distasteful to many people. Even offensive. Or morally problematic. And they are all refused classification.

But they are not illegal.

Q26:

Only in that states should not be able to effectively ban categories laid down by federal government, nor change guidelines to suit their own views in their "kingdom".

Q27:

One that is aimed more at consumer advice and education. One that is enforceable upon retail outlets for selling inappropriate content to

consumers outside the classification recommendations. One that classification category guidelines are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in societies views. Refused Classification material list to be reviewed every 10 years to see if content is more mainstream and acceptable by society.

One that allows Users to actively view contentious matter online (in context), pass judgement/voting on said matter, via a secure web

connection, not anonymously. When a complaint is made, allow a review to be conducted with a peer group including a "Jury" from a selection of the public to cast their vote and opinions.

One that does not encompass any form of illegal content as that is handled by the law and the courts.

Q28:

Yes. A consensus between States is becoming evidently harder to come to, for the benefit of a National populace (as States are generally out to get the best deal for themselves) it is also endorsed by party policy rather than a educated common sensical viewpoint and the will of the people. Unless it is deemed a vote winner.

Q29:

Other comments:

The main thing I would like to see implemented is classification categories, that reflect the bulk of societies values. Categories that are consistent in guidelines across the board. Adult ratings for movies is more than able to cover video games.

I have personally found that interactivity is not the issue when it comes to impact of video games but how personal the experience is. Video game cut scenes have a much larger impact after becoming emotionally invested in a character, yet actually performing a particular role does not make one want to emulate that role any more or less away from the controls of the game. Recent study actually suggests that by partaking in games there is less likelihood of emulation than when just viewing said

actions. The brain seems to perceive that it has enacted the activity already even if not reality based and when the controls are put down people are ready to do other tasks.

Keep the internet the way it was intended when created, FREE from censorship and filters. That begins and ends in the home with Adults. Fund the AFP and other arms of the law better so as to maintain stances against actual Illegal content, not content that is found outside the scope of classification guidelines but within the confines of the law.

Anything that is RC is not illegal to obtain, own nor peruse. It is not even down to the fact that it is unsuitable for people to watch. There is content on the RC list that just fell out of current guidelines ie Video Games without an actual rating and guidelines for Adult content had no-where to be put but the RC.

Just because it has content that cannot be classified it should not be made illegal nor restricted access to via means of a filter.