

CI 420 A Meakin

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Q1:

Key elements need to be improved, the basic concept of the classification system is good, but it needs to be made more consistent across different forms of media, and comparable to similar international classification systems (particularly as media is now commonly distributed internationally)

Q2:

To give easily understandable content information on media to allow adults to make informed decisions on their own viewing and that of their children, while not restricting or impeding consenting adults from accessing media with higher classification should they wish to access it.

Q3:

No, I firmly believe that topics such as violence and sexuality can be as confronting and potentially distressing to or inappropriate for children in a novel or artwork as in a movie or video game. A great deal can depend on how such topics are presented, for example I would be considerably more concerned (with regards to viewing by a child) about a vividly described sexual encounter in an easily available Mills and Boone novel than I would about a brief glimpse of woman's naked body in a shower scene in a movie. Or about the infamous artworks involving dissected human cadavers cast in resin than the cartoonish violence in a fighting video game such as Super Smash Brothers on Wii. There is no reason that any one media platform should be exempt from classification of mature content.

Q4:

Yes, it seems perfectly reasonable that media items not containing content potentially unsuitable for children should not require classification unless it is the subject of a complaint. This should however be based on the content and topic of the media, not an exemption for a particular media platform such as novels or music.

Q5:

Yes, the potential impact of content is of particular importance. A World War 2 documentary for example, showing archive images of concentration camps, horrific injuries and mass graves may have far greater impact than the battle scenes of a video game such as Modern Warfare 2, despite the video game being more visually detailed.

Q6:

Yes, for two reasons. First, small producers and distributors may not easily afford any associated costs of acquiring classification, the creativity of less financed publishers and individuals should not be blockaded by the cost of classification. Second, media items with small distribution and market are

much less likely to cause complaint for inappropriateness simply due to limited exposure.

However, responsible distribution of media should still be expected of small producers and distributors, responsible self-classification could be encouraged in this circumstance.

Q7:

Yes, if artwork could be reasonably believed to be disturbing to some children, or rejected by parents for viewing by their children, then the exhibition should receive classification.

Q8:

Yes, absolutely. There are countless examples in music of songs that glorify binge drinking, promiscuity, drug use and violence. Parents should be able to make informed decisions on music on behalf of their children as much as for any other form of media, as well be able to regulate their children's access to unsuitable music without parental consent.

Q9:

No, it can sometimes be difficult to accurately anticipate the size and composition of an audience. For example, the recent documented popularity of My Little Pony (a cartoon aimed at young girls) with middle aged men, known as Bronies. Reference: <http://www.wired.com/underwire/2011/06/bronies-my-little-ponys/>

Q10:

No. With mobile digital devices, more and more content can now be accessed anywhere.

Q11:

Q12:

Access to online content should not be controlled for adults (beyond illegal web content), but internet service providers could offer opt-in content restrictions on individual user accounts (perhaps at different classification levels) to enable parents to make use of filtering if they choose. End user software such as Net Nanny would not be as effective as many parents would be unable to utilise it effectively, and it could more easily be circumvented by technologically skilled teenagers.

Q13:

Enable parents and schools to voluntarily opt in to have household internet content filtered by their internet service provider.

Q14:

Q15:

All content that a reasonable adult might wish to restrict their children from viewing should be required to display full classification information.

Q16:

Q17:

Yes, with clear enough guidelines, producers would be able to self-classify easily and costs of classification could be significantly reduced for both parties. Current arrangements are time consuming, convoluted, subjective and inconsistent among different media forms.

Q18:

With clear guidelines, most content should be able to be classified by the industry itself (with government agencies providing enforcement of responsible and correct self-classifying) The only content that should need government classification are particularly high impact content, and content without comparable precedent (due to developing new visual styles or technology)

Q19:

In small scale or independant productions, and for non-profit or charitable purposes.

Q20:

I believe the current classification categories are well understood in the community, confusion that exists comes from inconsistency between media forms (such as the absence of an R 18+ rating for video games.)

Q21:

The classifications categories applied to Australian film are already well known and understood. They function well and I think the best course is to bring other media such as music, literature and video games into line with film classification categories.

Q22:

Q23:

Yes, there should be a consolidated classification criteria for all forms of media.

Q24:

Depiction, facilitation or promotion of serious criminal activity such as paedophilia and sexual or violent crime.

Q25:

Q26:

Consistency is important between states and territories

Q27:

A national classification scheme is needed, it should maximise content information and enable restriction of unsuitable content to children, but minimise restrictions and barriers to adults' access to content.

Q28:

Yes, this is essential to achieve and maintain consistency in the long term.

Q29:

Other comments:

This opportunity for submission needed to be better marketed. I feel that many people interested in making a submission will have missed out simply by not being aware of it, this is how the majority gets shouted down by a more vocal and active minority that opposes classification reform.