

CI 574 H Vikram

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Q1:

Standardise the framework across all forms of media. Just look the recent decision in the US in regards to video games. Video games are considered to be an art form and should be treated as such.

Q2:

To inform people about suitability of material based not only on age but on level of maturity. Eg. There are some 14 year old children who can handle content that other 14 year old children cannot. It all depends on the child's level of maturity and the parenting they have received (amongst other things).

i.e. Ratings should act as appropriate guidelines to the content but should NOT restrict access to the content.

Q3:

No.

Q4:

No.

Q5:

No. Judging potential impact is subjective. A classification scheme needs to be objective.

Yes. Content designed for children should be classified across all media.

Q6:

No.

Q7:

Classification for providing consumer advice but not restricting access. Access to artworks, as always, should be determined based on the consumer advice (i.e. the person or their parent/guardian will choose whether or not it is appropriate).

Q8:

Of course. Again - ratings should be a way to provide guidelines to consumers. Not restrict access.

Q9:

No.

Q10:

No.

Q11:

N/A.

Q12:

This is a loaded question. Really - what you should be asking is how can we better educate the public as to what type of information is available online and the best approach to it. i.e. Do not restrict or control access to content. Instead, for example, educate parents by telling them - if they are not particularly knowledgeable about technology - that things like a computer and a tv should not be

placed in a child's room. They should be placed in a public place until the age of 18 OR the parents believe their child is mature enough and understands the medium.

The National Classification Scheme should not take on the responsibility of parenting children. That is the parents responsibility and they need to learn to accept that.

Q13:

Again - like I said in Q12 - not the role of the Scheme. It is up to the parent so educating parents is the best way forward.

Q14:

Really? Don't you care about violence (i.e. explosions, etc.)? Why are we so happy for everyone to be exposed to fighting, explosions and the like and yet for something that is naturally human - i.e. sex - we are suddenly averse and shy to it? Emotion, love, intimacy and sex should be allowed in the public domain. It is by hiding it that we have issues with STDs and the like because we just don't discuss it enough for people to be properly educated. Instead - we let the Church dictate what is acceptable. This is a wrong move.

So, to answer the questions, it cannot and should not be better controlled. Guidelines as to what is contained is fine but beyond that is entering dangerous territory and setting a precedent about control of any type of content.

Q15:

All the time. Best guideline we have.

Q16:

Again - you are talking about regulation of content. There should be no role in this. If you value freedom of speech and freedom of expression then the answer is there is no role.

What they should do is educate, inform and provide guidelines. That's it.

Q17:

Yes - to a point. If the industry is allowed a good set of ratings (e.g. R18+ rating on video games would be a damn good start) then it is more than likely they will rate their games accordingly. Of course these to do this they need to be provided with a clear set of standards as to what gets which rating.

However - this should also be double checked by the appropriate government body so there is agreement as to the rating for the content.

Q18:

R18+ rating on video games is so bleeding obvious to everybody else in the world I wonder why it hasn't hit our shores yet. Don't take responsibility for bad parenting skills. Educate parents and provide guidelines. Not allowing R18+ games on the premise it will expose children to content is such a stupid argument when it is well known that all it would do is allow a lot of games currently rated MA15+ or M to be re-rated to 18+ (as they should be).

Again - it is up to the parent to determine whether or not their child has the maturity to play a game.  
Stop trying to create lazy parents.

Q19:

None. Never.

Q20:

The M/MA15+ tend to cause confusion. Plus the PG rating is a farce. However - since there is no standardisation across all forms - there is confusion as to why things do not get an R18+ rating as well.

Again - rating does not mean restricting access. It just is meant to give a guideline as to the content.

Q21:

Yes. Merge PG with M and make R18+ ratings standard. So we need to have G, M, MA15+, and R18+. I would also like an X category but there has been enough challenge with trying to get R18+ through I think it will be years before Australia comes out of the dark ages with its classification system.

Q22:

Applying the same system across the board should stop the confusion. Isn't it obvious? Guess not.

Q23:

Yes. Yes. Yes.

Q24:

Child pornography is the obvious one but also images of rape (or anything without consent), etc.

However - it does depend on context. Documentaries or educational products about the above should NOT be prohibited. Also - remove the prohibition of female ejaculation. That is just silly to have on there.

It does need to be made a lot clearer though.

Q25:

No. RC does not mean illegal. I hate this argument and that our politicians can't see this. This is what scares me about Conroy's proposed filter - he wants to filter out content that is not only prohibited (i.e. illegal) but also RC (which is not illegal). Sigh.

Q26:

Yes. We need one, national, classification law. Stop this state and territory crap. Its causing enough issues with our education and health systems.

Also - having the requirement that ALL AG's agree is unconstitutional. What happened to majority rules? How can one vote negate the whole process? Can you image if that was the case with our elections? Seriously. Stop this silly rule now.

Q27:

Something that doesn't require the agreement of all AG's but instead the majority.

Q28:

Yes. Content is global and hence national. Not state based.

Q29:

R18+ rating for video games would be a good start. How about you focus on that first?

Other comments: