

**The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) is conducting a review of the classification system for films, computer games and publications.**

**List of Questions My responses are given in red**

**Approach to the Inquiry**

**Question 1.** In this Inquiry, should the ALRC focus on developing a new framework for classification, or improving key elements of the existing framework?

**Why classify and regulate content?**

**Question 2.** What should be the primary objectives of a national classification scheme?

Give consumers and parents accurate information about the nature of the classified material and to protect children from unsuitable material.

**What content should be classified and regulated?**

**Question 3.** Should the technology or platform used to access content affect whether content should be classified, and, if so, why?

All content should be classified since it is too easy to transfer from one media/platform to another

**Question 4.** Should some content only be required to be classified if the content has been the subject of a complaint?

All media/content should be classified.

**Question 5.** Should the potential impact of content affect whether it should be classified? Should content designed for children be classified across all media?

There should be one simple universal Classification System to be applied across all media

**Question 6.** 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?

No. All media/content should be classified.

**Question 7.** Should some artworks be required to be classified before exhibition for the purpose of restricting access or providing consumer advice?

Artwork depicting children in a manner that is exploitative or offensive, including any sexualised depictions of children, should be Refused Classification regardless of any alleged artistic merit. All other artwork should be subject to the Classification System

**Question 8.** Should music and other sound recordings (such as audio books) be classified or regulated in the same way as other content?

Yes. Music with lyrics which demean women by treating them as sexual objects have been permitted for sale in Australia, showing that the current self-regulation system for music is inadequate

**Question 9.** Should the potential size and composition of the audience affect whether content should be classified?

**No. Audience size is irrelevant**

**Question 10.** Should the fact that content is accessed in public or at home affect whether it should be classified?

**No. All material issued/imported for release in Australia must be classified**

**Question 11.** In addition to the factors considered above, what other factors should influence whether content should be classified?

**How should access to content be controlled?**

**Question 12.** What are the most effective methods of controlling access to online content, access to which would be restricted under the National Classification Scheme?

**Legislated filtering of internet content at the ISP level is the best way to exclude all material that would be classified RC, X18+ or R18+. Opt-in access to R18+ could be provided if there is age verification.**

**Question 13.** How can children's access to potentially inappropriate content be better controlled online?

**Legislated filtering of internet content at the ISP level. Households installing filtering software.**

**Question 14.** How can access to restricted offline content, such as sexually explicit magazines, be better controlled?

**All publications classified as Restricted (R) must only be allowed to be sold online or in an enclosed area which children are not permitted to enter.**

**Question 15.** When should content be required to display classification markings, warnings or consumer advice?

**For all media content rated higher than G or PG**

**Who should classify and regulate content?**

**Question 16.** What should be the respective roles of government agencies, industry bodies and users in the regulation of content?

**Question 17.** 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?

**Question 18.** What content, if any, should industry classify because the likely classification is obvious and straightforward?

**Classification fees**

**Question 19.** In what circumstances should the Government subsidise the classification of content? For example, should the classification of small independent films be subsidised?

If the media returns G or PG then govt can subsidise. For higher ratings film maker to bear full cost which will discourage them from producing such media.

### **Classification categories and criteria**

**Question 20.** Are the existing classification categories understood in the community? Which classification categories, if any, cause confusion?

No. It needs to be simplified with a G for General All Ages or PG. All other categories should have a minimum age followed by the content restriction i.e. 16 (L,N) for >16year olds (Language and Nudity). Need to limit the number of ages bands to say three 10+, 16+ and 18+

**Question 21.** Is there a need for new classification categories and, if so, what are they? Should any existing classification categories be removed or merged?

The X18+ category for films which should be abolished. No R18+ classification should be introduced for computer game – rate them RC

**Question 22.** 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?

**Question 23.** 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?

### **Refused Classification (RC) category**

**Question 24.** Access to what content, if any, should be entirely prohibited online?

RC, X18+ or R18+ should be prohibited to the general user. Opt-in access to R18+ could be provided, subject to strict age verification procedures

**Question 25.** Does the current scope of the Refused Classification (RC) category reflect the content that should be prohibited online?

A symbol in brackets should be provide i.e. (S) Sex scenes, etc

### **Reform of the cooperative scheme**

**Question 26.** Is consistency of state and territory classification laws important, and, if so, how should it be promoted?

**Question 27.** If the current Commonwealth, state and territory cooperative scheme for classification should be replaced, what legislative scheme should be introduced?

**Question 28.** 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?

### **Other issues**

**Question 29.** In what other ways might the framework for the classification of media content in Australia be improved?