

CI 97 Mrs Dorothy Soffe

Dear Sir,

Please find below my submission re possible changes to Classification Guidelines.

Question 2.

- * The views of the vocal minority should not be allowed to over-ride the normal standards of the general community.
- * Accurate information re the classified material should be readily available to parents and others who require it.
- * Distribution of material that is harmful or violates community standards should not be allowed.
- * Material which could be harmful to children or vulnerable teenagers should not be allowed to be circulated.

Question 3.

The ease of accessing any technology should affect the rigor with which the content is classified.

Question 4.

All content should be classified regardless of lack of complaints.

Question 5.

All material should be classified, with special care taken even with advertising material, when it is to be viewed by children or young people.

Question 6.

Classification should not be affected by the size or market position of the producers.

Question 7.

Any art work which depicts children or women in an exploitative or offensive manner must be classified. Regardless of any alleged artistic merit all sexualised depictions of children should be refused classification.

Question 8.

All music with lyrics, advocating violence or demeaning women or children as mere 'playthings' should be classified, as should the artwork of all CD / DVD jackets or media advertisements.

I have seen many instances of offensive material in TV adds which means that self regulation is not working.

Question 9.

The potential size and composition of the audience should not affect whether content is classified.

Question 10.

All material should be classified regardless of where it is accessed.

HOW SHOULD ACCESS TO CONTENT BE CONTROLLED?

Question 12.

I believe that mandatory filtering of internet content at the ISP level is the best way to exclude material classified 'RC', 'x18+', or 'R18+'. Possibly Opt-in access to 'R18+' material could be provided on strict age verification. Although I am not sure how this could be policed.

Question 13.

I do not know technically how to do it, but have been told that it is quite possible to 'bar' some sites eg chat rooms and pornographic sites from vulnerable children and teenagers.

Question 14.

No 'Restricted' (R) rated publication should be openly displayed or sold, in a public area.

Question 15.

All material which is not rated general (G) should display classifications and appropriate warnings.

WHO SHOULD CLASSIFY AND REGULATE CONTENT?

Question 16.

The Government should look to community feedback to tell them how to regulate in this area. Industry bodies seem unwilling or unable to regulate themselves.

Question 17.

In the past we have seen that all the media industry seem much more interested in making money and raising audience numbers than regulating what is placed before the public.

Whether in print, on radio, TV, CD or DVD the industry seems more interested in sensationalism and growing it's market share by pushing the boundaries to attract greater audiences.

CLASSIFICATION FEES.

Question 19.

Government should only subsidise material eg. quality children's programs or educational material which has been carefully vetted before and during production.

CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA.

Question 20.

I feel that many people are unsure of the differences between the classification ratings - 'M', 'MA !5+' and 'AV'.

Question 21

Because films containing explicit depictions of sexual acts and/ or violence, exploit and demean women they should be Refused Classification.

Some films have been implicated in sexual violence and even premature sexualization of children.

Apart from the 'x18+' category for films which needs to be abolished, all other classification should continue.

The proposed 'R18+' should not be introduced. The violence depicted in these games must encourage more violent attitudes and behaviour in those who play them.

REFUSED CLASSIFICATION.

Question 24.

All material that would be classified 'RC', ' x18+' and 'R18+' should be inaccessible to the general user.

Opt-in access to 'R18+' could be provided if strict age verification criteria were met.

REFORM OF THE COOPERATIVE SCHEME.

Question 26.

Consistency of state and territory laws is vital to the citizens of Australia.

Dear Sirs,

Over the last ten to twenty years there has been a very noticeable rise in the number and seriousness of violence, and also sexually motivated crimes in Australia, particularly against women and children. We have seen a steep rise in the number of attacks on defenceless victims, be they sexually or racially motivated. I feel that the constant playing of violent games and free sex is desensitising our young people to the horrific consequences of their actions. I also feel that much cyber bullying leads on from wrong values of individualism and competitiveness in these games. Surely if the classification rules are watered down, our society in the future will pay a growing price as young people feed on these baser values.

It also seems that many young people are gradually becoming so involved in playing games that other parts of their lives such as study, healthy sports and general family activities are being crowded out, which is leading on to feelings of isolation, loneliness and at times even suicide.

Yours faithfully, Mrs Dorothy Soffe,