Kids Free 2B Kids response to ALRC discussion paper on Classification.

18 November 2011

In brief:

We note the ALRC has recommended combining both Cat 1 and Cat 2 publications into one category.

KF2BK supports this concept - if the magazines are restricted to Adult only venues.

We do not support a system that allows a merger of Cat 1 and Cat 2 to be sold in the public arena.

As already commented on in our previous submission (and noted by the ALRC) there are many problems concerning the sale and display of category 1 publications including the lack of enforcement of call in notices.

We note that the state and territory police do not have a history of enforcing offences in this area - and question the accuracy of the statement in 14.33.

14.33 ... It is questionable, however, whether the AFP would choose to place any higher priority on enforcement activity in relation to more minor offences, such as the prohibited sale or display of R 18+ or X 18+ magazines or DVDs, than state and territory police currently do.

Perhaps they are 'supposed to' but they currently don't!

Many Cat 1 magazines currently sold in the public space are unclassified and 'should' be in Cat 2 or RC. If the 2 categories are merged and allowed to be sold in the public arena - it will mean be a green light for more explicit pornographic images and content on the shelves of stores that children frequent. (Milk bars, newsagents, petrol stations, 7 Eleven)

Moving all Cat 1 (and consequently unclassified, Cat 2 & RC) content from the general public to Adult only venues will remove it from children's access and view and continue to make it available to the adults who want it. It would make policing of illegal content, compliance and enforcement easier.