



Submission by the

National Association of Cinema Operators –

Australasia

Response to the

Australian Law Reform Commission’s

Discussion Paper on the

National Classification Scheme Review

The National Association of Cinema Operators - Australasia

The National Association of Cinema Operators - Australasia (NACO) is a national organisation established to act in the interests of all cinema exhibitors on “whole of industry” issues. It hosts the Australian International Movie Convention on the Gold Coast, this year in its 66th year.

NACO members include the major cinema exhibitors Amalgamated Holdings Ltd, Hoyts Cinemas Pty Ltd, Village Roadshow Ltd, Reading Cinemas Pty Ltd as well as prominent independent exhibitors Pacific Cinemas, Dendy Cinemas, Grand Cinemas, Nova Cinemas, Cineplex, Wallis Cinemas, Ace Cinemas and many other independent cinema owners.

NACO represents over 1,700 cinema screens throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific regions.

The National Classifications Scheme

NACO fully supports the spirit and intent of the National Classifications Scheme which commenced on 1 January 1996 (the Scheme); namely to provide information and guidance to the public, parents and children about the suitability of motion picture or film content.

As an industry we fully comply with the Scheme and the Classifications Act and we recognise it is in our interests to ensure our content is well understood and age appropriate.

However, NACO members struggle with ambiguities within the Scheme and the way it is governed through the Classifications, Broadcasting and Telecommunications Acts which seeks to regulate classifications and cinema exhibitor’s adherence to them.

Scope of Response to Discussion Paper

NACO has limited its response to the issues that affect or impact Cinema Exhibition.

Philosophical Support

NACO engages in regular communications with other industry associations relevant to content distribution and exhibition.

It philosophically supports submissions from the Australian Home Entertainment Distributors Association (“AHEDA”) and the Motion Picture Distributors Association