
submission to: Modernising and Harmonising Classification Standards [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From [REDACTED]
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To Reform <reform@classification.gov.au>

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OFFICIAL

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Submitted values are:

Step 1: Your submission

Remain Anonymous

No

Private Submission

No

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Short comment

I strongly agree with the concept of modernising the classification scheme to keep up with the way people consume media. The concept of consolidating the rules for all forms of media to hold them to the same standards is a good one and should clear up community confusion.

Regarding C01 I am very against the concept of a PG13 rating. I believe this would cause far more confusion as the American MPAA has a PG13 rating but their standards are invariably different to ours.

People are familiar with the current classification system here and the strong visual identity built around the icons is an undeniable asset. I strongly believe they cover the required breadth of ratings and attention should be turned to fine-tuning the content (C03, C06, C07, C08 etc.) is a better path to follow.

I feel similarly about proposal C05 to alter the MA15+ classification to MA16+. This would utterly baffled the public and lead them to think content was harsher. I still see people getting confused about M15+ and MA15+ when the former hasn't been used in over 20 years.

I think the style of the classification symbols and the current use of text is far easier for people to understand. The public is already used to it. Pivoting to icons may be obvious in some cases but with the examples of themes like suicide and sexual violence a complete iconographic system would become unwieldy and require people to consult a second source for clarification. Only listing the top 3 elements is subjective and may not be useful in all cases. Invariably people will assume

those are the ONLY classifiable elements.

There's a simplicity to the current system.

The QR code in the mock up is another confusion for those who are less competent with tech.

C03 is the strongest proposal of all. Relying on an evidence based approach rather than a moralistic one will protect people far better while also allowing adults to consume what they want - which was always the key ethos but often became complicated due to the moralistic framework.

My concern about C12 is that it will lead the bodies self classifying to go easy on themselves and start to water down the meaning of the classification, though I think it is clear it is impossible for the board to function the way it previously did for online media. It would be key to hold any self rating body to similar standards.

C08 is another excellent suggestion. As a queer person these standards have always concerned me and undoubtedly create a headache. I've read the guidelines so many times and they're completely subjective which makes it hard to understand and for the board to enforce

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