

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Reform](#)
Subject: submission to: Modernising and Harmonising Classification Standards [SEC=OFFICIAL]
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Submitted on 8 May 2026

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Step 1: Your submission

Remain Anonymous

Yes

Private Submission

No

Published name

Anonymous

Short comment

I welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed updates to Australia's Classification Guidelines.

I am a regular media consumer and, increasingly, I find that I cannot rely on Australian classification ratings alone to decide whether content is appropriate for myself or my household. In practice, I now feel compelled to consult detailed "Parents' Guides" or third-party reviews before watching films or television programs, because the classification categories no longer provide sufficient or reliable information.

A recurring concern is the treatment of explicit sexual content and nudity, which I frequently observe in content rated only M. In my view, material that includes clear nudity or explicit sexual content should at minimum be classified MA15+, or be accompanied by far clearer and more prominent consumer advice. When such content appears under an M rating, it undermines confidence in the system and makes the classification less meaningful as a decision-making tool.

This erosion of trust is particularly concerning given that one of the stated purposes of the National Classification Scheme is to help Australians make informed choices and avoid unwanted exposure to material they may find offensive or unsuitable. Where classifications feel overly permissive or inconsistent with community expectations, consumers are pushed to external sources to obtain the clarity the system itself should provide.

I strongly support proposals to:

- place greater emphasis on potential harm and audience impact, rather than abstract or moral judgements
- improve clarity and consistency in consumer advice, especially for sexual content, nudity, and other sensitive material
- use plainer language and clearer descriptors so audiences understand why content received its classification

I am also struck by the near total absence of classification information for online content, particularly on global platforms such as YouTube. While such platforms are now central to how Australians — including children and young people — consume media, they often carry no meaningful or standardised Australian classification guidance at all. This creates a significant gap between the intent of the classification framework and the reality of modern media use, and places an unreasonable burden on parents and individuals to self-regulate without adequate information. The proposed reforms rightly acknowledge that the current system has not kept pace with digital and online content environments.

Overall, I support the direction of the proposed changes, particularly efforts to:

- modernise the guidelines for contemporary media consumption
- rebuild trust in classification outcomes
- ensure ratings and consumer advice genuinely reflect community expectations and lived experience

For the reforms to succeed, I believe it is essential that classification standards once again provide clear, dependable signals so Australians do not need to cross-check multiple external sources before deciding what to watch, read or play.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.

Step 2: Contact details

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Consultation name

Modernising and Harmonising Classification Standards

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