

Modernising the Australian Classification System for Video Games

Australia needs to improve the classification requirements as they have been some of the most strict in the world. Games like Marc Echo's Getting Up: Contents Under Pressure (2006), Hotline Miami 2 (2015), Manhunt (2003), Blitz: The League (2005) and the Reservoir Dogs game (2006) have all been Banned due to the content of the games at which at the time were considered extreme but now in 2026 they aren't close to what we have today.

Here is a quick list of why those games are banned:

- Marc Echo's Getting Up: Contents Under Pressure (2006) - Originally rated MA15+ until Federal Attorney-General Philip Ruddock appealed the rating as it was "Glorifying Graffiti"
- Hotline Miami 2 (2015) - banned for a scene of implied sexual assault (nothing is shown as the game reveals it was a set on a movie, even though it is implied that it was the character imagining it to justify his actions, but still nothing is ever shown)
- Manhunt (2003) - Was MA15+ until Federal Attorney-General Philip Ruddock appealed the rating stating it had high impact violence involving torture (The UK also had the same problem but decided to censor the scenes with a shaky camera angle to hide the actions)
- Blitz: The League (2005) - banned due to drug use (Blitz is a American Football game and has fake performance enhancing drugs which can actually get people who use it suspended from play or kick from the league)
- Reservoir Dogs (2006) - Not the film but the video game adaptation of it was banned for a scene with torture (two other games were banned for the same reason, those being The Getaway (2002) and Silent Hill: Homecoming (2008) however both of those games had censored the scenes out and both have a MA15+

It was only in 2013 did the R18+ rating was allowed for games, so games like Grand Theft Auto V (2013) with torture and drug use ,and This is the Police (2016) which had references to sexual assault and also torture. Stepping out of the realm of games movies like Martyrs (2008) and even the Saw Franchise (2004 -) which has torture and extreme violence are rated R18+ and they are much more graphic compared to games like Manhunt or Reservoir Dogs.

I hope you can understand why I think the rating system needs a more relaxed view on games as older people sometimes think games are just for kids when they are for everyone. I also hope you do take note that someone my age (19) is so interested in the classification system and how to improve it for everyone.