

The 3 Main Issues with The Australian Classification System

1. Censorship

The Australian Classification Systems job is to decide what those under the age of 18 should be able to view but censoring or banning media to “protect children” is not their job and infringes on a Consenting Adult’s right to decide what they wish to view. If the Government is concerned that minors are accessing media they shouldn’t be then the government should increase penalties for those allowing children access to restricted media but removing or editing that media is a complete over step of the Governments power, It is not the Governments job to decide what media Consenting adults are allowed to view. If there is nothing illegal (for example child porn or real death) in the media, then it should be able to be purchased unaltered by Consenting Adults.

2. Age Ratings

The whole point of the classifications is to advise Parents what age their Child should be to watch something but 3 of our 5 classifications recommend the age of 15. This especially makes the PG and M rating indistinguishable from each other. To remedy this PG and M should be given distinct age ratings from MA. I would recommend G for everyone, PG5+, M10+, MA15+ and R18+.

3. Classification Info and the X 18+ Rating

The most important part of a classification should be the reasoning for the rating, so it is a problem when not only is the Classification information simplistic but also contradictory. I have come across R18+ movies with Medium Level Violence and MA15+ movies with High Level Violence with Blood and Gore. This needs to be rectified so parents and consumers know what they will be viewing. Additionally, due to the X18+ classification having the same age rating as the R18+ classification media with explicit sexual content should be included in the R18+ classification but with the classification explaining that the media includes explicit sexual content. In regard to Video Games X18+ games should not be banned, the rating is 18+ and anyone over that age has the right to view sexually explicit content, if the government feels it needs to better “protect the children” then it can do so by increasing the penalty for those how allow children access to restricted media. Games with sexually explicit content should be able to be purchase unaltered by consenting Adults and included under the R18+ classification.