

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission for the Stage 2 reforms of Australia's National Classification Scheme.

I think that that Australia's National Classification Scheme is FAILING to protect CHILDREN sufficiently! There are so many films, books and computer games that are completely inappropriate for minors, displayed in public, because the current system is just not working.

It needs to be made a priority to reform the system so that protection of children is prioritized over the immoral desires of adults to read, see or play whatever they want. What kind of society does not protect it's youngest members?

In particular, children should not be exposed to pornography which teaches impressionable young boys especially that women are objects. Studies show that pornography is addictive and linked with violence against women. Studies also prove that it has serious and lasting negative effects on family relationships.

If we are to increase respect for women in our society and allow our sons and daughters to grow into responsible young men and women capable of building happy relationships, all pornographic content must be restricted from minors. Most importantly, these restrictions must include comic style books, currently widely available, which often depict pornographic content, and text-based pornographic novels which are damaging for minors to read.

It is vital to the emotional and mental well-being of the younger members of society that violent pornography like depictions of rape, and obscene depictions such as bestiality, must be completely banned. Furthermore, any content which shows children engaged in sex acts or sexualized nudity must also be completely banned, to protect children from pedophile predators. It is horrifying, and completely unacceptable that comic books like *Gender Queer*, which shows its author engaged in a paedophile fantasy, are still permitted in Australia.

There should be age restrictions and filters that prevent minors from accessing online pornography and clear ratings on books, games or films that link to pornographic websites.

Those who produce pornographic content – including pornographic books, comics and all other media – must be required to have that content assessed and classified or face heavy fines. The current system has failed!! Publishers, not parents, should be forced to pay for the costs of classification.

Finally, I completely disagree with the unjustifiable decisions made by government bureaucrats to grant Unrestricted classifications to books like *Gender Queer* and *The Boys*. These books clearly depict violent rape pornography and predatory paedophilic fantasies but have been deemed to display sexual activity between consenting adults. The assessors of those books must be either blind or incompetent. Either way, they were clearly unable to understand the material before them and the classification scheme should be amended to ensure that such inept bureaucrats are removed from their positions for their unacceptable failures of judgement.

Australian parents can have no confidence in Australia's National Classification Scheme unless all the changes outlined above are made and the system is reformed to ensure that children are properly protected.

Regards,