

The scope and purpose of the Scheme should be to ensure the content of all publications, including on-line publications, depicting

- Sexualised nudity
- Themes i.e cruelty, racism, sexual fetishes etc
- Violence including bullying, murder, rape, torture
- Drug and alcohol use
- Foul language
- Sexual activity including graphic photos and images

be classified R 18+ and placed in appropriate restricted areas that cannot be accessed by children.

The classification requirements should be aligned with the requirements of the Commonwealth Classification Act 1995 and should align with the Annual Child Safety Statement of 25th October, 2022, which states “the Commission has zero tolerance for abuse and exploitation. All children have a right to feel safe, respected, valued and protected from harm.”

According to the Commonwealth Classification Act 1995, publishers who want to publish material that is likely to cause offense should have it classified by the Classification Review Board, and a “publisher” is anyone who is making this material available to the public. Therefore, this makes all regional council libraries and schools accountable. This would then make it a criminal offence to allow children to access unacceptable content in public libraries and through school education curriculums.

Community standards and expectations would require that children should be protected from all unacceptable material until they are mature enough to understand it. Therefore, it is imperative that a National regulatory system is established to be responsible for all media classification.