



Hon Cameron Dick MP
Member for Greenslopes



Queensland
Government

Attorney-General
and Minister for Industrial Relations

In reply please quote: 528001/1, J/10/00832

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George St
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

Thank you for your letter dated 10 February 2010 enclosing petition 1346-09 regarding R18+ computer game classification.

The petition requests that Queensland's *Classification of Computer Games and Images Act 1995* be amended to permit computer games to receive the R18+ classification when they have been refused classification under the Commonwealth Act.

Computer games are classified under the Australian National Classification Scheme. Queensland, with all Australian States and Territories and the Commonwealth, is a part of the National Classification Scheme. A single National Classification Code, agreed between the Commonwealth and the States, sets out the principles to be followed in making classification decisions. General criteria for the various classification categories have also been agreed.

Under the National Classification Scheme, the maximum classification currently open to computer games to be lawfully available in Australia is MA15+ (ie unsuitable for persons under 15 years of age). Computer games that contain stronger content are prohibited.

The National Classification Scheme requires unanimous agreement from the Commonwealth and all State and Territory censorship Ministers for any changes to the Classification Code.

Level 18 State Law Building
50 Ann Street Brisbane
GPO Box 149 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3239 3478
Facsimile +61 7 3220 2475
Email attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

The issue of an R18+ classification for computer games has been discussed by Ministers responsible for Censorship at the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. Also, in December 2009, the Commonwealth Government released a discussion paper on whether the Australian National Classification Scheme should include an R18+ classification category for computer games. The Commonwealth is currently considering the outcomes of consultation on this paper.

I will consider the outcomes of the Commonwealth consultation process once these are available. In doing so, I will include the results of petition 1346-09. I thank the signatories to petition 1346-09 for expressing their views on this timely issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Dick', followed by a horizontal line.

**Hon Cameron Dick MP
Attorney-General
and Minister for Industrial Relations**