

INFORMATION SHEET FOR TEACHERS

This information sheet is designed to help teachers decide what type of entertainment media is suitable for their students by providing a summary of the various classification categories for films, computer games and publications. This information sheet may not be relevant to students aged 18 and over, for example university students.

What is suitable for your students to see, play and read at school?

Various films, computer games and publications may be held in schools as part of their educational resources for students.

Whether a particular film, computer game or publication is suitable for your students will depend on the age of the student and the individual school's policies in relation to the availability of various types of entertainment media.

The classification markings (indicating the classification category of the material) and consumer advice may be used to assist teachers in determining what material is suitable for their students. The classification of a film, computer game or publication may be searched on the Classification Database at www.classification.gov.au.

Films and Computer Games

Educational films and computer games that are exempt under the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* may be suitable for students to see and play at school.

The G classification is suitable for everyone. However, some G classified films or computer games may contain content that is not of interest to your students.

The impact of PG classified (parental guidance) films and computer games should be no higher than mild, but they may contain content that your students find confusing or upsetting. PG classified material is not recommended for viewing or playing by persons under 15 without guidance from guardians.

Films and computer games classified M (Mature) contain content of a moderate impact and are recommended for teenagers aged 15 years and over. School students under 15 may legally access this material because it is an advisory category. However, M classified films and computer games may include content that may be unsuitable for persons under 15.

MA 15+ classified material contains strong content and is legally restricted to persons 15 years and over. Anyone under the age of 15 may not legally buy or hire MA 15+ classified material unless they are in the company of a parent or adult guardian. The content in MA 15+ films and computer games is strong.

R 18+ films are restricted to persons aged 18 years and over.

Publications

Most publications, such as magazines, do not need to be classified and may be legally bought and read by school students inside and outside of school. Only ‘submittable publications’, that is publications which may be refused classification or restricted to adults, require classification. All classified publications will carry a label indicating the classification of the publication. However, the type of content in publications is broad. As such, it may be useful for schools and libraries to find out more about the publication’s content to determine if the material is suitable for their students to read at school.

Some ‘unrestricted’ classified publications may contain content that is not recommended for children under 15. These publications will carry a classification label that reads ‘Unrestricted M (Mature)’.

Publications classified Category 1—Restricted and Category 2—Restricted can only be sold to persons aged 18 years and over.