



The National Classification Database fact sheet

What is the NCD?

Most films and computer games and some publications must be classified before they can be sold in Australia. These items are submitted to the Classification Board who examines each of them and classifies them according to **guidelines** issued by the Australian Government.

Once a product has a classification, information about that product appears on the National Classification Database, or NCD. This is a database hosted by the Australian Government on the Australian Classification website here www.classification.gov.au.

Information about classification is public information, freely available to anyone.

What information is included?

Information on the NCD includes:

- the title of the classified product
- production details
- the date of classification
- country of origin
- details about the creator of the product (director, owner, distributor or author, depending on the type of product)
- the name of the applicant
- the classification of the item and details of the elements that led to that classification
- the consumer advice related to the product.

If the product is a movie, a synopsis of the film is generally included.

A 'classification marking' is shown for each item on the NCD. Markings are the official symbol that must appear on a product if it is to be sold in Australia and includes the classification and the consumer advice, for example:



Is the information accurate?

Information about classified products on the NCD is based on the information provided to the Classification Board by the applicant. It is checked for accuracy before being uploaded to the database.

In some circumstances the applicant may wish the title of a product to remain anonymous until it is commercially released. This happens typically with computer games, where a distributor may seek a classification weeks or months prior to commercial release, but does not want the commercial title made public until their marketing strategy is complete. In this circumstance the game information may appear on the NCD under a temporary title which is different than the commercial title. The original applicant can change the title by making an application and paying a fee.

How can I use NCD?

The NCD is an excellent source for current Australian classification information that applies to films, computer games and some publications. Thousands of records can be accessed using the search function.

Recent decisions also have a matrix that shows the elements that have resulted in the classification decision, for example:

	Very mild impact	Mild impact	Moderate impact	Strong impact	High impact
Themes			✓		
Violence			✓		
Language				✓	
Drug Use					
Nudity					
Sex			✓		

Anything else I should know?

The NCD includes information on all categories of classified material, including material restricted to adults. Adult titles may contain information or terms that may be offensive and may be inappropriate for children. Please exercise caution when searching, and use the search filter function if you wish to exclude adult titles.

The NCD also carries information about items that the Classification Board has refused to classify. These items are referred to as 'Refused Classification' or more generally 'RC'. In addition to commercial RC items, the NCD contains information about items submitted by Police and other enforcement bodies. Many of these items have coded titles because the actual title may be offensive, may incriminate a person, or may be used in a prosecution or legal action.

Can I get more information?

The information on the NCD is generally all of the information publically available about the classification of an item by the Classification Board. Other information such as the names of the people making the individual decisions and commercial or personal information about applicants is not published on the NCD due conventional privacy restrictions.