



Australian Government
Classification Board

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MEDIA RELEASE

‘Saints Row IV’: first computer game classified Refused Classification

The Acting Director of the Classification Board Mr Donald McDonald announced today that *Saints Row IV* was the first computer game in Australia to be Refused Classification under the *Guidelines for the Classification of Computer Games* that commenced on 1 January 2013.

The Classification Board classified the game **RC (Refused Classification)** in accordance with item 1(a) of the National Classification Code and in accordance with the computer games guidelines.

In the Board’s opinion, *Saints Row IV*, includes interactive, visual depictions of implied sexual violence which are not justified by context. In addition, the game includes elements of illicit or proscribed drug use related to incentives or rewards. Such depictions are prohibited by the computer games guidelines.

Mr McDonald said the Classification Board had now been applying the new computer games guidelines for almost six months and this was the first game to be refused classification.

“Apart from today’s decision, since the beginning of the year, the Board has classified 17 games R 18+ under the new guidelines,” Mr McDonald said.

When making decisions about computer games, the Classification Board must use the criteria set out in the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games Act) 1995*, the National Classification Code and the *Guidelines for the Classification of Computer Games*.

The new *Guidelines for the Classification of Computer Games* came into effect on 1 January 2013. Prior to then, Australia did not have an adult category for computer games.

An application to classify *Saints Row IV* was received by the Classification Board on 13 May 2013.

Classification decisions can be viewed at the classification website at www.classification.gov.au.

Statement authorised by Donald McDonald, Acting Director, Classification Board.

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