

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

This information sheet is designed to assist parents, adult guardians and their children to decide what type of entertainment media is suitable by providing a summary of the various classification categories for films, computer games and publications.

### **What should children see, play and read?**

Parents and adult guardians are the most appropriate people to determine which media entertainment is suitable for their children to see, play and read.

The classification markings (indicating the classification category of the material) and consumer advice may be used to assist parents and adult guardians in determining which material is suitable for children. The classification of a film, computer game or publication may be searched on the Classification Database at [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au).

### **Classification Categories**

#### *Films and Computer Games*

Some films and computer games that are exempt under section 5B of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* may be suitable for children to see and play at home. These include films of an educational, sporting, live performance or musical presentation type and computer games of an educational type.

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

The impact of PG classified (parental guidance) films and computer games should be no higher than mild, but they may contain content that children find confusing or upsetting. Some younger children may prefer to watch PG classified films with parents or an adult guardian.

Films and computer games classified M (Mature) contain content of a moderate impact and are recommended for teenagers aged 15 years and over. Children under 15 may legally access this material because it is an advisory category. However, M classified films and computer games may include content such as depictions of violence, supernatural or horror elements that may be unsuitable for children under 15. Parents and guardians may need to find out more about the film or computer game's specific content, for example by making further inquiries with the retailer, before deciding whether the material is suitable for their child.

MA 15+ classified material contains strong content and is legally restricted to persons 15 years and over. A person may be asked to show proof of their age before hiring or purchasing an MA 15+ film or computer game. Cinema staff may also request that the person show proof of their age before allowing them to watch an MA 15+ film. Children under the age of 15 may not legally watch, buy or hire MA 15+ classified material unless they are in the company of a parent or adult guardian. Children under 15 who go to the cinema to see an MA 15+ film must be accompanied by a parent or

adult guardian for the duration of the film. The parent or adult guardian must also purchase the movie ticket for the child.

R 18+ films are restricted to adults. A person may also be asked for proof of their age before purchasing, hiring or viewing an R18+ film at the video store or cinema.

### *Publications*

Most publications such as magazines do not need to be classified and may be legally bought and read by children. 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. The type of content in publications is broad. It may be useful for parents and guardians to find out more about the publication's content to determine if the material is suitable for their child to read.

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 18 years and over.