

TEMPLATE FOR MAKING SUBMISSIONS

PERSONAL INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>:

Name: BRETT IDDON

Email address\*:

Personal details omitted

Gender\*: Male

Street Address\*:

Personal details omitted

State/Postcode\*: WA 6006

Country of Residence\*: Australia.

Age range\*: under 18/18-24/25-34/35-44/45-54/55-64/65+

Do you play computer or video games?\* (yes) no

How frequently do you play?  
(Daily) Weekly Fortnightly Monthly Other.....

How long do you play in an average session?  
0-15minutes 15-30 minutes 30-60mins (1-2 hours) 2+ hours

(Note: fields marked \* are mandatory fields)

THE QUESTION

Should the Australian National Classification Scheme include an R18+ classification category for computer games?

NO

YES

<sup>1</sup> Unless you clearly request confidentiality, submissions are public documents and may be accessed by any member of the public, may be published on the website and quoted in further review papers. If you do not want your submission to be published, or you would like to request anonymity, you must clearly request this in your submission.

## ARGUMENTS

To help us understand your reasons for your answer, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following arguments:

- *Adults should not be prevented from playing R 18+ level computer games simply because they are unsuitable for minors*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree
- *The R 18+ classification category sends a clear, unambiguous message to parents that the game material is unsuitable for minors*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree
- *Consistent classification categories for films and computer games are easier to understand*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree
- *A new classification will supplement technological controls on minors' access to age-inappropriate computer games*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree
- *Comparable classification systems internationally have an adult rating for computer games - international parity is desirable*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree
- *Consumers access games which would be R 18+ illegally – it would be better if they were legally available with appropriate restrictions*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree
- *Computer games should be treated differently from films given the specific, negative effects of interactivity on players, particularly their participation in violent and aggressive content.*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree
- *It would be difficult for parents to enforce age restrictions for computer games.*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree
- *Minors would be more likely to be exposed to computer games that are unsuitable for them.*  
1) strongly disagree   2) disagree   3) do not know   4) agree   5) strongly agree

- *An R 18+ for computer games would exacerbate problems associated with access to high level material in Indigenous communities and by other non-English speaking people*

1) strongly disagree    2) disagree    3) do not know    4) agree    5) strongly agree

- *There is no demonstrated need to change existing restrictions.*

1) strongly disagree    2) disagree    3) do not know    4) agree    5) strongly agree

Comments (Optional - up to 250 words)

The lack of an 18+ rating for games in Australia does more than just depriving mature gamers of titles that cater to their interests. The gaming software industry is quickly growing to rival that of television, movies and music. Not having this rating directly affecting the profits of Australian publishers, as well as promoting piracy of the affected materials. This comes at a time when surely our economy needs all the help it can get.

Additionally, Australia's lack of an adult rating system also affects how we are viewed by the rest of the world. We are seen by many as a 'nanny' country, trying to protect our people from choices they should be able to make for themselves. It also has negative effects on us being seen as a democracy when a single person in power can decide what is good for Australia as a whole.

While there is cause for concern that such materials might be more available to minors, I believe that parents are responsible enough to ensure that inappropriate materials are not exposed to their children. Also I am confident that shops will continue to enforce the policy of not selling materials to underage customers, which has kept minors safe from explicit materials up to this point.

Please give Australians the choice to make our own decisions.

Thank you.