



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Broadband,  
Communications and the Digital Economy**



Our reference: PAD/11/67779

Julie Dennett  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dennett,

**REQUEST FOR COMPARATIVE RESEARCH RELATING TO MEDIA  
CONTENT AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES**

I am writing to provide further information to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee's Inquiry into the Australian Film and Literature Classification Scheme following the appearance by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy before the Committee on 27 April 2011.

During the course of the hearing, the Department was asked whether it was aware of any recent papers similar to a paper written by Dr Jeff Brand of Bond University in 2003. Specifically, the Committee requested information on further research relating to a comparative analysis of ratings and classifications around the world.

The Department has identified three reports or articles which cover similar issues to Dr Brand's paper:

**1. Freedom of Speech, Cinema and Censorship: a Comparative Analysis of Issues of Freedom of Speech Violations as a Result of the Rating Regulation Authorities in the Motion Picture Industry in France and the United States**

This 2002 article compares the French and US classification boards. It examines the implementation of their decisions and reviews. The paper also explores the addition of an R18+ category and its potential impact in these countries.

The article can be downloaded in full at this URL:

[http://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1018&context=stu\\_llm](http://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1018&context=stu_llm)

**2. Trends in media use by children and young people: Generation M2 2009 (USA) and MCAF 2007 and CPCLA 2009**

This report presents results from the Kaiser Family Foundation's *Generation M2 2009* (USA) study, the ACMA's *Media and Communications in Australian Families 2007*, and relevant findings from the ABS 2009 research *Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities*. It provides insights into trends and patterns of media use in youth, including mobile phone, internet, computer, and games use.

The report can be found at:

[http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC\\_312210](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_312210)

### **3. Media and Communication in Australian Families 2007**

This report includes a review of research conducted in Australia and internationally on the benefits and harms to children, families and society of media content and use. It contains an extensive list of references which the Committee may find useful.

The report is available at:

[http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC\\_310893](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_310893)

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Windeyer**

First Assistant Secretary

Digital Economy Strategy

Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy