



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Civil Law Division

09/29632

16 September 2010

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Dennett

Additional Estimates February 2010, Attorney-General's Department – Question on Notice 16

I refer to my previous letter to you of 30 July 2010 which provided an updated response to Question on Notice 16. I am now writing to provide the final Departmental response to the Committee.

The Department is now in a position to table the responses from the Queensland Attorney-General and the Commissioner of Queensland Police. A copy of each of those letters is attached.

The Department has now provided the Committee with all the responses it received in response to the letter written by the former Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Bob Debus, on 4 February 2009.

The action officer for this matter is Tara Cheyne who can be contacted on (02) 6141 2740.

Yours sincerely

James Popple
First Assistant Secretary
Civil Law Division

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Office of the
Attorney-General
and Minister for Industrial Relations

The Honourable Brendan O'Connor MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister *Brendan,*

I refer to the letter by your predecessor to Julie Grantham, former Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, dated 4 February 2009 regarding compliance by publication retailers and distributors with classification laws. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Following the recent Queensland State election, new administrative arrangements have been put in place to enable Queensland to provide a strong focus on classification work.

In particular, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General will be the responsible agency for the enforcement of classification legislation in Queensland and will enter formal arrangements with an appropriate compliance agency to deliver specified and measurable classification compliance services.

The compilation of a Publication Enforcement Bulletin identifying high risk publications will help target this classification compliance work and officers of my department have been in contact with the Attorney-General's Department regarding this initiative.

Given the concerns you have identified, I can assure you there will be a renewed focus on compliance with classification laws which will help to address those issues identified in your letter of 4 February 2009.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Hon Cameron Dick MP
**Attorney-General
and Minister for Industrial Relations**

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

The Honourable Brendan O'Connor MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Minister O'Connor

I refer to a letter dated 4 February 2009 from Mr Bob Debus, MP, the former Minister for Home Affairs, concerning the enforcement of classification laws in Queensland.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General have an arrangement regarding the enforcement of classification laws. This arrangement is based on governing principals that the administration of the Classification Acts is the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Accordingly, the primary enforcement responsibility for the provisions of this legislation falls with that organisation.

The QPS involvement with the enforcement of Queensland classification legislation is primarily limited to instances involving suspected child abuse or child exploitation.

This arrangement allows the QPS to focus on the investigation and prosecution of more serious offences as opposed to simple offences under the classification legislation. This focus enhances our capability to protect children and the community from sexual offences and its impacts.

I note that you have sent similar correspondence to the Office of Fair Trading.

Inspector Mark Nelson of the Service Operational Procedures Unit is available on telephone (07) 3364 6898 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

R ATKINSON
COMMISSIONER