

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Program 1.1**

**Question No. 111**

**Senator McKenzie asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:**

Are there any guidelines or plans to produce guidelines for classifying internet content? What are they?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Under the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (Cth) there are no specific guidelines for the classification of internet content. However, other guidelines are utilised in the process of investigating complaints regarding internet content.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) investigates complaints relating to internet content and may refer certain internet content to the Classification Board for classification. In classifying internet content, the Classification Board has regard to the Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games 2008, and the Guidelines for the Classification of Publications 2005, depending on the content.

The Australian Law Reform Commission, in its recently tabled *Classification—Content Regulation and Convergent Media Report*, has made a number of recommendations which relate to the classification of internet content. The Government is considering these recommendations.