



Australian Government
Classification Board

Donald McDonald AC
Director

Senator Trish Crossin
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Correction: Films classified X 18+

I refer to the recent public meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on 26-27 May 2008 regarding budget estimates for the Attorney-General's portfolio.

The following appears on page 113 of the Proof Committee Hansard:

CHAIR – Mr McDonald, I want to ask you about the provision of R18+ videos or DVDs – movies – that can be purchased only in the Northern Territory and the ACT. Is that correct?

Mr McDonald – Did you say R18+? It is X18+.

CHAIR – X18+. Is that the classification?

Mr McDonald – X18+ can only be legally purchased in those two territories.

CHAIR – I take it that if you were found in possession of an X18+ movie or video, whatever, in other states, you would be in breach of state or federal laws?

Mr McDonald – That would be a matter for the state jurisdiction.

I would like to clarify this. It is generally not an offence in Australian States, the ACT, and parts of the Northern Territory to purchase or to merely possess films classified X 18+. It is an offence, however, to sell or publicly exhibit X 18+ films in the Australian States. Only in the ACT and parts of the Northern Territory may persons, in certain circumstances, legally sell and publicly exhibit films classified X 18+.

I trust this clarifies the position for the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Donald McDonald
Director
12 June 2008