



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Classification, Human Rights and
Copyright Division

08/21710

18 November 2008

Mr Peter Hallahan
Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hallahan

I am writing to clarify two aspects of evidence I gave at the Committee's Estimates hearing on 20 October 2008.

On page 76 of the Hansard I said that 'The board itself has no role in enforcement, other than through the community liaison service, which visits petrol stations, DVD shops and adult shops.'

The Classification Liaison Scheme (CLS), formerly the Community Liaison Scheme, is part of the Attorney-General's Department not the Classification Board. While CLS does not have an enforcement role, it provides support to law enforcement through the provision of information and training. If CLS officers identify serious breaches of the law from site visits or other information, they refer them to police/enforcement officers for appropriate action. CLS provides reports on site visits, including details of any unclassified publications identified, to State and Territory Censorship Officers.

Enforcement agencies are responsible for the enforcement of classification laws. The Classification Board classifies material on request from law enforcement agencies.

On page 86 I said that 'The CLS officers visit a number of outlets - adult shops, petrol stations et cetera - and if they find serious breaches they refer them to state and territory enforcement agencies.'

I wish to clarify that CLS officers refer serious breaches of the law found in adult shops to police. Until recently, CLS's practice in non-restricted premises, such as milk bars and petrol stations, was to check adult publications by title to check that they have been classified and properly marked. Where unclassified or incorrectly marked publications are identified, CLS has contacted the distributor about classification requirements.

CLS officers now purchase some publications so that their contents can be viewed. Serious breaches will be reported to the police.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philippa Lynch".

Philippa Lynch
First Assistant Secretary