

FOREWORD

The Committee has considered a number of issues raised responding to the terms of reference of the inquiry. There was a range of opinion concerning the effects of a change in classification from X to NVE (Non Violent Erotica), and this range has been reflected in the report.

Amongst the issues raised was the effect of NVE videos on children, that is, persons under the age of 18 years. The Committee believes that it is important to maintain community standards by prominent display of an explicit warning about content of the video material which includes a statement that it may be harmful to children.

Further, the Committee believes that penalties for contravention of legislation should be displayed prominently on the video cover. To this end, the Committee has made two recommendations:

Recommendation 1

The Committee **recommends** that prominent warnings be added to NVE video covers about the contents of the video and the possible effects of such material on children.

The definition of 'child' should also be included on any such warning.

Recommendation 2

The Committee further **recommends** that a prominent label on the video cover clearly state the penalties for contravention of legislation.

These recommendations are in Chapter 2, following Paragraph 2.56

The Committee notes that adults who sexually abuse children may use a range of means to do so, including sexually explicit video material. However, the Committee believes that the behaviour of such persons would remain unaffected by the total withdrawal from public sale of such material.

Overall, the Committee has concluded that the proposed change to the NVE classification meets a number of the Government's objectives in this area.

Recommendation 3

The Committee **recommends** that the Bill proceed without amendment.

Senator Marise Payne

Chair

Legislation Committee

April 2000