

Pohe, Pamela

From: john boardman
Sent: Wednesday, 10 October 2012 6:02 AM
To: Legislation, Uniform
Subject: Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Amendment Bill

Dear Sir/Madam

I am failing to see why the bill to introduce a R18 rating for some video games has stalled due to the Western Australian government.

I understand that you think you are protecting children from graphic violence and the like in video games. There is a classification scheme in place for movies — why is this not sufficient for video games? Parents have a responsibility to enforce what a child may or may not watch at home and the same rings true for mature video games.

The video games industry is now over 30 years old and people like me who grew up in Perth also grew up with video games in the 1980's. Games back then were childlike and innocent because this reflected the generation that played these games. Thirty years later people such as myself desire more mature games and as such games companies are producing mature games meant for adults, not children — hence I thought the R18 classification scheme for these games was a great idea.

But once again the great state of Western Australia — my home state — has revealed itself to be backward and behind the times. Censorship does not cause the issue to go away, it merely pushes it somewhere else. Do you really think that a 13 year old kid won't easily get his hands on a game that may be banned in WA but freely available in NSW? By banning such a game you are even promoting something that may be rubbish anyway and not worthy of purchasing. All you are creating is interest and curiosity for a product which may never have even crossed a teenagers mind. Surely you know that by making something illegal you are also inviting rebellious teenage minds to wonder why it has been banned.

I am a father of three and I play games which I do not let my children play or even see. They show graphic violence and as such I have taken it upon myself to keep such material away from my children. I do not need government interference on how to parent.

In a democratic society censorship of any kind enforced by the government is to be abhorred. Surely there are better things for the government of WA to be concerned with. Try the issues of Aboriginal health for a start. Trying to tell me that you are protecting my children from little pixelated blocks on a computer screen is ridiculous. We are talking about real life here, not a fantasy land whereby you think one sweep of your wand and all the bad movies and video games will just vanish from our children's eyes. It is the parents responsibility to rear and look after children not soulless government bodies and a piece of paper.

The rest of the modern world allow mature video games to be purchased by adults — I think it may be time for WA to join this modern world and step out of the 1950's.

And please, do not even mention any link between video games and violence — there is no proof to substantiate this. Hearing Phil Collins on the radio makes me angry, perhaps there is a link between him and violence?

Kind Regards

John Boardman