

23 February 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

Re. (i) the application of the national classification scheme to music videos.

I write to give input from my personal experience as a parent of young children regarding the application of the national classification scheme to music videos.

Twice recently I have been appalled by the overtly sexual nature of music video clips. The first time was watching TV on Saturday morning with my kids (the oldest was about six at the time). We don't usually watch music video clips, but thought it would be fun to boogie around the lounge to some good upbeat music. Unfortunately the first clip was too explicit for my young children to watch, so I turned it off and turned it on a bit later. Over a period of about five songs only one or two were appropriate for that age group. The remainder were drenched in aural and visual sexual references, innuendo, sexual dancing, sexual thrusting etc. We haven't tried to watch video clips since. The second experience was at a bowling alley where video clips of a similar nature were shown.

Many music videos are not appropriate for children but are shown in public places or at times many children are watching TV. Without tougher controls children will either be excluded from parts of popular culture by responsible parents or be exposed to inappropriate material and risk becoming sexualised.

Please make sure that only G rated video clips are permitted to be played in children's time slots on TV and in public places.

Yours Faithfully

Gavin Rosser

