

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.1**

**Question No. AE15/055**

**Senator Leyonhjelm asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:**

1. Did the Classification Board raise the issue of this distinction — or any issue regarding the consequences of this distinction — with the Law Reform Commission for its report into the national classification scheme? What did the Board state? Did the Classification Board raise an option of moving from using specific terms and towards a more principles-based approach to classification? If so, what were the details surrounding this option?
2. Has the Classification Board raised issues regarding the distinction with the Department or Minister? If so, what was raised, when, what has been the response?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

1. The Director of the Classification Board (the Board) has advised that the Board raised for consideration by the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) in a pre-issues paper submission in relation to its review of the National Classification Scheme whether the classification guidelines should refer to general principles rather than relying on the use of specific terms such as those currently used to describe what is permitted for Sex and Nudity in the Guidelines for the Classification of Publications

The Board made written submissions in response to the ALRC Discussion Paper, and in this submission provided views and information against some of the ALRC proposals. The Board's submission was published by the ALRC during the review.

2. As far as the Department is aware, the Classification Board has not raised this issue with either the Department or the Minister.