

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.1**

**Question No. AE15/058**

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

Has the Department done any work regarding alternative classification approaches that would remove 'prominence' and 'realism' as factors in classification? If so, what is this work, and can the Department provide any documents to the Committee regarding this work? If not, why not?

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

The National Classification Scheme was the subject of a broad ranging review by the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) *Classification—Content Regulation and Convergent Media* (ALRC Report 118). The Report was tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament on 1 March 2012.

The Department is not aware of any stakeholders or submitters to that review proposing removal of the factors described.

Distinctions such as frequency, realism and emphasis are key elements of most classification systems around the world and are key means by which the impact of classifiable elements in publications, films and computer games can be best assessed. For example, frequent, realistic, detailed, explicit or graphic depictions of sex and nudity (or any of the other classifiable elements) are assessed as having a higher impact which might lead to a higher classification.