



**Australian Government**  
**Classification Board**



C08/171

20 November 2008

Mr Peter Hallahan  
Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hallahan

I am writing to clarify some aspects of the evidence I gave at the Committee's Estimates Hearing on 20 October 2008.

On page 70 of the Hansard, I said that '... all three classifications deal with material that is not suitable for minors to see'. I had previously referred to the Unrestricted classification and the Category 1 and Category 2 restricted classifications.

I wish to clarify that there are four classifications for publications – Unrestricted, Category 1 - Restricted, Category 2 - Restricted and Refused Classification.

I also wish to clarify that under the *Guidelines for the Classification of Publications 2005* (the Publications Guidelines), the Unrestricted classification for publications encompasses a wide range of material. The classification may include material that is not recommended for readers under 15 years. Generally, descriptions and depictions of classifiable elements in publications classified Unrestricted may contain some detail. However, the impact of the material will not be so strong as to require legal restriction to adults.

On page 71, I said that '...all of the category 1 publications have a condition that they be sold in a sealed and opaque wrapper.'

I wish to clarify that publications which contain Category 1 - Restricted content must be sold in a sealed wrapper. In some instances where the cover is suitable for public display, under the Publications Guidelines, the wrapper need not be opaque.

On page 72, in relation to a question I was asked about auditing publications with a serial classification, I said that '..they come up at least once a week. Once a week or once every two weeks there are a number of publications that come to us for an audit.'

I wish to clarify that the Classification Board conducts periodic (but not necessarily weekly) audits of serial classification declarations as a safeguard to ensure that conditions of the audit are being met. To date in 2008, 26 audits have either been completed or are in progress.

On page 78, I said that 'Unless the board and the director have a reason to believe that a publication may be submittable, it does not have to be submitted for classification'.

I wish to clarify that the statutory power to require a publication to be submitted for classification resides with the Director. This power can be exercised where the Director has reasonable grounds to believe that a publication is a submittable publication.

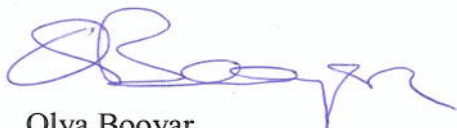
On page 80, in relation to a question about the Publications Guidelines, I said '... under the unrestricted section it does say that classification encompasses a wide range of material – and some material that may be offensive to some people'.

I wish to clarify that the Publications Guidelines state that the Unrestricted classification encompasses a wide range of material but is not likely to contain material that offends a reasonable adult to the extent that it should be restricted to adults.

On page 81, in relation to a question about the magazine called *Live Young Girls*, I said 'It is a category 1 restricted magazine'.

I wish to clarify that in the past the Board has classified issues of that title Category 1 - Restricted, Category 2 - Restricted and RC (Refused Classification). There is a current serial classification declaration at Category 1 – Restricted for *Live Young Girls*. This title is currently the subject of an audit.

Yours sincerely



Olya Booyar  
Deputy Director