

News Release Acting Premier John Rau

Attorney General
Minister for Planning
Minister for Business Services and Consumers



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Protecting children from video game violence

R18+ video games may be sold on South Australia shelves for the first time today after the passing of new laws late last year.

Acting Premier and Attorney General John Rau said that the new classification laws, which come into effect today, will make protecting children from violent video games easier for parents.

“Just as is the case with movies, some video games are clearly not appropriate for young people,” Mr Rau said.

“These new laws will mean that games that are not suitable to be played by minors can now be appropriately classified as adult material.

“Like movies, R18+ games will also need to be displayed separately from other video games available on the shelf.

“It had previously been the case that with no existing R18+ classification, some games had needed to be modified in order to suit the classification ratings.”

Under the new guidelines, some games that may have previously been classified as MA15+ could now be subject to an R18+ classification. Some games may still be refused classification and not be sold in Australia.

“It will be the case that some games do not meet the required classification criteria and therefore will not be sold in Australia under these laws,” Mr Rau said.

“The Commonwealth’s consultation process identified that there is strong support for an R18+ classification, so it is pleasing that it is now a reality in South Australia.”

The national guidelines, which come into effect today, will also bring in new criteria for MA15+ games. These include:

- Strong and realistic violence should not be frequent or unduly repetitive
- Sexual violence is not permitted
- Sexual activity and nudity must not be related to incentives or rewards
- Aggressive or strong course language should be infrequent, and not exploitative or offensive
- Drug use related to incentives or rewards is not permitted
- Interactive illicit or proscribed drug use is not permitted

The new classification laws will apply to new games being released in Australia as of today.

Further information regarding the national guidelines can be found at www.classification.gov.au