

Film Classification Ordinance 1974

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

No. 10 of 1974

The restricted ('R') classification for theatrical films was introduced in all States, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory in November 1971.

Legislation was introduced to provide, inter alia, that persons between the ages of 6 and 18 (two and 18 in South Australia) may not be admitted to a cinema at which films classified 'R' are exhibited.

Evidence was subsequently submitted by psychologists and other qualified persons to show that children below the age of six could be adversely affected by exposure to scenes of violence in films.

At a joint Federal/State Ministerial meeting in August 1973 it was agreed that the lower age limit for films classified 'R' should be set at two years of age.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to give effect in the Australian Capital Territory to the decision reached by Federal and State Ministers.