



Australian Government
Classification Board

Donald McDonald AC
Director

34031, C12/76

Mr Robbie Swan
By email: robbie@eros.org.au

Dear Mr Swan

Thank you for your email of 12 September 2012 regarding the publication *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

As you are aware, the Classification Board (the Board) classifies films, computer games and some 'submittable publications'. All 'submittable publications' must be classified by the Board before they can be sold in Australia. Section 5 of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (the Act) defines 'submittable publication' as:

- ... an unclassified publication that, having regard to section 9A of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* or to the Code and the classification guidelines to the extent that they relate to publications, contains depictions or descriptions that:
- are likely to cause the publication to be classified RC; or
 - are likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult to the extent that the publication should not be sold or displayed as an unrestricted publication; or
 - are unsuitable for a minor to see or read.

Having regard to this definition, and in view of the considerable publicity surrounding the publication of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, the Board considered the publication and I decided that *Fifty Shades of Grey* is not a submittable publication and therefore, it is not required to be classified.

Currently, the Government is considering the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission (the ALRC) which recently reviewed the National Classification Scheme. The ALRC did not recommend that books generally be classified, however, the Review provides the Government with an opportunity to consider all matters relating to the classification of media in Australia, including the role of industry in providing classification information. You can find further information on the ALRC's website at www.alrc.gov.au.

I hope this information assists you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald McDonald', written over a horizontal line.

Donald McDonald
Director

9 October 2012