



MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Rishworth MP
Federal Member for Kingston

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Amanda Rishworth MP calls on South Australian Government

Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston today called on the State Government to support the introduction of an R18+ category for computer games to better protect children and teenagers.

The plan will be discussed at a meeting of all Classification Ministers in Canberra this Friday. Under the National Classification Scheme all States and Territories must support the move for it to be adopted.

The Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor has announced that the Gillard Government will advocate for the introduction of an adult only classification for video games.

Ms Rishworth said "Children and teenagers shouldn't be exposed to the gratuitous sex, violence and adult themes that are contained in some computer games.

"A proper classification system protects young people and provides consumer advice to parents who may be purchasing games for their children, especially at Christmas time.

"It's important that Attorney General John Rau MP recognises the importance of protecting impressionable young people and supports an R18+ rating.

"At the moment teenagers in Australia can access scores of games that are restricted to adults in other countries like the UK and USA. Australian kids deserve the same protection as those overseas."

Ms Rishworth said that this week a national telephone survey, requested by Classification Ministers, showed that 80% of the Australians contacted said they support the introduction of an adults only rating. In South Australia support for the proposal was 81%.

Ms Rishworth said "Like many Australians, I believe that this is the right decision for Australian families and the right decision for parents who want to be able to make informed choices about the games their children play.

"Now is the time for action - I'm calling on Attorney-General John Rau MP to support this important move to better protect our children and teenagers."