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Media Release

ACCM alarmed at M rating for Prometheus

Prof. Elizabeth Handsley, President of the Australian Council for Children and the Media (ACCM), today cautioned parents about new release movie Prometheus saying 'the Classification Review Board's decision to lower the classification from MA15+ to M is questionable in light of the child development-based advice from our reviewer.'

The ACCM movie reviewer describes the film as including 'some extended scenes of brutal violence, as well as medical procedures of robot doctors performing a C-section on a woman impregnated with an alien. This movie is not suitable for children under the age of 15, with older children still possibly finding the intensity of the movie overwhelming'.

Professor Handsley commented, 'Parents should be questioning whether such scenes are really only of "moderate" impact, the maximum allowed under the M classification, and whether the "science fiction" or "medical" context would actually lessen the impact the scenes would have on their children.'

Professor Handsley continued 'an M rating gives unrestricted access to the viewing of this film in cinemas, with some anecdotal evidence suggesting that this may mean children as young as 11 years old are being allowed to attend this movie with their peers, without an adult accompanying them. Because an M rating allows their children to do this, it is not sending a strong enough message to parents about the need many children will have for adult support and supervision. The classification system, in this case, is letting our kids and parents down'.

Dr Cupit, ACCM Vice-President and Senior Lecturer in child development at the University of South Australia, says 'while not all under 15's will be disturbed by the imagery, many will and while the immediate imagery and possible bad dreams will likely pass the longer term increased anxiety or, perhaps worse, fascination is a matter of considerable concern'.

A full review of the movie is available by calling ACCM on (08) 8376 2111 or emailing admin@youngmedia.org.au. This movie review will also appear on the ACCM Know Before You Go Movie review service website, where over 600 movie reviews can be found to help parents choose appropriate and enjoyable movies for their children.

ACCM is a unique national community organisation, which strives for a media environment that supports the health, safety and wellbeing of Australian children. It is committed to promoting healthy choices and stronger voices in children's media.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please email admin@youngmedia.org.au or call on (08) 8376 2111, or contact Elizabeth Handsley on mobile 0448 898 185 or Glenn Cupit on 8302 4580 or 8177 1990.