



May 19th, 2016

Media Release

***X-Men: Apocalypse* – was MA15+ now M – parents warned**

On appeal from the Australian distributors, the classification of the movie *X-men: Apocalypse* has been lowered from MA15+ to M. This decision by the Classification Review Board was announced on 18 May, with the movie opening May 19.

Prof. Elizabeth Handsley, President of the Australian Council for Children and the Media (ACCM), said that an M rating gives young children unrestricted access to the movie, and that parents should be aware that its frequently violent content had the potential for harm and disturbance.

She said that ACCM's reviewer found some scenes to be particularly violent, and included brutal stabbing and slashing rampages. Further, the film contained emotionally intense themes, and callous manipulation of grief. She concluded that some parents might question whether such scenes are really only of "moderate" impact (as the M classification requires).

ACCM CEO Barbara Biggins said the late application for the initial classification and timing of the review seem part of a disturbing trend, that results in important advance information about new movies arriving too late to be useful to parents. She said ACCM has noticed that many applications for the classification of superhero movies, in particular, are made close to release date, and are accompanied by few public previews, but often have associated advertising and merchandise out months before.

A full review of *X-Men: Apocalypse*, from a child-development perspective, will be available on the ACCM *Know Before You Go* movie review service website early next week. The KBYG data base contains over 700 movie reviews to help parents choose age-appropriate and enjoyable movies for their children.

ACCM is a unique national community organisation, which promotes healthy choices and stronger voices in children's media.

ENDS

For interview or photographic opportunities please contact:

Elizabeth Handsley on 0448 898 185, Or Clare Phillips on 0434146096 or

events@childrenandmedia.org.au