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MEDIA RELEASE

**GOVERNMENT CALLED ON TO
RECLASSIFY 50 GAMES STILL IN MA15+**

Elizabeth Handsley, Professor of Law at Flinders University has called on Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare to honour the Federal Government's promise to reclassify a selection of MA15+ video games.

Minister Clare's predecessor, Brendan O'Connor, had indicated publicly on a number of occasions that the reclassification would occur following the introduction of the new R18+ classification in January this year.

"In principle, now that the revised MA15+ guidelines have raised the bar for access to that category, there must be many games still available in that category although they would no longer meet the guidelines for that category," Professor Handsley said.

"We have researched many very violent games classified at MA15+ before 1 January this year, comparing overseas '18' or '17' ratings and reviewing comments on gaming websites, and produced a list of 50 games [attached] whose place in this category should be reviewed," she said.

"Taking action now to reclassify those games would keep faith with the expectations the Government previously raised in the Australian population.

"The majority of those supporting the introduction of the R18+ classification clearly did so on the basis that they thought the material then allowed at MA15+ was too strong for 15-year-olds."

Professor Handsley is also President of the Australian Council on Children and the Media, which is hosting the *Grand Theft Brainspace* seminar in Sydney on 30 May to explore these and many other issues arising from gaming among children and teenagers.

Further information:

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