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## Media Release

### ACCM calls for the most violent MA15+ computer games to be moved to R18+

The Australian Council on Children and the Media (ACCM) is calling on Federal Minister for Home Affairs Jason Clare to move the most violent computer games currently classified MA15+ into the new R18+ category which comes into force on Jan 1, 2013.

Ahead of its seminar on computer games in Adelaide this week, ACCM President and Law Professor Elizabeth Handsley said today that the current Minister for Home Affairs needs to establish a review of the fifty MA15+ games most popular with young players to see if they meet the new guidelines that are coming into effect on 1 January 2013. An assurance that such a review would be established was given on several occasions by his predecessor Brendan O'Connor both before and after the Standing Committee on Law and Justice's in-principle decision in July last year to establish an R18+ category for games. For example, Minister O'Connor said on ABC Insiders (24/7/11) that 'the fifty most popular adult games that are currently played by 15 year olds here won't be played by [children] once we've reclassified them'. Professor Handsley continued, 'many in the community supported the introduction of a new R18+ classification for games thinking that this would mean that the many very violent games in MA15+ would automatically be moved up to R18+'.

This reclassification can only happen if a Minister requests it. Professor Handsley stated 'this was not just a promise by the Federal Minister, but the Standing Committee on Law and Justice in July last year 'agreed it would be desirable for classifications of existing games to be reviewed in light of the new classification Guidelines.'

Given the new games classification guidelines have now been released, ACCM believes that such a review of MA15+ games should commence soon. Titles likely not to meet the new criteria for MA15+ include games such as Dead Rising, Dead Space, Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto, Splatterhouse, Resident Evil and Condemned.

ACCM's seminar *Videogames: the good the bad and the gory* is to be held in Adelaide on Thursday Nov 1, and is expected to attract parents, teachers and other children's professionals who are concerned about games and want to find out more about their influences, and the new Games Guidelines. Bookings can be made online at [www.trybooking.com/BWFF](http://www.trybooking.com/BWFF).

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 contact Elizabeth Handsley on 08 8201 5256, 08 82721170 or mobile 0448 898 185.