

Censor for a Day Information Sheet

**Te Mana
Whakaatu**
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

Kōrero tahi.
Mātaki tahi.

About us

Te Mana Whakaatu – Classification Office is an independent Crown entity that classifies films and other content. We provide information and ratings to empower New Zealanders to make informed choices about what they watch.

WHAT WE CLASSIFY

Under the Classification Act we classify a variety of “publications”, which can include:

- Films
- Video games
- Books and magazines
- Digital files and internet content
- Anything with something printed on it.

Most content on streaming services (such as Netflix and Disney+) is ‘self-rated’ by the platforms using our legal criteria.

We are not responsible for broadcasting, news media or advertising standards.

We can classify and sometimes ban material such as images, chat logs, video or text that is distributed or downloaded online. Usually publications are banned for promoting illegal acts, such as terrorism or child sexual exploitation.

How we classify

The Classification Act sets out legal criteria for us to follow. We consider the way the content is presented and how harmful it might be to the public. We balance that with the right to freedom of expression found in the NZ Bill of Rights Act. When we’ve made a decision, we give the publication an age rating and a content warning.

EXAMPLES OF THINGS WE CONSIDER

Offensive language

We consider the context of offensive language. Offensive words used in a casual or light-hearted way is different than a slur being used to intimidate someone.

Mental health

We can restrict content that deals with themes reflecting real-life feelings or experiences that could trigger a negative emotional response within us. This includes disordered eating.

Dangerous behaviour

This is conduct that would pose a real risk of death or serious injury if it was copied. We include binge drinking and the misuse of prescription medication in this category.

THE MAIN CONTENT WE LOOK OUT FOR



Sex

Matters of sex include references and sex scenes. We don’t treat nudity as sexual unless it’s in a sexual context.



Horror

Horror can be physical, psychological, or supernatural. Details of wounds, like you see in medical dramas, can be horrific.



Crime

Crime is any illegal behaviour. We consider whether crime is encouraged or whether there is an instructional element.



Cruelty

Cruelty is causing pain or suffering. It can be psychological, such as bullying, or physical, such as torture.



Violence

Violence varies in impact. We consider the message it sends, how realistic it is, and how detailed the wounds are.

Think of the harms

These are all potential harms that can result from watching content:

- Shock
- Disturb
- Lower empathy
- View violence as a reasonable response to conflict
- Promote or glamorise criminal or dangerous behaviour
- Generate fear
- Reinforce or develop harmful attitudes
- Encourage inappropriate language
- Trigger mental health issues.

Further info

Find a Rating

You can use the Find a Rating search on our website to find classification details. We break down the content warnings for your favourite series and films so that you can make better choices about what's right for you.

Youth Advisory Panel

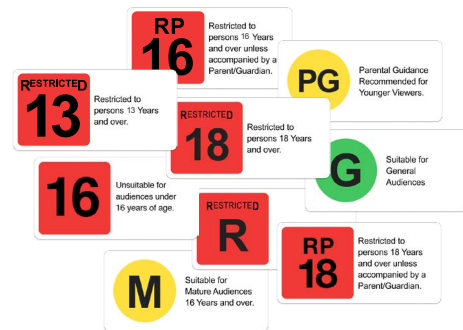
The Youth Advisory Panel is a diverse group of rangatahi between the ages of 16–19 who ensure a youth perspective is represented in the work of the Classification Office. Members attend selected film screenings to provide input into the classification process, participate in consultations, present at hui, and submit on policy and law changes.

To learn more, including how to apply to be a member, head to the Youth Advisory Panel page on our website:

www.classificationoffice.govt.nz

Classification labels

You can find classification labels on all major streaming services in Aotearoa, as well as on physical films and games, and at the movies.



AGE RATINGS

Unrestricted:

- Films with a G, PG or M rating can be sold, hired or shown to anyone.

Restricted:

- R means legally age-restricted. It's illegal to let someone underage watch restricted films.
- RP means younger people can only watch with a parent or guardian.

Streaming:

- Most streaming providers display labels that look similar to the physical labels.
- The number shows the lowest age the content is suitable for.

CONTENT WARNINGS

Labels include content warnings, which warn you about the content with the highest impact. Common content warnings include:

- Graphic violence/Violence
- Offensive language
- Drug use
- Sex scenes
- Suicide
- Horror