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<b>Service Stream</b>	Families and Young People Services	<b>Category</b>	Residential Care and Transition Services
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### Purpose

This Information Paper has been developed to provide information and guidance around the appropriate entertainment classifications for children and young people of different ages. This paper has been developed specifically for use within Families and Young People Services (FYPS) Residential Care and Transitional Services (RCaTS), however, is applicable for all FYPS programs in providing guidance and information around entertainment classifications.

### Implication Guidelines

It is important for families and carers supporting children and young people to make good decisions around access to entertainment of the appropriate classification. This is often an area that has not been well supported for children and young people when they enter into care, resulting in children and young people having different expectations and understandings about what is safe and appropriate viewing. To support children and young people to develop a safe understanding of entertainment content classification and to ensure they access the correct classification of view content, the following strategies are suggested:

- Ensure that entertainment (movies, electronic games, TV shows, etc.) content within the program, matches the Classification level that the children or young people are allowed to view. This will include removing content that is not appropriate for the children/young people to watch;
- Support the children/young person to make safe decisions when choosing new entertainment (games or movies);
- Support friends and family of the child/young person to understand what classifications are allowed within the program when they are purchasing gifts;
- Have proactive conversations with the child/young person about why there are classification guidelines and how inappropriate content can be harmful; and
- Support the child/young person to understand that although the rules might have been different at a past placement or when they are with family, we have these rules to keep kids safe and healthy when they are at Mercy Community.

### References

- Australian Law Reform Commission. (2012). Classification categories. Retrieved from. <https://www.alrc.gov.au/publication/classification-content-regulation-and-convergent-media-alrc-report-118/9-classification-categories-and-criteria-2/classification-categories/>
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication. (n.d.). What do the ratings mean? Retrieved from. <https://www.classification.gov.au/classification-ratings/what-do-ratings-mean>.

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Classification	Platform	Guidelines	Allowed within MC RCaTS Programs		
P (Pre-School)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Free-to-air television</li><li>Subscription television</li><li>Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)</li><li>Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Is made specifically for children</li><li>Is entertaining</li><li>Is well produced using sufficient resources to ensure a high standard of script, cast, direction, editing, shooting, sound and other production elements</li><li>Enhances a child's understanding and experience</li><li>Is appropriate for Australian children</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yes, for all ages</li></ul>		
C (Children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Free-to-air television</li><li>Subscription television</li><li>Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)</li><li>Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Is made specifically for children</li><li>Is entertaining</li><li>Is well produced using sufficient resources to ensure a high standard of script, cast, direction, editing, shooting, sound and other production elements</li><li>Enhances a child's understanding and experience</li><li>Is appropriate for Australian children</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yes, for all ages</li></ul>		
G (General)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Electronic Games</li><li>Films</li><li>Free-to-air television</li><li>Subscription television</li><li>Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)</li><li>Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Very mild in impact</li><li>Suitable for everyone</li><li>May contain classifiable elements such as language and themes that are very mild in impact</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yes, for all ages</li></ul>		
PG (Parental Guidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Electronic Games</li><li>Films</li><li>Free-to-air television</li><li>Subscription television</li><li>Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)</li><li>Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mild in impact</li><li>Impact should be no higher than mild but may contain content that children find confusing or upsetting and may require guidance of adults</li><li>Not recommended for viewing by people under the age of 15 without guidance from an adult</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yes</li><li>Young person to be a suitable age.</li><li>Clinician/Care Team Leader (CTL) to be familiar with the material prior to viewing by the child/young person</li></ul>		
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Classification	Platform	Guidelines	Allowed within MC RCaTS Programs
<b>M</b> (Mature)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic Games</li> <li>Films</li> <li>Free-to-air television</li> <li>Subscription television</li> <li>Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)</li> <li>Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate in impact</li> <li>Not recommended for children under the age of 15. Include portrayals of elements such as violence and themes that require a mature outlook</li> <li>Adults may need to find out more about the specific content before deciding whether the material is suitable for children in their care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, if all young people within the program are over 15 years old and have been assessed as having an age-appropriate developmental understanding of the context</li> <li>Young person to be over 15 years old or approved to have an adult present when viewing</li> <li>Clinician/CTL to be familiar with the material prior to viewing by the young person</li> </ul>
<b>MA 15+</b> (Mature Audience, not suitable for people under 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic Games</li> <li>Films</li> <li>Free-to-air television</li> <li>Subscription television</li> <li>Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)</li> <li>Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong in impact</li> <li>Legally restricted to people over the age of 15. A person may be asked to show proof of age before purchasing or viewing such a film or game. Children under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult when viewing or purchasing an MA 15+ film or game. The adult must be over 18 and must be exercising parent control over the child</li> <li>Contains elements such as sex scenes and drug use that could have a strong impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, if all young people within the program are over 15 years old and have been assessed as having an age-appropriate developmental understanding of the context</li> <li>Young person to be 15 years or older</li> <li>Clinician/CTL to be familiar with the material prior to viewing by the young person</li> </ul>
<b>R 18+</b> (Restricted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Films</li> <li>Free-to-air television</li> <li>Subscription television</li> <li>Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)</li> <li>Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content is high in impact</li> <li>A person may be asked for proof of their age before purchasing, hiring, or viewing R 18+ films and games</li> <li>Restricted to adults. Content may be offensive to sections of the adult community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No, under any circumstances</li> </ul>
<b>RC</b> (Refused Classification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic Games</li> <li>Films</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot be sold, hire or advertised or legally imported into Australia. This is due to the very high impact content of said material</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Material with this classification should not be able to be purchased within Australia</li> </ul>

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