



Australian Government
Classification Review Board

12 September 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

***Stone Bros* classified MA 15+ upon review**

A three-member panel of the Classification Review Board has unanimously determined that the film *Stone Bros* is classified **MA 15+ (Mature Accompanied)** with the consumer advice 'Drug use with strong impact'.

In the Classification Review Board's opinion *Stone Bros* warrants this classification because, whilst the Director's objective was to produce a film with a strong cultural message, applying the Classification Act, the National Classification Code and the Classification Guidelines warrants an MA 15+ classification as the film contains representations of drug use which are frequent, realistic and strong in impact.

Some scenes involving drug use may be considered as involving elements of fantasy, but overall the Review Board considered that some younger viewers would have difficulty discriminating between these and the more realistic depictions. This issue was considered when determining whether or not to allow access to this film by younger people without a parent or guardian present.

Films classified **MA 15+** are legally restricted to persons over 15 years. Material classified MA 15+ is considered unsuitable for persons under 15 years of age, it is a legally restricted category. Consumer advice is additional information which is intended to help consumers decide if they want to view this type of material.

The Classification Review Board convened today in response to an application from the Minister for Home Affairs to review the decision made by the Classification Board on 15 July 2009 to classify *Stone Bros* **MA 15+** with the consumer advice 'Strong drug use'.

In reviewing the classification, the Classification Review Board worked within the framework of the National Classification Scheme, applying the provisions of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*, the National Classification Code and the *Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games*. This is the same framework used by the Classification Board.

The Classification Review Board is an independent merits review body. Meeting in camera, it makes a fresh classification decision upon receipt of an application for review. This Classification Review Board decision takes the place of the original decision made by the Classification Board.

The Classification Review Board's reasons for this decision will appear on the Classification website when finalised.

Statement authorised by Victoria Rubensohn, Convenor, Classification Review Board
Media contact:

Media Enquiries Officer

02 9289 7100

Locked Bag 3, HAYMARKET NSW 1240
Tel (02) 9289 7100 Fax (02) 9289 7101 www.classification.gov.au