



Australian Government

Classification Review Board

8 December 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

***The Loved Ones* classified MA 15+ upon review**

A four-member panel of the Classification Review Board (the Review Board) has in a majority decision determined that the film *The Loved Ones* is classified **MA 15+ (Mature Accompanied)** with the consumer advice 'Strong horror violence; strong themes'.

In the Review Board's opinion *The Loved Ones* warrants this classification because the primary classifiable element of 'violence' sets the film in the context of the horror genre, reflecting the expectations of those familiar with that genre. It would not, however, be suitable for those under 15 years of age.

The Review Board also regarded the impact of the violence as no higher than strong. Other classifiable elements can, in the view of the Review Board, be properly accommodated within the MA 15+ classification or lower.

Films classified **MA 15+** are 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 Review Board convened today in response to an application from the original applicant, Madman Entertainment to review the decision made by the Classification Board on 28 October 2009 to classify *The Loved Ones* **R 18+** with the consumer advice 'High impact violence'.

In reviewing the classification, the 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 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 Review Board decision takes the place of the original decision made by the Classification Board.

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

Statement authorised by Trevor Griffin, Acting Convenor, Classification Review Board

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