



# Australian Government

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## Classification Review Board

<b>Date:</b>	30 June 2022
<b>Members:</b>	Sue Knowles (Chair) Susan Bush Rechelle Leahy
<b>Applicant:</b>	Roadshow Films
<b>Interested parties:</b>	(No submissions received)
<b>Business:</b>	To review the Classification Board's decision to classify the film <i>Good Luck to You, Leo Grande</i> , <b>MA 15+ (Mature Accompanied)</b> .

## Decision and reasons for decision

### 1. Decision

The Classification Review Board (the Review Board) unanimously classified the film *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande* M, with the consumer advice 'Sexual themes, sex scenes, nudity and coarse language'.

### 2. Legislative provisions

The *Classification (Publications, Computer game and Computer Games) Act 1995* (Cth) (the Classification Act) governs the classification of films and the review of classification decisions.

#### The Review Board

Part 5 of the Classification Act outlines the provisions relevant to the Review Board and its procedures.

Section 42 of the Classification Act sets out the persons who may apply for review of a decision:

- a) the Minister
- b) the applicant for classification of the film, or the likely classification of the film under section 33
- c) the publisher of the film, or
- d) a person aggrieved by the decision.

Section 43 sets out the conditions regarding the manner and form of applications for review, including time limits. Under section 44, the Review Board must deal with an application for review in the same way that the Classification Board deals with an application for classification of a film.

#### Classification of films under the Classification Act

Section 9, subject to section 9A, provides that films are to be classified in accordance with the National Classification Code (the Code) and the classification guidelines. Section 9A states that a film that advocates the doing of a terrorist act must be classified RC.

Section 11 of the Classification Act requires that the matters to be taken into account in making a decision on the classification of a film include the:

- a) standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable adults, and
- b) literary, artistic or educational merit (if any) of the film, and
- c) general character of the film, including whether it is of a medical, legal or scientific character, and
- d) persons or class of persons to or amongst whom it is published or is intended or likely to be published.

## The National Classification Code

Relevantly, the Films Table of the National Classification Code (the Code) provides that:

Films (except RC films, X 18+ films, R 18+ films and MA 15+ films) that that cannot be recommended for viewing by persons who are under 15 **are to be classified M**, and the Code also sets out various principles to which classification decisions should give effect, as far as possible:

- a) adults should be able to read, hear, see and play what they want
- b) minors should be protected from material likely to harm or disturb them
- c) everyone should be protected from exposure to unsolicited material that they find offensive
- d) the need to take account of community concerns about:
  - (i) depictions that condone or incite violence, particularly sexual violence and,
  - (ii) the portrayal of persons in a demeaning manner.

## The Guidelines

Three essential principles underlie the use of the *Guidelines for the Classification of Films 2012* (the Guidelines), determined under section 12 of the Classification Act, the:

- importance of context
- assessment of impact, and
- the six classifiable elements—themes, violence, sex, language, drug use and nudity.

## 3. Procedure

Three members of the Review Board met on 30 June 2022, in response to the receipt of an application from Roadshow Films on 9 June 2022, to conduct the review of the film, *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*, which had previously been classified **MA 15+ (Mature Accompanied)** with consumer advice of **'Strong sex scenes'** by the Classification Board. The Review Board determined that the application was a valid application.

The Review Board was provided a written submission from the Applicant.

The Review Board viewed the film.

The Review Board heard an oral submission from the Applicant.

The Review Board then considered the matter.

## 4. Evidence and other material taken into account

In reaching its decision, the Review Board had regard to the following:

- (i) Roadshow Films application for review
- (ii) Roadshow Films written and oral submissions

- (iii) the film, *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*
- (iv) the relevant provisions in the Classification Act, the Code and the Guidelines, and
- (v) the Classification Board's report.

## 5. Synopsis

*Good Luck To You, Leo Grande* is a UK comic drama about Nancy Stokes, a widow in her early 60's who engages a young male sex worker, Leo Grande, to help broaden her sexual experience.

## 6. Findings on material questions of fact

The Review Board found that the film contains aspects or scenes of importance under various classifiable elements:

- (a) Themes—the film is largely concerned with an older woman engaging a sex worker to explore her sexual awakening.  
  
The impact of this element is no higher than moderate and can be accommodated at the M level.
- (b) Violence—not present in the film.
- (c) Sex—there is a pervasive narrative element of sex throughout the film which is largely discreetly depicted. Some sex scenes are more impactful, however they are justified by context.  
  
The impact of this element is no higher than moderate and can be accommodated at the M level.
- (d) Language—the film contains infrequent strong coarse language, some of which is used with sexual connotations that are justified by context.  
  
The impact of this element is no higher than moderate and can be accommodated at the M level.
- (e) Drug Use—not present in the film.
- (f) Nudity—the film contains brief glimpses of male genitalia, and a montage scene with frequent nudity including full-frontal female nudity.  
  
The impact of this element is no higher than moderate and can be accommodated at the M level.

## 7. Reasons for the decision

The film contains approximately six instances of strong coarse language in the use of the word "fuck" and its derivatives, which are not used aggressively, and therefore do not exceed a moderate impact. The film also employs frequent sexual language such as "blow-job" and "pussy", which is justified by the narrative context. The film also contains other coarse language which does not exceed a mild impact.

The film contains sexual themes, in the pervasive narrative element of Nancy employing Leo, a younger sex worker, to help her sexual awakening. These themes are sensitively handled and justified by context, and therefore do not exceed a moderate impact.

The film contains a single brief side view of male genital nudity as Leo is depicted walking naked and his penis is partially visible. The film also contains several scenes depicting side views and partially obscured female nudity, however a single montage scene depicts full frontal female nudity.

The film contains scenes of implied oral sex and masturbation, and a montage of intercourse scenes in various sexual positions. The impact of this montage is mitigated by the narrative of Leo and Nancy's relationship, Leo's profession, and Nancy's sexual awakening, and therefore can be accommodated within an M classification.

## 8. Summary

Pursuant to the Guidelines, the impact of the classifiable elements is no higher than moderate. It is therefore the unanimous view of the Review Board that the film warrants a classification of: M with the consumer advice of 'Sexual themes, sex scenes, nudity and coarse language'.