

Suspended NSW MP Supported National Classification Scheme:

NSW Police Academy To Train Porn Police - Blackmarket Classification Labels Coming

NSW Labor MP Amanda Fazio's refusal to buckle to pressure from religious elements in the State government and the Opposition, would be applauded by voters at the ballot box next March. Australian Sex Party President, Fiona Patten, said Ms Fazio, (who is President of the Legislative Council in NSW) had been suspended from the ALP for voting in accordance with the findings of a Parliamentary Committee on new pornography laws. The laws effectively create a new section of NSW policing best summed up as 'porn police' squads. She said the legislation gave police the power to determine the classification for an adult film or DVD just by looking at the box cover.

The Committee found that the Bill trampled all over people's civil liberties and could not be justified. At Point 26 it said," The Committee considers that these issues may be an undue trespass on personal rights and liberties as there is a lack of fairness in their scope and operation and potentially puts the accused at a significant disadvantage. To this end, the Committee refers these matters to Parliament for its consideration"

"NSW is a signatory to the federal Classification Act which states that the Act is a cooperative scheme in which all classification will be undertaken by the Classification Board. The NSW A-G has signed off on this agreement and has now turned around and broken it by giving the power of classification to police officers who know nothing about the nuanced and idiosyncratic Classification Guidelines. Both Labor and the Opposition in NSW have abrogated this agreement in a major way and the federal Minister should now override the state's authority on classification enforcement and make censorship a federal matter only".

She said that the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn would now have to have pornography screenings and training courses which the Academy was not set up to provide. "The people of NSW have to understand that the state recently sent a man to jail for selling X rated films that had been classified by federal classification authorities", she said. "With that sort of penalty now being prescribed, false classification labels will be sold on the black market for high prices. Traders will know that the police will be making judgements on adult films on the basis of the box cover that they are in and will not have the time to view all films that they suspect. The police will be totally confused if they find an R rated explicit film like Nine Songs or Romance in an X rated box cover. They do not have the knowledge to say what is R rated and what is X rated. Innocent people will go to jail".

"Ms Fazio's suspension from the ALP shows just how far the religious right have infiltrated both major parties in NSW", she said. "The Attorney General, John Hatzistergos and Liberal backbencher and power-broker, David Clarke, have both come out of this episode as moral crusaders who are complicit in bringing back old DLP policies", she said.

NSW 'Porn Police'

Written by ASP staff

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