

COMMISSIONER'S BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT Complaint regarding educational resources available at the SHINE SA Resource Centre – ESS 26/10 – ^{s(1)} [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND

On 1 December 2025, ^{s(1)} [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote separately to SHINE SA and the Attorney-General, alleging SHINE SA's Library and Resource Centre displayed sexually explicit DVDs and computer games without classification labelling.

On 23 December 2025, the Attorney-General advised her to report the concerns to SAPOL. ^{s(1)} [REDACTED] subsequently wrote to the Commissioner with the same allegations, identifying herself as an accredited Film and Games Classifier.

The matter was initially allocated through MOS Executive to the Western District (WD), where ^{s(1)} [REDACTED] undertook preliminary enquiries. SHINE SA responded with written advice outlining their classification governance processes and collection safeguards.

On 19 January 2026, MOS reassigned the matter to Licensing Enforcement Branch (LEB) for review and contact with the complainant due to the nuanced application of both State and Commonwealth classification legislation and LEB's subject-matter expertise.

Prior to contacting the complainant, LEB undertook consultation with SHINE SA, WD management, and the Australian Classification Branch (ACB). The purpose of the briefing paper is to provide an update and outcome on the investigation of this complaint (ESS 26/10), confirm closure of the matter without further police action, and seek approval to issue the attached response to the complainant. The paper also notes policy considerations for future handling of similar complaints in the future.

RELEVANT POINTS

- According to open-source information, ^{s(1)} [REDACTED] [REDACTED] She is also an accredited video game and film certifier.
- The Officer in Charge of LEB has established, through consultation with the Australian Classification Branch, that ^{s(1)} [REDACTED] is a persistent complainant in matters relating to classification and content governance. ^{s(1)} [REDACTED] is currently engaged in persistent agitation and complaints relating to the governance of libraries more broadly.
- The South Australian Attorney-General advised the complainant on 23 December 2025 to report suspected offences involving the sale, exhibition or advertising of unclassified content to SAPOL.
- Under the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (Cth), the Commonwealth classifies content, while states and territories enforce the laws regulating sale, exhibition, and advertising.
- South Australia enforces the classification scheme through the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (SA), which creates offences relating to unclassified and restricted content. There are no other agencies or persons nominated

as authorised officers by the Minister placing enforcement within SAPOL's jurisdiction. Licensing Enforcement Branch are seeking further legal opinion to identify opportunities for other agencies to be nominated in writing as authorised persons or agencies.

- Section 80A refers to Commonwealth APS authorised persons, it is unclear whether current legislation includes a mechanism for the SA Minister to appoint State "authorised officers" under the SA Classification Act.
- Given likely recurrence of similar complaints across GO/NGO libraries and the policy/political dimensions LEB will commence steps for recommending to the Attorney-General that Consumer and Business Services (CBS) become the front-end regulatory liaison with libraries for classification governance checks (via MoU/protocol), while SAPOL retains enforcement for clear offences.
- The SA Act defines "sell" to include "let on hire," meaning library lending can constitute regulated conduct; alleged loaning of unclassified films/games may therefore meet offence criteria. The alleged loaning, providing access to, or exhibiting unclassified films/games, directly aligns with offence categories under the SA Act.
- General Order, Licensing and regulated industries sets out the relevant district / region is responsible for investigating offences committed pursuant to the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995. LEB can provide investigative support relative to these offences.
- Due the sensitive and ambiguous nature of the complaint, the matter was referred to LEB by WD after a preliminary investigation. WD have prepared a CBP reflecting this. LEB have supported WD through legislative analysis and facilitating the connection of SHINE SA and the ACB.
- The Commonwealth Act provides limited exemptions (e.g., educational), but not where content is likely M (Mature) or higher. In such cases the item must be classified if made publicly available.
- Out of an abundance of caution, SHINE SA have removed their DVDs from being available for borrowing. Prior to returning these DVDs to service in the resource centre SHINE SA are working with the ACB to make an informed decision about whether each DVD is exempt or requires classification.
- Following this commitment from SHINE SA, a site visit by SAPOL is not required.
- On this basis, LEB assesses SAPOL's ongoing interest satisfied at this time.

LEB's Historical Enforcement Role Under SA Classification Legislation

- LEB's current Film and Literature Management Plan establishes a policy position for LEB's role in the enforcement of the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (SA).
- In alignment with the LEB Management Plan, LEB has historically undertaken investigations into alleged breaches of the Act in contexts where commercial distribution or sale of sexually explicit material occurs. This has primarily included the sex industry retail sector, such as adult shops and premises engaged in the sale or hire of sexually explicit publications, films and consumer products.

- The context of this complaint regarding a legitimate Library and Public Health Service does not align the current management plan.
- Notably, CBS has not previously played an active role in enforcing classification legislation in South Australia. Their regulatory role typically covers consumer protection, retail licensing, and liquor/gaming compliance, but the classification statutes have traditionally fallen within SAPOL’s remit.

SHINE SA’s Demonstrated Willingness to Engage

- SHINE SA has shown a high level of transparency and goodwill throughout the preliminary engagement providing detailed written briefings outlining their classification governance, restricted access arrangements, and adherence to professional standards.
- SHINE SA has offered full access to their holdings and committed to working collaboratively with SAPOL and the ACB.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Commissioner notes the contents of this paper and endorses closure of ESS 26/10 on the basis that there is no further police action required at this time.
2. The Commissioner approves the response to the complainant (draft below), which provides a succinct outcome and avoids detailing operational steps.

Contact: [redacted] OIC LEB
 Telephone: [redacted]
 Ref: ES26/10
 Date: 16/2/2026

Supported:



Assistant Commissioner
Operations Support Service
 16 / 2 / 2026

Endorsed:

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 Linda Williams
Deputy Commissioner
 / /

Approved:

.....
 Grant Stevens
Commissioner
 / /

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Ms [REDACTED]

Our ref: ESS 26/10

Subject: Complaint regarding educational resources available at the SHINE SA Resource Centre

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your correspondence raising concerns about classification requirements for materials available through the SHINE SA Library & Resource Centre.

South Australia Police has assessed the information provided. Under the National Classification Scheme, the Australian Classification Board is responsible for the classification of films, computer games and certain publications, while States and Territories are responsible for enforcement of relevant sale, exhibition and access laws.

At this time, no further police action is required. Should additional information be received indicating non-compliance with South Australian legislation, it will be assessed in the usual manner.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Stevens
Commissioner of Police
South Australia Police