Computer games will be classified under the same categories as movies under a Bill which was introduced into the Northern Territory Parliament in Alice Springs today.

Minister for Justice and Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne said the proposed amendment to the Classification of Publications, Films and Computer Games Act will see the old ratings replaced and computer games classified the same way as movies.

“This is a commonsense change which for the first time ensures computer games are classified using the same ratings categories as movies, which will make it easier for parents to choose appropriate games for their children,” Dr Toyne said.

“The amendment will see the old “MA”, “R” and “X” rating replaced by “MA 15+”, “18+” and “X18+” to meet national standards of classification.

“The changes relate to the names of the classifications only and do not affect the type of material that is permitted within each classification.

“The Bill also amends the penalties, which have been reviewed and updated,” Dr Toyne said.

The maximum penalty is now $22,000 or two years gaol, which applies to a range of offences, including dealing with restricted material.

The national scheme of classification, publications, films and computer games are classified by the Office of Film and Literature Classification under the Commonwealth Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995.

State and Territories have complementary legislation which deals with the operational aspects of the classification decisions made by the Commonwealth Act.

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