



Australian Government
Classification Review Board

24 February 2007

MEDIA RELEASE

***The Peaceful Pill Handbook* Refused Classification upon review**

The full 7-member board of the Classification Review Board has determined, in a unanimous decision, that the publication, *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* written by Dr Philip Nitschke and Dr Fiona Stewart, is classified **Refused Classification (RC)**.

Refused Classification (RC) means that the publication is immediately banned throughout Australia. It cannot be sold, displayed or imported into the country. A publication is refused classification if it exceeds the guidelines for the Category 1 – Restricted or Category 2 – Restricted classifications. Copies of the publication must be removed from shelves immediately.

The Classification Review Board determined that *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* warrants **Refused Classification (RC)** because it instructs in the crime of the manufacture of barbiturates. Further, a majority of the Review Board determined that it also instructs in the crimes of the possession and importation of barbiturates and in offences under Coroners legislation in all States and Territories.

“The handbook gives detailed, although flawed and incomplete, instruction in the manufacture of a barbiturate, which the book states is the closest substance to a ‘peaceful pill,’” said Classification Review Board Convenor, Maureen Shelley.

The Classification Review Board convened today in response to an application from the Australian Attorney-General and an application from the Right to Life Association (NSW) to review the Category 1 – Restricted classification of *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* made by the Classification Board on 18 December 2006.

In reviewing the classification, the Classification 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 Publications.

The Classification 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 Classification Review Board decision takes the place of the original decision made by the Classification Board.

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

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