



PETITION: Tarquin Murray from the Game store in the Bathurst City Centre with some of the video games which may have dubious classifications.

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Petition supported in Bathurst

A NEW Australian petition record has been set and Bathurst residents have played a part in the milestone.

In just over eight weeks, more than 89,000 Australians signed petitions in Game stores across the country in support of a change in PC and video game ratings.

Locally more than 600 people signed the petition which is to be tabled in the Australian Senate.

The GAME/PALGN petition count surpasses the November 2005 "Work Choices" online petition count of 85,189.

However, despite a record number of Australians signing a petition at GAME stores calling on the Federal Government to create an R18+ gaming classification, the country's censorship ministers still feel the issue needs "more consideration".

Architect of the recent record-breaking petition,

director of the games website PAL Gaming Network (PALGN), Roland Kulen and Rob Lukic, GAME Managing Director, both agree that the country's Attorneys-General have let down Australian families by failing to make a decision on gaming censorship at the recent SCAG meeting in Melbourne.

"Censorship ministers have not yet made a decision on whether or not an R18+ classification for computer games should be introduced and have requested further analysis of community and expert views," Home Affairs Minister Brendan O'Connor said recently.

Mr Lukic said more than 89,000 people walked into GAME stores in a two month period and physically signed the petition calling on the Government to create an R18+ gaming rating.

"Our petitioners are mums,

dads, grandparents, young adults, new gamers, core gamers - everyone," he said.

So what's next for GAME's quest to establish an R18+ classification?

In early July GAME's auditors, BDO, will confirm the official petition count and then GAME will table the petitions in the Australian Senate.

Mr Kulen said that tabling the petitions in the Senate is a key step to showing the Government that everyday Australians really want an R18+ gaming classification.

"To put the GAME / PALGN petition in perspective? the Work Choices online petition count was a key issue, among others, that brought down the Howard Government, Rob and I feel our petition count represents the voice of Australian society on the R18+ game classification issue," he said.