



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON PHILIP RUDDOCK MP**

NEWS RELEASE

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SUICIDE HANDBOOK REFERRED FOR REVIEW

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock has today asked the Classification Review Board to review the classification of *The Peaceful Pill Handbook*, a publication which provides information on assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia.

In September 2006, the Australian Customs Service seized copies of the book as a prohibited import under the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956. In December 2006 the Classification Board classified it as Category 1 – Restricted, meaning it had been approved for distribution.

The Attorney-General said this highlighted an apparent anomaly in the application of two pieces of Commonwealth legislation.

“The means is that the publication is legally available within Australia but it cannot be legally imported into Australia,” Mr Ruddock said.

Under the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*, the Attorney-General can apply to the Classification Review Board for a review of a Classification Board decision.

“This is an important issue and a classification review is the appropriate mechanism for testing the classification of this material,” Mr Ruddock said.

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