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News

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Shops flout X-rated DVD ban

KENT ACOTT

Perth sex shops are flouting the State's movie classification laws and risking \$10,000 fines by selling X-rated DVDs.

They are prepared to risk prosecution because they believe the 14-year-old laws contravene their constitutional right to trade interstate.

X-rated DVDs can be legally sold in Canberra and the Northern Territory.

Attorney-General Christian Porter confirmed yesterday that it was an offence to sell X-rated DVDs in WA

and said it was the responsibility of the police to prosecute.

Section 81 of WA's Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Act 1996 says that a person must not possess a film classified X18+, with the intention of selling the film or exhibiting the film in a public place.

A police spokeswoman said she was not aware of any prosecutions under this section of the Act recently.

Until earlier this year, sex shops did not sell X-rated DVDs directly. However, customers could order them from Canberra.

The new arrangement means that X-rated DVDs are now being sold off-the-shelf, like any other product.

The West Australian bought three X-rated DVDs from three city sex shops yesterday.

They all had the X18+ warning that they contained "sexually explicit material".

Fiona Patten, president of the adult industry's Eros Association, said there was a strong belief that WA's classification laws put unconstitutional restraint on interstate trade.

She said the laws were also archaic and similar X-rated material could be

found online or in legally published magazines. Ms Patten, also president of the Australian Sex Party, said X-rated movies involved consensual, actual sex. There was never anything that may be considered demeaning and no violence was tolerated.

The argument that the WA laws contravene interstate trading rights stems from Section 92 of the Australian Constitution.

In the High Court in 2008, Tasmanian-based betting company Betfair successfully challenged WA laws that banned West Australians from betting with the company.

The court ruled the legislation contravened Section 92 by imposing protectionist burdens on interstate trade.

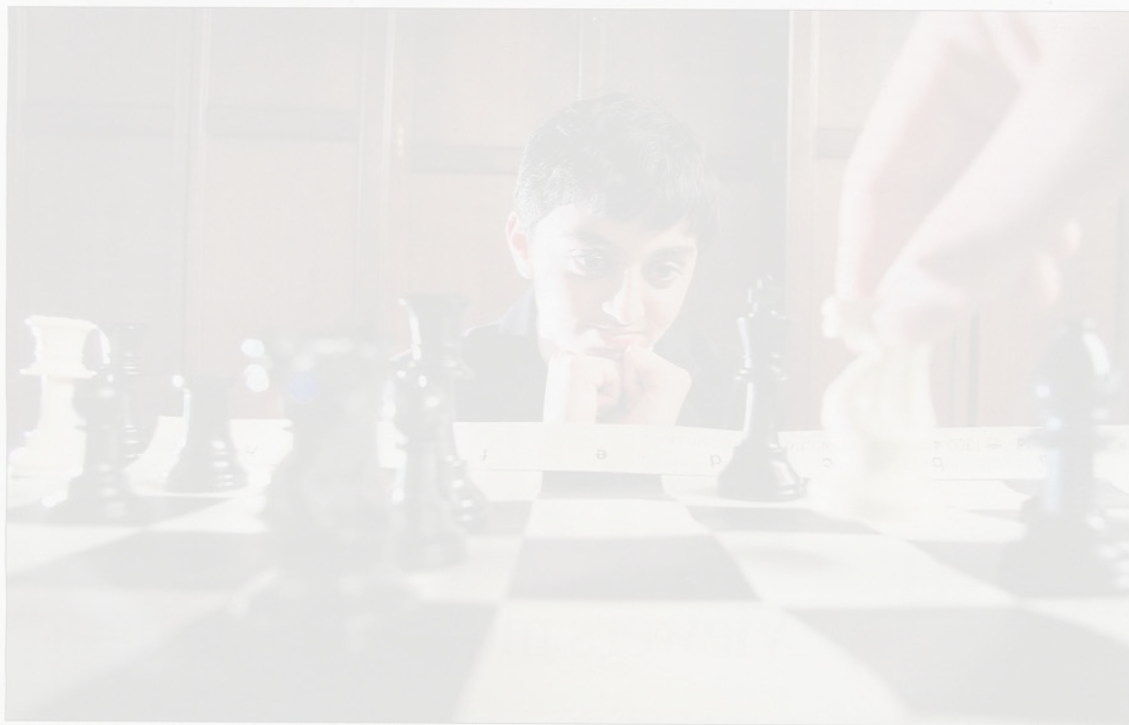
Gillian Gonzalez, vice-president of the WA branch of the Australian Family Association, said the State Government needed to close this apparent loophole as quickly as possible.

"There is growing evidence that pornography can have a negative impact on society and can be addictive," she said.

Adultshop.com boss Malcolm Day declined to comment yesterday.

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Playing to win: Perth Modern School Year 10 student Neville Shah will compete in an interschool chess championship at the weekend.

Picture: Ian Munro

WA hot shots now internet shooting stars

LEE RONDGANGER

Four WA youngsters have become internet sensations after posting videos of themselves making seemingly impossible basketball shots.

Thousands worldwide have seen Scott Gaunson, 18, Kyle Nebel, 18, Brett Stanford, 21, and Derek Heron, 21 — who call themselves How Ridiculous — shoot a basketball from the Narrows Bridge into a hoop several metres below.

Other footage shows them making a shot over a house without seeing the basket and shooting a basket from on top of the DNA Tower in Kings Park.

The four say that all of their tricks are 100 per cent authentic. To prove it, they performed their mind-boggling basketball skills for Perth's Seven News cameras.

They were able to shoot a basket from the third tier and second tiers of Patersons Stadium (formerly Subiaco Oval).

"We are not after fame," Scott said. "We are just regular guys who love shooting baskets."

Watch the long-shot wizards at thewest.com.au

Chess player has all the right moves

MICHELLE RIDLEY

He may be young but Neville Shah is not to be underestimated on the chessboard.

The Perth Modern School Year 10 student is set to compete in the State final of the Chess Kids National Interschool Chess Championships on Sunday

Chess Kids founder David Cordover said Australian children had recently begun to rival the best players in the world, with Melbourne boy Bobby Cheng winning the under-12 division of the World Chess Championship last year.

"There are always a couple of outstanding kids in any State," Mr

get involved." This year, 500 school children from all over the State took part in the interschool chess competition.

Mr Cordover said elite junior chess players had to train just like they would for any sport.

"Your best players might be spending three or four hours playing chess every day," he said.

New Furniture just arrived at FUSIONS

