

## **8 MILE – A SUBMISSION TO THE FILM AND LITERATURE BOARD OF REVIEW**

United International Pictures (NZ) is appealing the classification of the above mentioned movie title '8 MILE', "R16 – contains violence, offensive language, drug use and sex scenes". The basis of our appeal is that its current classification is too subjective and gives undue regard to the genre of the movie rather than having a balanced regard for the message and 'good news' story that motivated this movie to be made.

Further, we believe that the classification this title received in Australia of "M – medium level, coarse language, adult theme, medium level of sex scenes, medium level of violence" more reasonably recognises the content and possible contentious scenes and language the film displays.

The theme of '8 MILE' is clearly one of a good and powerful message to the youth of New Zealand. '8 MILE' is a story about the boundaries that define our lives, and a young man's struggle to find the strength and courage to transcend them. It is a true story based on the life of one of the world's most popular singing artists, Eminem. The New Zealand Herald review by Russell Billie on 18 January 2003 best summarises the thrust of the movie when he writes "perhaps the best thing about '8 MILE' is that while it's the Eminem movie, it's still a movie. It's really a conventional, old fashioned, talent will overcome all ....."

United International Pictures (NZ) recognises that indeed there is a degree of language and adult scenes in the movie, but believe that a less restrictive classification of R13 would more properly and fairly give weight to the overall theme, and message this title is obviously sending out to the younger people of our generation.

The classification of 'M' with recommendations in Australia has meant audiences of any age could in fact view this movie, which is obviously far less restrictive than the R16 classification received here.

With the greatest respect we ask the Film and Literature Board of Review to reconsider the current classification of R16 and give fair consideration to the overall theme and good news message '8 MILE' is sending our youth. We believe that if this balance test is applied you will conclude that R16 is in reality too harsh and unreasonable.

We consider that in light of the Australian Classification, a R13 classification would better reflect the rating this title deserves.

**Peter T Garner**  
**UNITED INTERNATIONAL PICTURES (NZ)**  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR**