

Showing movies

If your club/society is planning on showing a movie, it is imperative that the Club/Society abides by any legislation.

Permission will also be necessary where a non-profit organisation such as a club, or sporting organisation wants to screen a film or DVD as a fundraiser or as a group activity. This may include obtaining and paying for a movie licence to ensure Copyright and/or Public Performance Rights are met.



If you screen a film, DVD or video in a non-domestic setting, you need permission.

It is illegal to publicly show a film that is intended for home use only.

You must have the Public Performance Rights to screen a film in a public venue.

There is no general exemption allowing non-profit organisations to screen films, DVDs or videos in public without permission (even if no charge is made for admission).

Suggested process to follow:

Hire a film from a distributor (for the 'non-theatrical public performance rights' – non-theatrical meaning 'not in a commercial cinema but still public' – like hotels, oil rigs, prisons, schools, RMIT, etc). The main film distributors in Australia are:

- Roadshow Public Performance Licensing (PPL) (roadshowppl.com.au) handles most commercially and independently produced films, including films from Warner, Paramount, Universal and 20th Century Fox (but not Sony or Columbia Tri-Star).
roadshowppl.com.au/wpAbout/Contact.aspx
- If Roadshow does not handle the film you are interested in, Amalgamated Movies Non-Theatrical Film Distributors (amalgamatedmovies.com) may handle the rights. Amalgamated Movies handles the rights for Columbia/Tri-Star, Sony and Madman Entertainment.
amalgamatedmovies.com



Generally, films must be classified by the Classification Board or Classification Review Board before they can be publicly exhibited in Australia.

For copyright purposes, screening a film, DVD or video outside the home is generally regarded as "in public".

Screenings organised by a non-profit will also generally be "in public", even if no fee is charged for viewing the film or video.