

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you to strongly oppose the proposed changes to Copyright Law, specifically, a change to US-style copyright exceptions which will certainly damage Australian creators.

Educational Supplies Pty. Ltd. as part of The Dominie Group was originally started in 1951 by my grandfather, Owen Martin. He was a Primary School Principal who could not find quality educational resources to help him in the classroom. He wrote numerous books and published them himself. He then encouraged other educational authors to do the same and started to publish and distribute their quality creations.

For over 60 years, Educational Supplies has been publishing uniquely Australian educational resources. These resources have been created by a wide range of talented Australian authors. If the proposed changes go through, nearly all our authors will no longer be able to rely on being an author as their sole income. Our company will bear financial impact and be forced to move to reduce staff numbers. The staff that would be released hold industry specific skills and as other publishers would follow suit, these employees would find it very difficult to gain similar employment within the industry, let alone employment of a similar nature.

Not only is it grossly unfair that the authors will not be paid a fee for their works to be copied, it will also create a situation where there will be very few people who will financially be able to spend their time creating these educational works.

From the publisher point of view, our industry is already in crisis. We have had a record number of Suppliers that we deal with, go into voluntary administration in the past twelve months. To remove copyright payments to authors and publishers will result in many people losing their employment as publishers struggle to stay afloat.

The proposed changes are unfair to the creators of the educational works. The changes will create certain job losses within the Australian educational publishing industry. The changes will mean there will be very limited Australian-created educational resources going forward. Going forward, people will not choose to become an educational author if their work could be copied free of charge as it will be extremely difficult to find a livelihood in this industry.

Please consider the serious cultural and financial hardships you will create for many people, if you move forward with these changes.

Kind Regards,

Brook Martin
Managing Director
Educational Supplies Pty Ltd The Dominie Group