

I wish to urge the Government to reject the Productivity Commission's recommendations regarding Fair Use. This will make it difficult for writers like myself to make money from writing and discourage us and more successful writers from pursuing this career. There are many writers like myself who have had a few books published and publish stories, poems etc in journals and magazines but do not make much money from this. The little money we do make is dependent on the current copyright laws and would be severely reduced if the 'fair use' recommendations were acted upon. Likely consequence of these recommendations being legislated include:

- Universities and schools refusing to pay licence fees for the material they use. According to the PricewaterhouseCoopers report (2015) this happened in Canada following 'fair use' legislation. (In a number of years the larger part of my writing income has come from this source.)
- I like most writers would not be able to afford court costs involved in relation to legal disputation arising out of legislation based on the 'fair use' recommendations. (In the USA 43% of last year's copyright cases related to 'fair use' disputes.)
- The implications of the PWC report are that schools and universities will rely heavily on 'free' material from overseas to the detriment of Australian publishing and the survival of Australian writers and workers in related industries.

I imagine that some successful writers and publishers will be able to survive but the continued success of Australian writing, as with sport, depends on their being many players in the game so that talent is encouraged and the most talented will chose writing as a career and have a good chance of making a living in it.

The losses to the country will not just involve the loss of income connected with people involved in writing and publishing moving to other activities but the loss of other jobs connected with this. There will also be the wider cultural loss as the social cohesion which comes with a common culture will be weakened by the reduction of Australian writing and its increasing absence in the school/university curricula which will rely increasingly on overseas material.