

23 May 2016

To the creators of the Productivity Commission's Report

Re: Intellectual Property

As a published author since 2001 of levelled educational readers (Diving at the Pool, 2001) (Train Music, 2004) which are sold into primary schools both here and overseas, I am extremely concerned and shocked that the Productivity Commission is now considering that my books may soon be allowed to be photocopied or reprinted resulting in the loss of my only income. Each year I receive royalty payments and this has been a steady result. Am I now faced with the possibility of losing that income? Honestly, the idea that a Commission has this type of control over fair compensation for my writing work and future is depressing.

I have two trade books scheduled for publication in 2017, both by smaller publishers who I am so grateful to. They bear the financial risk of whether the books will make profits or not. If these publishers no longer have territorial control of their published works and face booksellers selling their books which have been published overseas, then I have fears that these wonderful publishing houses may not survive. This will result in the loss of so many authors and creators being able to shine in their own country. What does it mean for my writing future?

Would anyone in the Productivity Commission encourage their child to become an author or publisher if these changes come into force? Are the so-called benefits that are foreseen by implementing these changes worth the terrible risks and losses that will be felt by so many hardworking creators and publishers?

Yours faithfully

Kaye Baillie.