

To: Productivity Commission

From: Emeritus Professor Bruce Ryan

Date: June 6, 2016

I retired in 1999 as Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Cincinnati, U.S.A., where I had worked for thirty-three years. My wife and I returned to my native Australia, built a house in Kiama, N.S.W., and have lived there ever since.

My hope had been to continue the research on urban and regional development that I'd pursued in the United States, but with an Australian focus. Two impediments have all but ruined that hope.

1. Without an affiliation with an Australian university, I have no comprehensive access to online data sets or library holdings of journals and books.

2. As a resident of remote, rural and regional Australia, I have no ready access to the research libraries in Sydney and Canberra.

What I need is online access to books, journals, and data sets. I have made do as best I can, but feel that otherwise productive retirees are being denied their research potential. I know very well the obstacles that confront me, and only hope that the Productivity Commission can lower or remove them.