

The Productivity Commission would like us all to have cheaper books. Based on its own out-dated (2008) figures, books in this country are *already* 25% cheaper than they were eight years ago. The goal has long been achieved. And anyway, any of us can now buy books cheaply from anywhere in the world. The recommendations have therefore become redundant and should be repudiated.

Australian children deserve Australian stories. They now have them, thanks to a thriving Australian book industry that has built up steadily over the last 50 years. My own books, of which **Possum Magic** was the first, are a testament to this industry.

The lifting of Parallel Importation Restrictions, as suggested, by the Productivity Commission, would kill Australian stories for Australian readers. Don't tell me we're going to culturally cringe again—I won't stand for it. Having striven for my entire writing life to bring Australian stories to the page I won't allow the sudden death of our much loved, unique literary culture, and I beg you not to be a party to it either.

The heart-breaking examples of New Zealand and Canada testify to this happening in Australia should these recommendations go through—unless of course our aim is for the world to become one nation called the United States of Everything.

On the matter of international copyright you will, by now, be aware that actually contractual arrangements and trade negotiations make the changing of copyright laws illegal. But I remain puzzled and alarmed by your suggesting it in the first place.

In my 33 years as writer I have never asked for or received a literature grant; neither will I ever need to call upon the government for any financial help such as a pension, presuming my copyright stays with me.

It would be nothing other than theft to take royalties away after 15 years, from me or any other writer. It would be like having built a house by hand, brick by brick, owning it outright, and living it, and hoping to leave it to one's children and then suddenly being thrown out and made homeless and penniless. Why would you want to do that? Whom would it serve? Cross that idea off your list. Please. Mem Fox AM