

Judith Daley
3 June 2016

Dear Sirs

Submission to the Productivity Commission Draft Report (April 2016) –
Intellectual Property Arrangements

I am writing to strongly object to the recommendations made in your draft report on Intellectual Property Arrangements, which was released on 29 April 2016.

I am an Australian woman and am currently seeking to have my memoir published. The perspective in that document is mine and mine alone and cannot be duplicated by anyone else because they haven't lived my life or had the same influences as I have had. I have had short stories and comment/submissions published previously and I want to retain the rights to those works because they are mine.

Your tone indicates to me that you do not value the skills I have as a writer and, by extension of that attitude, you would not value the skills any one has in any field. For example, if I love animals and want to become a vet does that mean I don't get any remuneration for my work? Or if I have a musical talent should I play in an orchestra for free? You seem to be attempting to deprive me of my livelihood as an author and I seriously disagree with your attitude.

My major concerns are as follows:

1. Term of Copyright

If the 'Term of Copyright' is being dictated by some free trade agreement it is a lousy agreement and disadvantages Australians. These recommendations are pretty awful and could result in Australian authors such as Tim Winton or Mem Fox losing the copyright to their work during their lifetime, not getting any income while people or companies in other countries reaped the benefit of their work. How is that fair or dinkum?

Parallel Importation Rules

Why are you attempting to change what is now more or less a level playing field to one that disadvantages Aussies and advantages people in other countries. If you think the consumers are not properly protected now there must be ways to protect them as well as the Australian authors. Please think again.

Fair Use

Why are you suggesting changes to rules that will disadvantage me in this area as well? I truly do not understand your rationale. Do you want me to just claim an aged pension and not try to earn any sort of living myself. How is that going to help me or fellow authors.

I, along with thousands of Australian authors, am deeply concerned that these changes will affect my ability to continue to write, earn a living and find a publisher. I want the unique stories about my culture to be created and published and distributed in Australia by Australians.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider your position.

Kind regards,

Judith Daley