

To Whom It May Concern,

I am involved in the writing of books in Australia and a reader of books and feel strongly concerning ongoing Australian creativity and literacy. I am an author who has plans to continue to write and publish in order to develop my craft and to make an income from what I do. I know many authors who rely on their writing income to pay a mortgage or rent, run a vehicle, feed a family and pay bills.

Despite success in this industry, many cannot claim to make a living out of it. At best it provides a small income boost covers most overheads, with required materials and equipment consuming any potential profit. If they were to earn less they would be forced to seek other employment and that would not enable them to continue to write, which required a lot of time. This would certainly be the case if parallel imports were approved and the copyright laws changed for Australian authors. It would affect the careers of all creators.

The current proposal to reduce our term of copyright and to allow the introduction of parallel import is immoral and would make all authors careers unsustainable. Parallel importation would create an unfair competition with copies of foreign editions coming into the Australian market at greater volume than our Australian publishing houses could sustain. The market would ruin the chances of local publications having any success in a flooded market.

Please STOP parallel importation of Australian BOOKS!!

Yours sincerely,

Meryl Harris (author)