

## SUBMISSION

### **Parallel Importation of Books**

As a parent, it is concerning that the removal of PIRs would essentially dismantle the concept of territorial copyright for Australian authors and their publishers, something that writers in the UK and USA enjoy.

A literary work is not like a manufactured item – an author puts into each work their unique imagination and life experience, their passion for writing and years of work, both in writing books and educating themselves to write well. A literary work may speak to and be loved by generations of Australians and in time become part of Australia's unique cultural history.

Unlike overseas authors that young Australians may never see in person, a contemporary Australian author through their work, their similar experiences and their contact with young Australians may be an inspiration and a role model. Many a child has been inspired to read, and some to become authors themselves, through their contact with an Australian author during talks, visits to schools and public libraries, writing workshops and mentorships. In my view, it is in Australia's interest for its government to support its literary creators as much as possible and have a thriving book industry.

It is concerning that Americanised versions of Australian works, edited for spelling and 'translated' for a major market such as the USA will then be imported into Australia and may become the major source of Australian books for young Australian readers.

It is also concerning that, the 'fair use' changes would not only affect educational writers' ability to earn a living, but also the quality and relevance of educational resources available to Australian children. If it is financially unsustainable for Australian writers to write books to support the Australian Curriculum in Australian schools, I cannot see foreign writers being interested in stepping in to fill the gap.

Growing up as a young Australian reader there was a lack of access to stories which reflected the nuances of Australian cultural experiences due to the predominance and availability of British and American stories. Bookshop shelves today have an abundance of American and British books for children and young adults. Reading about British or American characters does not reflect the experience of say living in Sydney or Melbourne or rural Australia. In recent years, there have been more Australian authors writing stories for children and young adults set in Australia, with Australian protagonists. It would be very sad to see this exciting development end. A young Australian contemplating a writing career already faces huge hurdles in becoming a published author. A lack of support for the local publishing industry and Australian authors making a livelihood in Australia, may force young authors to live overseas, write books that would be of more interest to UK or US publishers, or give up writing altogether.

I believe it is in the interests of future generations to maintain a healthy Australian book industry by allowing Australian authors to retain the same level of benefits enjoyed by writers in the UK and the USA. I strongly urge the commission to ensure that the decisions it takes safeguards the opportunities for young Australian authors to be published in Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to your inquiry.