

## Submission to the Productivity Commission

As an Australian author of children's books, I am deeply concerned at the prospect of the lifting of the restrictions on parallel imports.

My fifteen books for younger children such as *Not Worms* (Blake Publishing) *The Pumpkin Plan* (Macmillan Education) and *Frankie's Fortune* (Nelson ITP), reflect the lifestyles and activities that are part of the Australian way of life. Australian children can relate to these.

In writing my Young Adult novels, *Alison* published by Random House, *Heroes* published by Lothian Books and another, yet to be published, I have attempted to bear witness to times and places that have shaped the lives of myself and other Australians. Those novels are so grounded in the Australian landscape, culture and history that any attempt to alter them to fit global expectations would be futile.

Other nations cherish the unique qualities of their way of life. We should do all we can to retain ours.

If the restrictions on parallel imports are lifted, those authors whose works most surely reflect the Australian way of life could lose their markets and Australian children's would be deprived of knowledge of their heritage.

I believe that the benefits to the Australian community from the present provisions, outweigh any costs from restricting competition.

Margaret Watts  
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