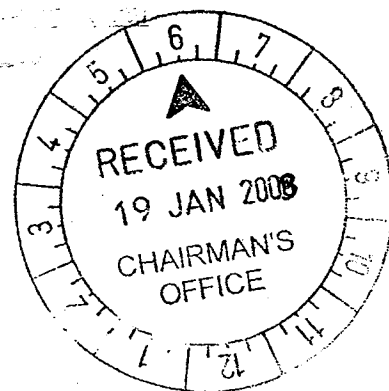


15 January 2009

Barbara Mobbs  
Literary Agent

The Chairman  
Mr Gary Banks  
The Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City ACT 2601



Dear Mr Banks,

### **Re Parallel Importation**

I write to formally submit my views.

### **Background**

I started in publishing in Australia forty years ago when there were only two houses publishing Australian authors. For the past thirty-six years I have worked as a literary agent representing some of our best creative talent (eg Patrick White, Kate Grenville, David Malouf, Helen Garner).

### **Our Culture**

Australian independent publishers and the Australian offices of multi-nationals publish books reflecting our culture. Local publishers work closely with authors on editing and promotion.

Literary festivals, where our culture is celebrated, are supported by Australian publishers & booksellers.

Northern hemisphere publishers would be less inclined to publish our authors if they had not had success in their own country. This applies to fiction and more so to non-fiction reflecting our society and history.

### **Financial**

Before the growth of local publishing, the authors who were published in London received export royalties. These are approximately half the amount they receive when royalties are based on the Australian edition.

Some authors can now make a living instead of scratching between part-time work.

Australian books are winning international prizes and rights are being sold around the world.

**Parallel Importation**

This is being heralded as a means to cheaper books. This would not necessarily happen. The international chains are regularly charging more than the recommended retail price.

An open market would not guarantee cheaper books.

England and America don't have open markets

Australian readers are not being denied overseas titles under the present copyright law.

**Jobs**

Printers, publishers, booksellers and associated trades provide thousands of jobs for Australians .

It is essential that we don't ruin what we have worked so hard to create.

Copyright is the cornerstone of creativity. A change in copyright law allowing parallel importation would threaten the industry we have built .

There is not a single good reason for amending the copyright law.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Mobbs