

Sent by email

Ms Jill Irvine
Productivity Commission
Canberra

Dear Jill Irvine

As an Australian author, the consequences for the proposed change in the rules of protection for Australian copyright will be dire financially, and result in a substantial loss of income. Australia is my leading territory, as it is for the majority of Australian authors. If cheaper editions come into Australia then my income will be considerably reduced.

In addition, I will not be able to expect the same measure of support from companies like Penguin Australia. The amount of promotion and marketing they spent on supporting my debut novel was considerable, (for them a considered business risk) which gave me income, and brought my novel *A Fraction of the Whole* to the Australian market. I expect removal of that protection will seriously reduce both the support I receive from Penguin Australia for future books, and reduce my prospective future livelihood.

The Australian government over the years has consciously and deliberately granted specific protection or benefits to sectors of the Australian community in appropriate cases, such as the substantial benefits given to Australian films. I don't understand why the protection given to Australian authors would be abandoned. I and many other Australian authors are basically supported by the Australian publishers - and no-one else. That is the bare fact. If we lose that support, then what are our alternatives?

The current protections are a great incentive to publishers to assist Australian writers, and to get those books to market. It is not just a win-win situation, but a win-win-win situation for the authors, the publishers and the Australian public having access to books by Australian authors which otherwise might never have seen the light of day. This is also a cultural imperative; the Australian community needs Australian writers to write freely about their own community without concerning themselves with pleasing a foreign market that will be, if the changes are made, providing the main support.

I strongly object to the proposed changes to the protection currently available to publishers of Australian copyright.

Yours sincerely

Steve Toltz