

The Chairman
Gary Banks
The Productivity Commission

GPO Box 1428 Canberra

Dear Mr Gary Banks,

As an Australian children's writer of over 60 books, I would like to strongly oppose any changes to the current Copyright Act.

I am deeply concerned for my own livelihood as well as those of other Australian creators, many of whom still have to work at another job to maintain an income that is at times barely higher than that of the poverty line. We work as creators for the love of it. Or do we? Of course we love our work, but that should never preclude the fact that books, especially children's books, are an expensive commodity already and we creators deserve better from the bodies dealing with finances, to make sure that our hard work is given more, not less financial reward.

As a writer who's been writing for over 30 years, of those 18 years fulltime, who has won awards for her children's books in fiction and non-fiction, and in poetry as income comes from the extensive school and library visits and author talks I take on to help promote my work. I am involved in writing groups, am an ambassador for the Premier's Reading Challenge, which aims to promote reading to children, am a member of Australian Society of Authors and the SA Writers' Centre. I am a committed, hard-working creator who sits and writes in concern that the monies I strive so hard to earn in the publishing arena could be put deeper into real jeopardy with any changes to the Copyright Act.

Australia is a small population on the world scale, and we need to protect what we have, not allow overseas interests to diminish our chance of being published in Australia. We need to protect our rights as Australian creators, and allow Australian publishers to opportunity to take on new creators.

There are many aspects to the parallel importation of books and I believe it is critical to my livelihood, and the whole arena of Australian publishing to prevent further losses of work, finances and the vital sense of Australianism in all of our creations.

Kind regards

Janeen Brian