

As a well-published Australian children's author (100 published books), I wish to emphatically say 'No' to Australia adopting Parallel imports.

On a personal level, Parallel imports will severely curtail my income and that of my husband, who is also a children's author. Parallel imports will allow cheaper books to be available, making Australia a dumping ground for remaindered books from the USA. Books that are remaindered are generally cheaper and inferior products. Why do we need other countries' rejected books?

A NZ Trade and Enterprise report carried out in 2004 stated that that 'New Zealand publishers face an inherent problem in that the domestic market is swamped by imports.' In particular, the 'dumping of children's books' was seen as a significant factor.

American children's books brought into Australia use American language and spelling, so the dumped books will affect our culture, starting with influencing our youngest readers culturally. It is enough that when one of my books sells into the American market, my publishers are required to change words such as 'footpath' into 'sidewalk' and 'taps' into 'faucets.' Please, don't let us Americanise Australia more than it is at the moment!

If Australia is flooded with cheaper book imports, some of our smaller Australian publishers will not be able to compete on price, and will be forced to close their doors. This will not only result in increased unemployment within the industry, but may affect the quality and diversity of what is published in Australia. Does the commission really want this? Do Australian readers?

The bottom line is that the proposal for Australia to have books dumped on it from overseas is going to affect our book industry negatively, not only economically but culturally.

I ask you to please reconsider your ill-advised proposal and say 'no' to parallel importation!

Dianne (Di) Bates