

# **Submission on the affects of lifting Copyright Restrictions on the Parallel Importation of Books into Australia**

by Lorraine Marwood

I am a published Australian poet and children's author and wish to outline my situation with regard to the current study by the productivity commission.

I wish to argue against a lifting of the restriction on the parallel importation of books on the grounds of protecting our unique Australian writing culture.

If my books were to be produced overseas in USA, many of the unique Australian expressions would have to undergo translation such as mum to mom, biscuits to cookies, etc. Poetry especially would suffer from being tailored to meet a universal appeal rather than being a spontaneous celebration of the unique sensory appeal that is Australia. Over a projected time, what we value as unique and part of our written culture will disappear.

Local publishers who support this unique publication of our culture and I know how hard it is to have poetry published in Australia. These publishers are providing an essential service for Australian readers. They deserve to have their returns and autonomy protected, and not become controlled by overseas expectations and markets. This could ultimately see smaller publishers driven out of business, which would reduce even further the opportunities for Australian writers to have their work published.

We have a vibrant publishing culture that risk takes to produce original and outstanding literature, especially children's literature. The New Zealand experience in allowing parallel imports shows that this puts originality and the livelihoods of local writers and publishers at risk.

The United States and the UK protect their publishers and writers by not allowing parallel imports, so the relaxation of such restrictions in Australia would produce a one-sided result that would be detrimental to our local community.

As an author, I constantly live at the lower economic margin of society, I work hard researching markets and opportunities and take risks to make my writing the best it can be for the reading public of Australia.

In view of all these factors, I believe that the introduction of parallel imports would severely reduce the number and extent of opportunities for writers like me, and many would be forced to seek employment elsewhere.

For the sake of our local industry, I urge you NOT to lift restrictions on parallel imports.