

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am a well-published Australian children's author, and so is my husband, Bill Condon. We have been reading alarming news from the Australian Society of Authors about your government deciding on the issue of parallel importations of books into the Australian market.

In brief, this would be a very bad thing for writers, publishers, and eventually readers who will gradually see their national culture eroded because publishers will be unable to take risks on new Australian voices. There would be nothing to stop foreign publishers, for example, selling their remaindered copies of our books into Australia, thus under-cutting the demand for full price editions.

This means that as authors Bill and I will lose royalties – and we don't make all that much on those as it is (thank goodness and government for Lending Rights!). If passed, this bill will really affect Australian book creators – not just authors, but also illustrators, designers and indexers.

Booksellers will argue that books imported from overseas will result in cheaper books, but anyone can buy books cheaper through Amazon.com anyway!

Another disadvantage of parallel importation is that Australian children will be reading books with Americanised spelling. In NZ, where parallel importation was introduced, the results have been overwhelmingly negative, with children's books the most adversely affected.

I am not one to write letters often to politicians, but I do feel passionately about this. Please don't allow the bill to be passed.

Yours sincerely,

Dianne (Di) Bates

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