

Attention:

Productivity Commission
Parallel Importation of Books

19th January 2009

Submission re: Copyright Restrictions on the Parallel Importation of Books

I am a writer with a number of short stories for children published in anthologies by a small local press. I have been successful in various writing competitions, and, as an 'emerging' writer, I am hoping to develop my career to a more professional level.

I am also a parent, a teacher, and a long-time reader and purchaser of books.

I would like to add my support to the various writers and bodies such as the Australian Society of Authors, who have made submissions calling for the **retention** of current protections on territorial rights.

Australia is a small and vulnerable market. We can learn from the New Zealand experience where the lifting of restrictions has had a detrimental effect on local writers and publishers, as well as on access to culturally unique content. We can also wonder why large markets like the US and the UK continue to preserve their territorial rights. Why should we relinquish ours?

I would question that consumers would receive any benefit from the suggestion that it would make books particularly cheaper, and I also question at what cultural cost these 'cheaper' books might come.

There is little I can add that has not already been eloquently stated by others. The Australian writing and publishing industry needs copyright restrictions on the parallel importation of books to be maintained.

I thank the Commission for the opportunity to state my position, and ask that any potential reforms to the current situation be carefully examined for all possible consequences before any changes are made.

Catherine M Whittle