

19 December 2009

Mr M Woods and Ms L Sylvan
Parallel Importation of Books Study
Productivity Commission

**SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION ISSUES PAPER: COPYRIGHT
RESTRICTIONS ON THE PARALLEL IMPORTATION OF BOOKS**

It has recently come to my notice that consideration is to be given to amending the Copyright Act by abolishing the 30-day rule and allowing parallel importation of books into Australia

I have a background in teaching and tutoring from Junior Primary to Year 12. My most recent experience has been in reading recovery and teaching literacy skills to children who are deaf. It is vital that they and all Australian young readers have access to books that reflect Australian perspective and content – that readers can relate to their everyday lives and experiences. We have come such a long way in the publication of relevant, appealing reading materials for our children and young people.

Any regulations to diminish the viability of Australian publishers must in turn affect the production of quality educational resources for our children.

Interestingly parallel importation is not allowed in the UK or the US. Why would we do so given the vibrancy of our industry in spite of our smaller population.

I cannot see that the arguments favouring such a change bear anywhere near sufficient weight when compared to the negative effect on the Australian literary milieu. We need to stand by our writers/illustrators and publishers.

Yours faithfully

Sylvia Phillips