

**Productivity Commission Submission
Parallel Importation of Books Study**

Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Commissioners

I am writing to express my concern at the proposed changes to the copyright laws. I am an Australian author and have 15 books published for young people. I also teach Creative writing at Tabor Adelaide, an independent tertiary institution.

I believe the proposed changes will negatively affect Australian authors and the Australian culture, as our books today show Australian culture to the future. I know that when my peers have had their books published in the US the text is changed significantly so that the American readership can understand it eg 'farm' is changed to 'ranch', the bush or scrub may be changed to 'savannah' and spelling is changed. My own books are very Australian and have not been taken up overseas. With the parallel importation proposal, books like mine may never be published. I am concerned also for the students of writing that I teach. The publishing field in Australia is small enough without narrowing it further by this proposal. Don't we want our Aussie children reading Aussie books and growing up proud of being Australian, not some extension of the US culture?

Also, Parallel Importation of books will affect Australian writers' income. I know when my books are sold overseas, I receive very little remuneration. Consumers may be tempted to buy the cheaper books coming in but what of the Australian authors' livelihood, and the affect on our culture? Our writing – our Australian literary voice – is respected around the world. I fear many will not get a voice if the restrictions on parallel importation are removed.

The US and UK do not allow parallel importation – why should we?

Kind regards
Rosanne Hawke