

Dear Commission,

I am an illustrator of children's books and am concerned that any changes to Australian copyright protections will do serious harm to my livelihood and that of my friends and colleagues in the children's publishing industry. I cannot understand why the productivity commission would put at risk an industry as lively and innovative as ours.

For many of us the financial rewards are modest but the work itself is satisfying. That is largely because we have licence to take some creative risks and the luxury of building relationships and careers with publishers who are able and willing to nurture new talent.

I have the good fortune to work with a publisher who publishes my work here in Australia and also seeks overseas publishers for that same work. Those American editions of my work are beautifully produced but are subject to text and image changes.

The American market is very conservative and demands changes that are laughable and bizarre. I should regret deeply if changes to Australian copyright protections made Australian publishing's distinctive presence no longer distinctive, no longer unique.

Yours sincerely

David Kennett   illustrator.