

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a mother and teacher of Australian children I **strongly object** to the parallel importation of books.

The cultural identity of our young Australians is already being consistently eroded by the influence of international popular music, language and film. Opening the doors to the parallel importation of books will be the final blow.

Our children inherit the choices we make today.

My 16 year old daughter in her Year 12 English Essay has this to say:

What is it that makes us fair dinkum different from the rest of the world? Not that much any more, it seems, writes Daniela Sunde-Brown.

As technology advances and globalisation spreads, is our Australian national identity fading? Language and cultural boundaries throughout the western world are blurring. So how can we as Australians hold on to what is left of our true blue?

Young Australians in their search for individual identity, ironically model themselves on their peers. While these peers used to live 'down the road', today our youth model themselves on peers from a global community via the internet, particularly *facebook* and *myspace*. A dominant US pop culture has swept over our nation and influenced our identity. Baseball caps and Levi's have replaced the Aussie Akubra and Moleskins, Aussie rock has given way to hip-hop and techno and the McFeast has overtaken meat pies. This sharing of ideas, music, pictures and home videos on the net merges our cultural identities, as the young of the western world strive to be the same.

Most at risk of being lost through this international 'sharing' of music, media and books, is our unique language identity. Words such as *footpath*, *paddock*, *nature strip*, *bush*, *creek* and *ute* may be words our grandchildren will not understand.

Our government is considering removing current restrictions on the parallel importation of books. If that happens, then US versions of Australian publications will be cheaper to buy here.

US publishers edit out Aussie content, spelling and cultural references to suit the US market. This will result in the deterioration of our own language and the disappearance of a cultural identity for young Australian readers. This new generation will park their *pick up* next to the *sidewalk*.

*"Are you really disappearing,
Just another dying race?
Hey True Blue,"*

*"If they sell us out like sponge cake,
Do you really care?
Hey True Blue." (John Williamson)*

..... We must at least try to preserve our fast fading Australian identity, before it disappears entirely.

(Daniela Sunde-Brown, 16 years)

I send this in faith that you will note my strong objection and make the right choice for our future.

Yours faithfully

Angela Sunde

Mother
Teacher
Writer
Illustrator