

Dear Productivity Commission,

I am a self employed mother of two and illustrator of books, intending to move into writing as well within the next 5 years. I am dismayed by what I am reading about the proposed surrender of Australian territorial copyright. I am currently offered work by Penguin Australia, Little Hare Books, ABC Books and occasionally Allen & Unwin.

The surrender of our territorial copyright will mean that local editions of my books will become unable to compete for price with cheap imported editions, meaning I will need to attempt to create new business relationships with overseas publishers, competing with an enormous number of illustrators worldwide. This will be hard enough for me as a newly established illustrator, but will be nearly impossible as a beginning writer in the years to come.

It may be that the book illustration side of my career will succumb altogether and I will have to move into commercial illustration work. This would be sad indeed for me, since alongside my family, participating in the creation of books is the great passion of both my working and home life.

Aside from my own living, I fear for our local bookshops (who in the long term will find themselves struggling to compete with the internet and bargain basement booksellers) and our fantastic publishing houses, along with our writing and illustrating community. What a great loss it will be to sacrifice these people and businesses to the unilateral surrender of our territorial copyright.

We must not support the proposed surrender of territorial copyright.

Judy Watson