

I believe Parallel Importation of books would be instrumental in changing the whole culture of the Australian language and should be avoided.

Each children's book that gets published and released in the US has spelling and words changed - Mom, sidewalk and so much more. In a novel, it is not unusual for hundreds of words to be changed. Americanisms would become the norm. I don't believe this is what the people of Australia want. I find the provision of books with varied spelling educationally unsound.

Parallel Importation of American books into Japan has not affected their industry because Japanese publishers do not publish in American/English. There is no competition. US books would compete with Australian editions, however.

In New Zealand, however, since Parallel importation has been approved, many publishers have ceased to exist and few people would be able to list more than 5 New Zealand children's book authors – simply because there are now so few opportunities for publication in their country.

Writing with the hope of publication in one's own country stimulates a culture of creativity. The ability to write books for a living requires a hungry Australian publishing industry. I see little reason for Australian publishers to produce books and pay authors if their profitability would be adversely affected by cheap competing imports.

Publishers in the US print more than they can sell so that hundreds of copies of each book are delivered to stores for attractive displays, with no expectation that they will be sold. Those returned will be pulped or sold at a cheap price to other countries. This is environmentally unsound as well as potentially damaging to the profitability of Australian publishers.

Without a vibrancy and profitability of the Australian publishing industry, authors and illustrators will be unlikely to have their work published in this country – or elsewhere. The US has enough authors and illustrators of its own to produce books published there.

I hope that you will agree that Parallel Importation will diminish the cultural activity of book creation in Australia, and that the nation would be poorer if this legislation were passed.

Thank you for considering this submission,

Peter Taylor