

## **Submission by Bright Books**

### **Re Parallel Importation and potential changes to Copyright Law**

#### ***The current proposed changes to Australian Copyright Law allowing***

Parallel publishing in our market place will without doubt have a destructive affect on Australian publishing, the like of which we have not seen in decades. It will cause a direct decline in the creation and production of truly Australian books, in an already depressed market place, which is not except from the world economic crisis.

As the ABC's best selling Australian children's author and illustrator, I have sold over 2 million books worldwide in the past 10 years. This is not a hobby for me it is my life's work. My career spans 20 years. Last year I created 13 books for the Australian and overseas market and I believe the changes that are being proposed to Australian copyright law, will make even me rethink my career in publishing and the viability of creating new books.

Already as a result of Gobalization we have seen a direct reduction in small alternative Australian publishing houses and therefore a reduction in publishing opportunities for Australian writers. Large overseas companies rule over our publishing houses and these changes mean less power to the creators of our cultural heritage and more power to overseas companies which inevitably will be ruled by profit and not what is best for our Australian publishing industry. This will diminish local creators rights and opportunities until we become swamped once again by cheap overseas imports.

Local creators royalty returns are already meagre and under pressure to be reduced, these proposed changes mean that authors will be hard pressed to make a living out of the royalty returns on the imports of their own books back into the market place.

Most overseas returns are 8 to 10% of wholesale price, meaning a return of 8 to 10 cents on a book with a retail price of 11.95. It doesn't take genius to work out you need to sell zillions of books to start making any decent profit for the Australian creator. Australian authors have mortgages and school fees just like everyone else.

Parallel publishing is not a viable option for the Australian Authors and illustrators. No erosion of local creator's copyrights should be even entertained, especially in this current economic climate.