

PARALLEL IMPORTATION OF BOOKS

Productivity Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to express deep concern about proposed changes to Australian copyright laws.

I am an author/illustrator who has been involved in the Australian children's publishing for the last 26 years.

Over my lifetime I have seen the industry flourish and the range and nature of Australian titles available to children grow in number and quality.

By taking risks and investing considerable time and money Australian creators and publishers have produced a wealth of books that reflect our culture and provide our children with an enormous variety of stories and images that engage and excite.

Parallel exportation of books created for overseas markets can only impoverish the literary experience our children receive in the future by decreasing the number of titles available to them. With increased competition from imported books local publishers will be less likely to take on 'new talent', significantly diminishing the number and range of creators who will ultimately work within the publishing industry and 'speak' to our children. The market will also lose its distinctive local flavour as books altered to suit overseas markets are brought back into Australia.

The children's publishing industry in Australia is energetic and vital but the market is small and therefore also vulnerable. Many writers and illustrators pursue their work with little remuneration. Few can make writing/illustrating their full time career. The surrendering of Australian copyright will only make it harder for them to continue in the industry as royalties earned from 'imported exports' will be considerably less than those earned from Australian titles.

Please act to nurture and support Australia's wonderful children's publishing industry by retaining existing copyright laws.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Graham