

Dear Books,

In June 2008 Pan Macmillan released a copy of THE HOUSEHOLD GUIDE TO DYING, a novel by Debra Adelaide. I had sold them Australian/New Zealand rights. This is how the book was published and the prices the book was sold for both here and in the U.K. and the U.S.

Aust/NZ Trade Paperback AUD\$27.00 + GST

B Format AUD\$20.69 + GST

U.K. Hardback edition AUD\$31.11

U.S. Hardback edition AUD\$34.65

Please note I have not listed the Australian prices with GST added as this grossly distorts what the actual price of the book is being sold for.

In April 2009 the publishers in Australia released the B Format edition of this novel. If the recommendations proceed for Australia to be made an open market one year after publication then that would mean that after the 1st June 2009 copies of this novel published in the U.K. and the U.S. could be legally dumped here and directly compete with an Australian edition.

The author would in all likelihood get no royalty. The agent would get no commission. The original publishers would have its sales affected.

It all seems utter madness to me. I can't believe the lack of understanding of the industry by the Productivity Commission. Perhaps if members of the Commission decided to write a book and placed themselves hypothetically in the position of being an author they might grasp the significance of what would happen to their livelihood if Australia became an open market.

I would also like a specific question addressed. Why does the U.K. and the U.S. not have an open market?

I look forward to the outcome of this enquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Tranter