

Dear Jill,

I would like to state my objection regarding the proposal to remove parallel import restrictions on books.

As the editor of PASS IT ON, the online networking newsletter for all interested in the Australian Children's Writing and Illustrating Industry, I have been witness to the desperate pleas of authors, new writers and publishers to abort such a proposal. Not one of my subscribers, and there are hundreds, have written in to support such a move. All correspondence I have received has been to increase public awareness as to the damage it will cause.

As the editor of such an influential newsletter (last year it was voted number 1 in the Preditors & Editors readers Poll), I feel that I need to remain impartial but so far I have not been provided with evidence that removing or reducing parallel import restrictions on books will improve the industry for its creators or consumers in any way.

Booksellers claim that the lifting of import restrictions will result in cheaper books for the consumer. Even if this were so, and there is evidence to prove the contrary, might I suggest that discounts to the consumer are unlikely to happen because as we all know business is business and profit is profit. Any cost savings will ultimately benefit the booksellers, not the consumers, and there seems to be nothing in the proposed legislative changes to ensure that cheaper prices would be passed on.

The sufferers in all this will be the creators, and ultimately the consumers as their choice for quality Australian books diminishes.

PASS IT ON is a national newsletter; its subscribers comprise editors, publishers, authors, illustrators, librarians, teachers and lovers of books. Not one has shown support for this proposal to remove parallel import restrictions and neither do I.

Thank you,

Jackie

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