

April 15th. 2009-04-15

I am the author of several children's books who has followed with interest the recent Productivity Commission's investigation of Restrictions on the Parallel Importation of Books.

Having received and read the Discussion Draft from the Commission I am writing to plead with you to reconsider your findings which, among other things, calls for an open market for books 12 months after publication and the abolition of the current 90-day rule governing resupply.

As Michael Heyward of Text Publishing has pointed out “ *We have a superb retail environment, with a dynamic independent sector, and a competitive printing industry that generates significant numbers of skilled jobs.*”

Australian publishers have been instrumental in nurturing my writing career and the support, editorial assistance and encouragement I have received from them will be lost if the Productivity Commission's recommendations are taken on board by the government.

Some sectors of the publishing industry, notably Dymocks, are making claims that the Commission's recommendations would mean cheaper books for the Australian buyer, without providing any supporting evidence. The Commission itself has pointed out that ... *measuring the magnitude of any actual price effects* ... caused by territorial copyright is ... *problematic* ... and so the Commission ... *has not put a figure on them.*

The costs of implementing the Commission's recommendations will be to witness a decline in Australian authors' real income, an increasing lack of interest in, or care for, Australian authors and an erosion of the cultural integrity that Australian authors bring to publishing.

Please give this issue your serious re-consideration. The impacts of supporting your recommendations will be far-reaching and deleterious to all involved in the Australian publishing industry – writers, editors, publishers, printers and retailers and readers!

Yours sincerely,

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