

Dear Commissioners

My independent bookshop Mostly Books is a distinctive and vital part of the South Australian book industry and my local community. It offers readers expert advice and service, is a leader in range and product knowledge and is passionate about the books the staff read and sell. Having access to a diverse range of bookshops means that Australians have access to a diverse range of books.

As a bookseller I read books. I talk books. I am proud of what I do. Independent bookselling contributes around \$500m of the total book market in turnover. As an independent bookshop I feel under direct threat from the removal of the PIRs.

The impact of the draft recommendations on my store and my customers will have dire consequences for my business and my industry.

The Australian Booksellers Association, of which I am a member, has drawn to my attention to the conclusions that were made in your draft recommendation:

- There will be less independent bookshops
- The price difference between the local and overseas markets is effectively zero if the average exchange rates for the last ten years are used.
- That even if there were to be fluctuations in price you have determined that there would be little, if any increase in book sales and little if any effect on literacy rates.

With these factors taken into consideration, and given my lack of resources to provide you with the type of data needed to make a proper determination on the issue I submit the following.

- The closure of independent shops will have a direct impact on my local community through
 - Loss of jobs and income to the surrounding community
 - Loss of access to authors and promotions in local schools and libraries
 - Reduced access to a wide range of titles as department stores do not supply a full range.
- In looking at the cultural value of the book industry no regard or estimation of value was placed on the role my bookstore plays in my local community through its partnerships with libraries, schools, reading groups, kindergartens, day care centres etc. This role cannot be replaced by a department store.
- Any recommendations that reduce the amount of backlist available through local suppliers will harm independent shops who rely more on backlist than all other outlets

I ask that the productivity commission takes these issues into account in its final report.

Yours faithfully,

Jacqueline Cookes

proprietor