

15.04.09

Parallel Importation of Books
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

To Whom It May Concern:

As a fledgling in the writing industry I am appalled that our talented writers and illustrators may be given an even more difficult task than they face already.

Many authors, like me, must rely on other jobs just so they can afford to write.

While many of us would rather be full-time creators, that isn't possible in our economic climate. I am mystified why anyone would wish to make the arts an even harder occupation to break into.

Our world needs art and artists. Art allows society to thrive and grow as it nurtures the soul. Surely in these difficult times we should be cultivating not weeding.

In Australia we already have a limited market for our work. If we are competing with cheap imports our market shrinks even further.

While no one would argue that creating a manuscript is not fulfilling, is not nourishing for the artist, it does not recompense for financial reward.

The era of the struggling artist is not a utopia. It is not a crime to take pleasure in one's work and enjoyment should not compensate for monetary gain. We must all still eat.

Please re-consider this proposal. Back our Australian writers and illustrators.

Yours faithfully

Lynn Ward
Australian Children's Author