

I am writing to you in regards to proposed changes to the Australian copyright law. My letter will be brief as I am in the middle of a season for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. I only mention this because it seems to me that there are some parallels between the festival and what is being proposed for the publishing industry.

Despite the fact that our local comedians are of international standard, time and again it is the acts from overseas that are given considerably more support – in both publicity and financial terms. This makes it especially difficult for new local acts to make any sort of living, or even survive.

Changes to the Australian copyright law would disadvantage our writers. Isn't it worth asking why the US and the UK have not taken such measures?

I am better known as a comedian than a writer but know all too well what a struggle it is for anyone pursuing the arts in this country. Please let's not make it any more difficult – especially for new authors, who should be encouraged and supported.

Sincerely,
Judith Lucy.