

Oakleigh Vic 3166

17 April 2009

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

Dear Commission Members,

I write to you as a writer, reader, teacher, and parent, and urge you again to leave the Parallel Importation Restrictions in place in their original form.

I believe writers, publishers and teachers have already shown you how a change to the Restrictions would damage Australia's publishing industry and significantly reduce literary works of cultural value in the future.

Please consider who is urging the changes. It's large companies who already post considerable profits each year. Companies who have never made a habit of passing on discounts to consumers whenever the Australian dollar is strong or other factors come into play. They urge their customers to sign petitions by promising them cheaper books but without informing them of the full implications of a change to Parallel Importing. There can be no guarantee that any of these companies will pass on any savings to consumers. To imagine they would pass all savings onto consumers would be naive.

Any change to Parallel Importing can only be proven to benefit large booksellers and chain department stores.

The Australian Booksellers Association does not support an open market. They raise valid points about GST and the advantage online purchasers have in GST savings when buying their own books from overseas. The ABA also suggests that literary cultural development needs more assistance. There are gems in these submissions.

Your recommendations have the ability to damage an industry, a literary identity, and the incomes of a lot of Australians... or they can enhance them. The current draft is a damaging one.

Please make decisions that support the industry as a whole not a few large booksellers.

Yours sincerely,

Bren MacDibble.