

SUBMISSION REGARDING PARALLEL IMPORTATION

By Sherry-Anne Jacobs, author of 45 novels published mainly as Anna Jacobs
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I am strongly against changing the laws concerning parallel importation of books. As an author with 45 novels published, who earns her living from writing, I am certain that these changes will damage both my career and reduce my income markedly. At the age of 68, I work 10 hours a day, usually 6 days a week to earn a decent living from writing. I can do no more.

I get this income from sales of new books, but not just from newly-published books, as you seem to think. My backlist Anna Jacobs novels have stayed in print since 1994 and most have sold more copies since the first year after initial publication than they did during that first year. All my books have followed the same sales pattern.

If cheap copies can be imported, the people who will mainly benefit will be the larger book sellers eg Dymocks, KMart.

I make just over \$1 per copy on a paperback sold new at recommended retail price. I'd make about 5-10 cents a copy on a cheapie imported from overseas. The profit would go to the overseas publisher of this cheap edition, and to the bookseller importing that copy. This is blatantly unfair.

The projected changes to importation will damage Australia's cultural products and therefore long-term its heritage.

I notice the US and the UK are not rushing to make such changes. I wonder why?

I strongly support the Australian Society of Authors' view that the report does not show that books are more expensive in Australia and I can't see how Australia's literary culture will benefit from territorial copyright being changed.

Therefore, I strongly reject any suggestion for changes to the current restrictions on the parallel importation of books.