

I wish to lodge my protest against the parallel importation proposal.

Questions that come to mind in this issue, if both the UK and the US prohibit parallel imports, how are their book prices so cheap? Australian authors are not getting paid more than US or UK authors; from what I've seen wages in publishing are comparable; printing is a bit more expensive here, but surely it's not enough to explain the huge price increase? We have the GST, but the UK and US have their own sales tax systems, and overseas publishers often comment favourably when we get to talking about this sort of thing online, wishing they only had a 10% tax to worry about, so surely the GST can't be blamed. So could it be the book sellers are taking a bigger slice of the pie over here than in the US or UK?

I believe, long before any trade import restrictions are lifted, particularly one that will cause more job losses in the printing and publishing industries over here, that the Australian public deserve to be given an exact break down in the costs of our current book prices, so we can understand why book prices are so dear over here.

Thank you,

Sharyn Lilley
Culcairn NSW