

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: PARALLEL IMPORTATION OF BOOKS

I was made aware of this issue on the Ninemsn website recently and immediately forwarded a letter to both our Local Government Member and our Federal Representative, Kay Hull.

Ms Hull's office contacted me today and advised me of the appropriate avenue for me to express my dissent to the proposal of importing books. I was today advised that submissions were to close 17 April 2009. I was also advised to submit my letter nonetheless, as sometimes late submissions were accepted.

On the basis of the above, I ask that this letter be accepted in consideration of the matter of "Parallel Importation of Books".

I am a proud Australian. I am a working single mother of two children who have received education, as me myself has done, by way of both the Public and Private systems. I have encouraged my children to be avid readers and have paid particular attention to their skills in spelling and mathematics. I have long been adamant that we retain *our* language and not be absorbed by the money machine that is America. While this comment may appear to be anti-American, it is actually *pro*-Australian. I believe every country should be patriotic to its own first and supportive of other nations second.

I believe the parallel importation of books will expose our children to American spelling more than they are currently being exposed by way of television, American publications and sadly, some of our *own* magazine publications. I am concerned it would become commonplace in schools to accept either spelling if books produced for an overseas market were introduced and this saddens me. In other countries, they promote their *own* language first, and English – either American or British – second. Our children are now being exposed to the barrage of "text speak" and this is showing in some children being unable to adapt spelling styles to appropriate environs. For the Australian Government to further confuse the issue of language willingly by allowing parallel importation of books is untenable and irresponsible.

The companies that want this legislation changed want it changed for their own economic gain. They have not considered, or even care about, the effect this action will have on Australia's heritage, culture and education. Whilst parallel importation of books may expose our population to a broader range of reading material for a slightly lesser cost, this would be at the expense of retaining standards in language and grammar. Sadly, the most vulnerable

members of our population subject to such degradation of standards would be our children.

I believe our Government has an ethical and moral role to protect Australia physically, economically and culturally. By allowing the abolition of this legislation the Australian Government will be allowing its obligations to protect Australia to be bought by big business. Our children's education should not be able to be bought by shareholders.

I believe the current legislation in relation to the parallel importation of books should be left as it is. By keeping books printed in Australia, we not only retain our spelling, we also retain employment and skilled Australians.

Please *do not* sell Australia short.

Yours faithfully

Jayne Taylor-Waters