

Mary Who? Bookshop

17th April 2009

Dear Commissioners,

As an independent bookseller with a long and committed history of book retailing in the city of Townsville, we are appalled that your recommendation in the Draft Proposal for the Parallel Importation of Books would see the prospect of independent bookshops closing around Australia.

We are currently a vibrant and healthy section of the economy, not just locally but federally as well. Our sector contributes approximately \$500 million per annum to the national economy and we support our local businesses, schools, agencies, charities and non-government organisations. Our businesses are located in all areas of the Australian landscape, including many of the smaller towns and regional centres. We provide jobs for the residents and we have a powerful and positive effect on the local arts and literary communities. At a time when corporate retailers are suffering world wide, why legislate to threaten the existence of a healthy section of the market, in the vague, unproven hope that the price of books might come down by a dollar or two?

In our previous submission we outlined many reasons why the parallel importation of books would adversely affect the entire book industry in Australia-especially any business that is smaller, independent and locally owned. Australian authors and illustrators, Australian publishers, Australian book distributors and agents, and Australian booksellers will all suffer if the proposed recommendations are implemented.

We beg of you to reread all the submissions and to take note of the recommendations that people with the knowledge and expertise of their industry have made. We implore you to take heed of the vital and vibrant culture that the Australian book industry has created and sustained, of the jobs we provide and of our contribution to the literacy and general knowledge of the population. And we ask of you to incorporate these into your final report, so that the industry as a whole, as well as the general population, will benefit from the changes recommended.

Yours Faithfully,

Sue Cole & Kerry McIlroy

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