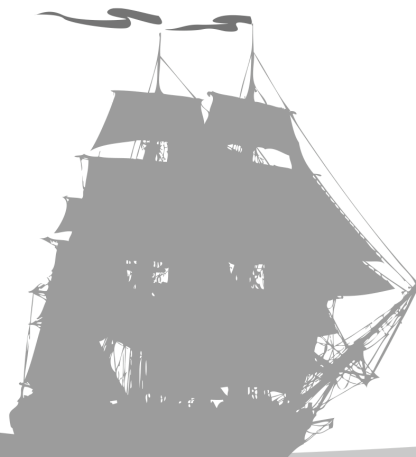




**Submission to the Joint Standing
Committee on Treaties Inquiry
into the *Marrakesh Treaty to
Facilitate Access to Published
Works for People who are Blind,
Visually Impaired or otherwise
Print Disabled***

Mozart Olbrycht-Palmer (mozart.palmer@pirateparty.org.au)

10 July 2015



Pirate Party Australia thanks the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties ('JSCOT') for the opportunity to participate in the treaty consultation process. The *Marrakesh Treaty*¹ represents an important step forward in the world for improving the ability for the visually impaired to engage with cultural materials. As submitted to the Attorney-General's Department's consultation on implementation of the *Marrakesh Treaty*,² the Pirate Party recognises the importance of improving access to, and dissemination of, materials in ways that encourage broad cultural participation and allow *all* persons to benefit from a vibrant global culture. Given that the World Blind Union estimated in 2013 that only 7% of published books are made available in formats accessible by the visually impaired (such as braille, audio and large print versions) in the wealthy countries, and less than 1% in the poorer countries,³ the Pirate Party welcomes the *Marrakesh Treaty* and is fully supportive of its ratification.

¹*Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled*, opened for signature 28 June 2013 [2014] ATNIF 15 (not yet in force).

²Pirate Party Australia, Submission to Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, *Marrakesh Treaty options for implementation*, 30 November 2014, 1.

³World Blind Union, 'June 17 Press Release for WIPO Book Treaty' (Press Release, 17 June 2013) <<http://worldblindunion.org/English/news/Pages/June-17-Press-Release-for-WIPO-Book-Treaty.aspx>>.