

Greg and Louise Porich,
Moruya
N.S.W.
27th October, 2006

Committee Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional
Affairs Committee,
Department of the Senate.
P. O. Box 6100,
Parliament House,
Canberra. ACT. 2600

To the Committee Secretary;

My husband and I are the authors of educational books for primary school children. We run and own a small publishing company called Burrabooks. Prior to this we were both primary school teachers for seventeen years each. After writing books part-time for a couple of years, we resigned from teaching to pursue full-time careers as authors and publishers of educational books. We have been doing this now successfully for about thirteen years and have produced about two hundred Australian titles for Australian schools.

We are very concerned about the proposed amendments to the Copyright Act of 1968. We feel that they may have a direct economic impact on Burrabooks. At the moment the money we receive through the Copyright Agency is a substantial part of our income which allows us to continue to write and publish high quality books for Australian children.

We would like to see less exceptions not wider exceptions to the Copyright Act.

We have concerns about the proposed introduction of a new extended fair dealing exception for libraries and in our case: educational institutions like primary schools.

We feel that this new extended exception would 'blur' the distinction between copying that can be free and copying that must include a payment to authors and publishers like us.

We also remain opposed to the current 'insubstantial copying' provisions which mean that schools can photocopy one or two pages of our books free every fourteen days. We believe this is eroding our potential income and it should be removed from the Copyright Act.

We believe that we provide valuable resources for primary school teachers and children which are entirely printed and produced in Australia. We specialise in books that teach phonics and early reading skills and love doing what we do. Our books are very highly regarded in Australian schools and we hope to be able to sell them overseas in the future.

At the moment a lot of our books are already being illegally photocopied and used way beyond the license we sell with the books. This means that our income from the sale of our books is already substantially reduced. We also have very high printing costs in

Australia, which make it very difficult to compete on an international level or even with bigger publishers in Australia.

In spite of all this (due to a lot of hard work and dedication as well as the remuneration we receive through the Copyright Agency) we have been able to create a successful small Australian publishing company which provides good quality books to children and also has created employment for other people.

We urge you to consider these changes to the Copyright Act very carefully and we hope you can understand our concerns. These changes will create a great deal of uncertainty for authors and publishers like us, who rely on Copyright payments to enable us to produce Australian books and stay in business.

Yours sincerely,
Louise and Greg Porich.
Burrabooks.