

Society and Culture Association

Founded 1984

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To: The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) Review Committee of Copyright and the Digital Economy

On behalf of the Society and Culture Association of NSW I am writing to you regarding the proposed changes to copyright and the negative impacts this could have on both teachers and students of Society and Culture.

Essential to teachers work is the use information from a wide range of sources to create and prepare innovative lessons, often on a collaborative basis. In doing so, teachers routinely photocopy, print, scan and electronically share material with students in the classroom from a wide range of sources. This regular construction and reconstruction of contemporary source materials is essential in providing students with current information from a wide variety of perspectives.

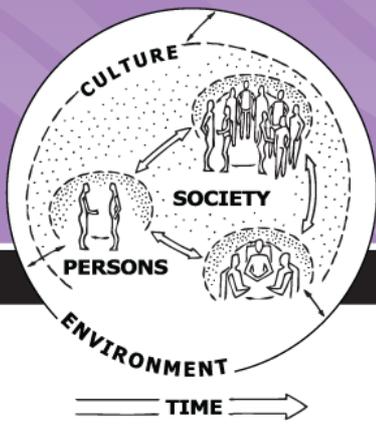
The Educational Statutory Licence system currently in place reduces teachers' workload and school costs. This system is transparent, fair and equitable and enables teachers' to copy and share material for approximately one quarter the cost of a commercially produced textbook from a wide variety of materials to suit diverse students' needs. The current system is time-efficient for teachers and supports quality, innovative teaching to enhance classroom practice.

We also believe in the moral and legal principles that the people who create the educational content receive payment for their skill, expertise and time.

As a professional teachers association, we take pride in delivering high quality, innovative learning experiences for both teachers and students. Each teacher's classroom is different and requires lessons and support materials tailored uniquely to develop and challenge the individual. The development of such resources requires access to information, strategies and support materials from disparate sources.

We understand a recommendation has been made to remove the current system and replace it with a combination of new arrangements.

We would like to request that this letter be placed officially on record by being tabled as a formal submission to the ALRC Review Committee.



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For reasons outlined in this letter, the Society and Culture Association of NSW strongly oppose any change to the current system that:

- will create any additional burden on my time due to the proposed changes to the current copyright compliance regulations
- creates uncertainty about what I can and cannot share with my students both in hard copy and in digital formats
- takes away fair remuneration from the people who create high-quality educational resources, many of whom are teachers, which I rely on and value highly.

Regards,

Ms Amanda Feeney

SCANSW Committee Member