

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

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013**

I am a secondary teacher with more than 12 years' experience teaching science. I am also a regular contributor to and user of my association publications. These journals are written by volunteers and are provided to members as part of their membership package. Using items published in these journals allows the association to gain some small monetary recompense via copyright which assists with the costs involved in running the association.

Essential to my work as a teacher, I use information from a wide range of other sources as well to create and prepare innovative lessons, often on a collaborative basis with my colleagues. In doing so, I routinely photocopy, print, scan and electronically share material with students in the classroom from a wide range of sources.

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

I 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 classroom practitioner, I take pride in delivering high quality, innovative learning experiences for my students. Each class I teach 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.

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

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

For reasons outlined in this letter, I 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
- 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.

  
Maree Woods

 

