413. J Alexander

**From:** June Alexander

**Subject:** Copyright Inquiry - Submission to DP 79

**RE:  ALRC inquiry into Copyright and the Digital Economy**

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an Australian journalist, writer and author.

The Law Reform Commission has produced a discussion paper that is heavily influenced by
those who argue that free and cheap distribution of content is a characteristic of the digital age

and the future and therefore should be enshrined in law. They have set the evidentiary bar
incredibly low for the proponents of change. At the same time, they are making
recommendations that would reduce the incomes of writers and publishers and have the
potential to create chaos and litigation in the industry and education sector.

My argument is that out of the $10,000-$13,600 (Gonski Report) it takes to educate a school student every year,
less than $17 is spent on copied and shared content (and similar numbers apply to universities
and TAFE). The new recommendations would reduce this and put the onus on creators to protect
their rights and prove abuse. The Statutory Licence is supported by teachers who find its invisibility
and ease of use beneficial in their working day, and by our members. The Statutory Licence means
there is neither misunderstanding nor illegal usage.

It is a system worth maintaining and a system that fairly compensates our members each year for the

content they create.

Australia has a fair and efficient system in place already, one that benefits both the user and the creator.

Changes in technology have already been taken into account by this system. The ALRC is trying to use
technological change as an excuse to erode or remove the rights of those who invest time, money and
skills into creating material that others wish to use.

As a writer, I wish to make clear to the ALRC Review that I value my work and that want the same rights as any other group looking to offer intellectual property.

**Best wishes,**

**June**

**June Alexander**

**AUTHOR. EDITOR. LIFEWRITING EDUCATOR**