459. B Duncan

Dear Sir/Madam

I was dreadfully concerned when my publisher informed me that the Australian Law Reform Commission was proposing to do away with the Copyright Payments to authors. As an author of three Visual Arts textbooks that were published over ten years ago I still receive dwindling royalties but earn more from the Copyright Payments.

I am concerned by the suggested repeal of fair payment for copying my books because:

* My books are designed to be used by teachers and because of the simple layout can be copied and shared easily, thus making the purchasing of an original copy unnecessary. The copyright payments have meant that I haven’t lost as much income as I could have.
* The largest portion of my income from these books comes from the copyright payments and not the royalties, suggesting that there is a lot of photocopying of my work being done. If the copyright payments did not exist my income would decrease dramatically.
* I have put in a lot of time and effort to create these books and therefore, as in any other profession, would expect to be paid accordingly and not give my work away for ‘free’.
* I, like many other authors or potential authors, would think twice about producing quality books if the copyright payments were repealed. This would mean a loss to the publishing industry and would affect those who purchase the books as well, as choices would be reduced and quality of books lowered.

I hope that serious consideration is given to the repeal of Copyright Payments not being passed and that authors’ rights and livelihoods are recognised.

Yours faithfully

Belinda Duncan