464. M Preston

To whom it may concern…..

I am a primary teacher with more than 30 years’ experience and this has been over quite a range of age groups and included working with many children who have had learning difficulties. Therefore, as a teacher / relief teacher / aide / librarian, I routinely photocopy, print, scan and electronically share material with students (and staff) for use  in the classroom and Library.

The Educational Statutory Licence system makes my job easy. I can copy and share so much material, for about the quarter of the commercial cost of a textbook, for example can you imagine if **EVERY Grade 3 parent** was expected to purchase the textbook for the classroom **then the next year another for Grade 4 and so on up until Year 12**?. Also, often you wish to use a variety of skills practice for the aspect that you are teaching eg. multiplication  and ONE text book does not fit ALL students….   Every teacher, takes pride &  makes the effort  in delivering a superior learning experience for their students. Each class / child  is different, so it would be rare for anyone to use exactly the same material year-in and year-out. You “tailor the material” to the challenges of each group of students.

There are/were MANY text books sitting in the back cupboards (or have been until someone has studiously gone through and either “turfed them” or photocopied the relevant pages!!)

It is also reassuring to know that the people who create the educational content I use receive payment for their skill, time and effort, when working overseas and I did not have the resources that I needed I needed to create many activities myself – very time consuming and frustrating when I knew there was a text I needed back home!

 I understand a recommendation has been made to remove the current system and replace it with a combination of new arrangements – I admit that I do not know of the FULL recommendations however,

**I strongly oppose any change to the current system that will create any further burden on my time.**

**I strongly oppose any change to the current system that creates uncertainty about what I can and cannot share with my students.**

**I strongly oppose any change to the current system that takes away fair remuneration from the people who create high-quality Australian educational resources, many of whom are teachers, which I rely on and value highly.**

*The International school that I was working at in Germany, used Australian texts for both Mathematics and Literacy – by far the most extensive texts and dealt with the learning needs the far better than other countries.*

I think the Commission would be welcome into many schools to see this issue in practice and also follow teachers to see the impact that these changes would have on both the teachers’ time and the students’ learning.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Preston