466.\_org\_Australasian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP)

Dear Australian Law Reform Commission

Re: Inquiry into copyright and the digital economy

I am writing on behalf of the Australasian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP), the national peak body for Australian and New Zealand university writing programs.

The AAWP opposes the thrust of the ALRC Discussion Paper, Copyright and the Digital Economy, because of the adverse consequences of proposed changes on teachers of creative writing, and on creators themselves.

Teachers of creative writing in Australia are already overburdened administratively and the proposed changes are likely to create an additional administrative work for teachers when they copy material for teaching purposes. The current Educational statutory licence arrangements have the advantage of being flexible and relatively easy to manage, while also providing remuneration for the creators of material that teachers use. The proposed new arrangements are very likely to mean that material currently available to teachers will no longer be available, or that it will be too onerous a process, or too expensive, for teachers to gain access to it.

Creators of works are currently fairly well protected by statutory licence arrangements that recognise that creators of works (the vast majority of them relatively poorly remunerated for these works) deserve to be paid for the use of these works by teachers and others. The current system is working well. The proposed new arrangements are likely to see many creators either less well remunerated for their works, or unremunerated, and it will be difficult for them to compel compliance. This would be unjust and would be likely to be another impediment to creators being able to make any kind of living from their activities.

The AAWP urges the ALRC to reconsider its position on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hetherington

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