471. H Crago

Dear People,

 I write with reference to the ALRC inquiry into Copyright and the Digital Economy, to protest strongly about the proposed repealing of the Statutory License governing copyright.

 I am a member of CAL, and the author of over one hundred academic and professional articles, and four (soon to be five) books.

 As you may be aware, authors of articles published in academic and professional journals are hardly ever paid for their pieces. Even when pieces are reprinted, payment is minimal—only the editors of collections of articles receive any royalties.

 Recently, I received, via CAL (of which I’ve been a member for many years) some $5000 for copying of an article I originally published in 2003, which was subsequently anthologised in a Canadian collection. This has been the first time I’ve ever been paid more than $100 in a year for the re-use of my material, and it was very welcome, as I am now retired from my former academic position, and our income is quite low.

 Of my books, I’ve earned no more than a couple of thousand dollars in royalties in total, over my entire writing life.

 It has been both financially important and a great boost to my morale to receive CAL payments, and to be able to anticipate that eventually, there may be more.

 I therefore strongly oppose the repeat of the Statutory License, and ask that my views, and those of many other authors in my position, who derive little or no direct income from thousands of hours of hard work, be taken seriously in any review of the law.

 Yours sincerely,

 Hugh Crago (formerly Senior Lecturer in Counselling, University of Western Sydney, former Editor, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy, 1997-2008, co-author of Prelude to Literacy (Southern Illinois University Press, 1983)and A Safe Place for Change (IP Communications, 2012) sole author of A Circle Unbroken (Allen & Unwin, 1999) and Couple, Family and Group Work (Open University Press, 2006), and Under the Spell of Story (Routledge, 2014: in press).