473. J Marcus

Please find my comment below.

Submission from: Dr Julie Marcus,

*ALRC REVIEW OF COPYRIGHT AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

I am a retired academic and author who creates content for a living. I am now retired and and find my current payments a useful, if small, adjuct to my pension. I have written both academic and non-academic books and journal/magazine articles. In order to do so, I have used time far in excess of those for which I was paid; since retirement I have not been paid for any of the time taken to create further works. I believe that my creative skills, specialised knowledge and the material I produce are my intellectual property. This ownership is recognised through CAL payments. Unless otherwise surrendered, I own the copyright in my material and I expect people who use it to pay for the time and effort I have expended on my creations. Not only do I expect to be paid but I rely on that payment to supplement my income. Those who rely entirely on their creative work for their income will in an even worse position if these changes are accepted.

The statutory licences that the ALRC is recommending be repealed are very important to me. If my work is copied and shared by teachers in the classroom, I receive a copyright payment from the Copyright Agency. I also receive payments in recognition of copyright from overseas users of my material.

These payments are recognition of the value of the material I have created, using my time, skill and experience. Just as a supplier sells paper to a school for use in a photocopier – or a retailer sells laptops to a school, my work facilitates education.

The present system works very efficiently and quietly with very little administrative requirement from me. However, should the change proposed be made, how will I develop licensing arrangements myself? How will I track down copyright breaches? How will I prosecute breaches? How will I afford to mount a legal case? What compensation will I get for loss of income; to mount legal challenges or for the time it takes me to administer licensing arrangements?

I am a specialist writer in my field (anthropology, biography). I have very little expertise in the intricacies of copyright law, nor the time or money to pursue breaches – no matter how concerned I am. Why would anyone wish to change the present system and install one riven with so many difficulties?

I completely reject the repeal of the very effective and fair Australian educational statutory licence system. Such a recommendation is a personal attack on my rights.*

Dr Julie Marcus