495. J O’Donoghue

Hi ALRC,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposal to change the current copyright procedures for teachers.

I have over 13 years’ experience as a secondary science teacher and am currently the head of the Science and Technology Faculty at Calwell High School in the ACT. My staff already spend many hours each week searching for appropriate resources to use in their classrooms in an effort to engage our students and provide a rich learning environment. We often access information from a variety of sources, including online texts, images, and video/animations, as well as accessing information from printed sources such as text books, government publications, reference books and brochures. We do this without the need to consider whether or not we are *allowed* to use them, we are confident knowing that as teachers we *can*.

I understand that there is a proposal to change the current copyright system I am very concerned that the already overworked teaching profession will be given an additional administrative burden. High School teachers are already time poor and under enormous pressures to provide the education necessary for our students. We regularly spend time collecting and comparing information in the lead up to a lesson, but if we needed to check the copyright requirements for everything we would not be able to do our job. There is just no time left in the day. Staff would not renew their material, we would use resources that we already knew were “safe”.

This proposal will lead to a reduction in the quality of education offered to our students because we will not have access to the resources that we need to teach effectively. Resources would not be renewed and the quality of teaching would suffer.

Please reconsider this decision in light of the impact that it will have on real people in real jobs. Too often administrative decisions are made without thought to their implications. Do not make this mistake! It will severely affect our young people and the way they learn and can only damage our society long term.

Regards,

**Jennifer O’Donoghue**

**Executive Teacher – Science and Technology**