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26th July 2013

**Submission to: Australian Law Reform Commission**

**Subject : Proposed Changes to the Copyright Act**

1. As Director of Belair Publications Pty Ltd, I wish to advise our company has been in business since 1969 (44 years) and during this time we have published a range of teacher resource books. Our books have been created specifically for Australian schools, and the intellectual property rights of our Company and the authors we represent are of vital importance to us.
2. We strongly object to the ALRC’s recommendation to repeal the statutory licences, especially for education and government, because it is an attack on our intellectual property rights; it will inevitably erode our income and will create uncertainty regarding the use of our content.
3. The content of our publications is property we control, and we are of the opinion we have the right to say how and when it is used. The statutory licence offers a benefit to us and to larger users, such as teachers, as it removes the administrative burden of seeking individual permissions and negotiating licences, as well as the issue of monitoring for infringements and enforcement costs.
4. As creators and publishers of the material we make available to teachers, we expect an appropriate financial return, and therefore we do not give permission for our work to be copied and shared for free.
5. In recent years, the return we have received for the extensive use of our copyright material has been a significant component of our income, and any reduction of this income for our company and our creative colleagues, will lead to a significant long-term downgrade of Australian educational content for teachers, students and the broader community.

The pursuit of breaches of copyright is both costly and time consuming and if this can be avoided it would contribute to a fairer and more functional system.

1. In 2011, Australian copyright-based industries generated almost $100 billion in economic activity (7% of GDP), and accounted for more than $7 billion in exports (3% of all exports) and employed almost one million people (8% of the nation’s workforce).
2. The current statutory licensing system fairly renumerates content creators for the copying and sharing of copyright material. If others, including schools, wish to use our material, they need to pay for it.
3. **Please, do not repeal the statutory licences.**

David E. Corney.

Director.