CONTENT CREATOR SUBMISSION LETTER TO THE ALRC REVIEW OF COPYRIGHT AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY – Education Statutory Licence Focus

I am the coordinator of the Ipswich District Teacher-Librarian Network. We create a book every year to support book week. We pass on CAL payments to other contributors who are not part of our network. The income from the sale of the book and the CAL payments is the major source of funding for our network which uses the majority of the money to run a FREE biennial festival of children’s literature to benefit children in our low socio-economic region. Without our income from CAL there would be NO literature festival!!

Our network members develop something from nothing using their time, creative skills and knowledge. The network owns the copyright in the material and expects people who use it to pay for the time and effort we have expended. Not only do we expect to be paid but we rely on that payment to fund our projects.

The statutory licences that the ALRC is recommending be repealed are very important to us. If our work is copied and shared by teachers in the classroom, we receive a copyright payment from the Copyright Agency.

These payments are recognition of the value of the material we have created, using our 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, our work facilitates education.

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

We are specialists in our field of children’s literature. We have limited expertise in the intricacies of copyright law and no time to pursue breaches – no matter how concerned we are.

We completely reject the repeal of the very effective and fair Australian educational statutory licence system. Such a recommendation is an attack on our rights.

Jenny Stubbs

Coordinator Ipswich District Teacher-Librarian Network

24 July 2013