538. J Nickerson

29th July, 2013

Julie Nickerson

**To: The Australian Law Reform Commission – Review Committee of Copyright and the Digital Economy**

Dear Commissioners,

I am a children’s author with three trade publications to date and am concerned about the proposed changes to the Copyright Act.

My job involves using my creative skills and writing knowledge to come up with ideas and create texts and, as such, my material is my intellectual property of which I own copyright. Accordingly, I expect people who use it to pay for the time and effort I have expended on my literary work. I rely on this payment as part of my income.

The statutory licences that the ALRC is recommending be repealed are very important to me.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. These payments are recognition of the value of the material I have created, using my time, skill and experience.

Currently, the system works very efficiently and quietly with very little administrative requirement from me. However, should the proposed changes be made, I am concerned about how this will affect myself and other authors. I do not have the background, knowledge, time or money to develop licensing arrangements, track down copyright breaches, or prosecute breaches. I could not afford to mount a legal case and would not gain compensation for loss of income in doing so.

I completely reject the repeal of the very effective and fair Australian educational statutory licence system.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Nickerson.