

30 July 2013

The Executive Director  
Australian Law Reform Commission  
GPO Box 3708  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sirs

**RE: Copyright Inquiry - Discussion Paper**

As a publisher with almost 20 years commercial experience our intellectual property rights are vitally important to our organisation.

We are righting to strongly object to the ALRC's recommendation to repeal the statutory licences, particularly for education and government, as 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.

The content we own is our property and we should be able to say how and when it is used. The statutory licence offers a benefit to our organisation and to large 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.

We, our employees and contractors, do not work for free and therefore do not give permission for our work to be copied and shared for free.

A reduction in income for us and all of my creative colleagues will lead to a significant long-term downgrade in the quality of Australian cultural, educational and information content for students and the broader community. At the same time, the 'winners' in this equation will be the legal profession, who will be called on to prosecute breaches of copyright.

In 2011, Australian copyright-based industries<sup>1</sup> generated almost \$100 billion in economic activity (7% of GDP), accounted for more than \$7 billion in exports (3% of all exports) and employed almost one million people (8% of the nation's workforce).

The current statutory licensing system fairly remunerates content creators for the copying and sharing of their copyright material. If others, including schools, want to use my material, they need to pay for it. Do not repeal the statutory licences.

Yours sincerely



**Tanya Bertrand**  
Deputy Managing Director

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<sup>1</sup> PwC report *The Economic Contribution of Australia's Copyright Industries 1996-97 to 2010-2011*