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**Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)**

**Discussion Paper 79: Copyright and the Digital Economy**

The Federation of European Publishers (FEP) is grateful for this opportunity to respond to the ALRC’s discussion paper ‘Copyright and the Digital Economy.’

FEP representing 28 national publishers associations in the European Union and the European Economic Area, would like to ask the Australian Law reform Commission to consider the unique cultural contributions that Australian educational publishers make to the Australian education infrastructure. Eliminating statutory licensing and relying on “educational fair use” will likely have disproportionally negative impact on local Australian publishers, as they will not have other markets in which to try to recoup losses.

We would rather recommend continuing the licensing regime based on the excellent we have in Europe with collective licensing in the field of education and with remuneration mechanisms.

**Summary**

* FEP advises against the introduction of ‘fair use’ into Australian copyright law
* FEP believes the current statutory licence regime in Australian copyright law follows international best practice
* FEP advises against the broadening of education exceptions
* FEP also commends the submissions from the following organisations:
  + Australian Publishers Association
  + International Publishers Association
  + International Federation of Reprographic Rights Organisations
  + International Association of Scientific, technical and Medical Publishers

Yours sincerely

Anne Bergman-Tahon

Director