565. E Housden

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in support of fellow Copyright Agency Members and all creators and publishers to protest against the Australian Law Reform Commission's review of copyright. It is clear to me that our rights and our income are being seriously challenged by a proposal that suggests, amongst other things, the repeal of the Statutory Licence.

Aside from the moral injustice evident in this issue, which removes the ownership of intellectual property from its creator, these recommendations would reduce significantly the incomes of writers and publishers. There are some powerful stakeholders involved in these industries, making the proposal have the potential to create chaos and litigation in the broader publishing industry and the education sector. The precedent set could also have far reaching and unanticipated fall out in other enterprises.

The Australian Law Reform Commission would do better to look at tightening laws in this area rather than making free with all intellectual property.

I endorse the view of the Copyright Agency Limited that out of the $10,000-$13,600 it takes to educate a school student every year, less than $17 is spent on copied and shared content (and similar numbers apply to universities and TAFE). The new recommendations would reduce this and put the onus on creators to protect their rights and prove abuse. The Statutory Licence is supported by teachers who find its invisibility and ease of use beneficial in their working day, and by our members. The Statutory Licence means there is neither misunderstanding nor illegal usage.

 It is a system worth maintaining and a system that fairly compensates our members each year for the content they create. No other profession gives

                                    away its intellectual property, that cost time, effort and money to produce.

                                    Why should writers and publishers be treated any differently?

                                    Yours faithfully  
                                    Elli Housden