Lesley Branagan

Australian Law Reform Commission
GPO Box 3708
Sydney NSW 2001

**Re: Copyright and the Digital Economy**

Dear Commissioners,

As a so-called “content creator”, I wish to register my great alarm about the proposed changes to the current system of payment for use of copyright material, especially for works used in the education system.

As a director/producer of documentary films, the proposal outrages me as it will deprive me of my rightful income from use of my work by educational institutions. I reject the proposal entirely.

Each of my documentary films is the fruit of many years of rigorous research, labour, passion, determination and my own financial investment. My most recent film, *A Life Exposed: Robyn Beeche* took seven years to complete, and was broadcast on ABC TV in June 2013 as it was deemed to be of significant national interest. As testament to the film’s merits, the film is a finalist in the *Australian Arts in Asia Awards*, has received excellent uptake and interest from teachers, and is now under consideration for formal integration into the high school curriculum.

My film, as a marketable product, is a source of my income. Under no circumstances can this content be seen as “free”. There is no possible situation where “fair use of my work without permission or payment” exists. The fair remuneration that I hope to receive from use of my work by teachers will contribute towards recompensing me for my significant financial and labour investment in the film over seven years.

The proposal to remove the fair and justified remuneration for such work is highly unjust. The continuation of equitable remuneration for “content creators” is vital, otherwise they will cease to create content for this market altogether. Given the stated Australian focus on creating a progressive education system that meets the challenges of the future, the proposed changes would be a huge backward step for all participants in the education sector.

Lesley Branagan