* Dear Sir/ Madam
* I am an author with more than 20 years’ experience, having written four series of educational books for Years 1 to 6 and other individual books for children. My intellectual property rights are vitally important to me as my income is dependent on my royalties and payment from Copyright.
* I strongly object to the ALRC’s recommendation to repeal the statutory licences, particularly for education and government, because it is an attack on my intellectual property rights; it will inevitably erode my income and will create uncertainty regarding the use of my content.
* My content is my property and I should be able to say how and when it is used. The statutory licence offers a benefit to me 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.
* I do not work for free and therefore do not give permission for my work to be copied and shared for free. I know what it’s like to be a teacher many years ago when we could copy anything for free for our students no matter how many pages there were. I do not want to go back to those days.
* A reduction in income for my creative colleagues and me, including publishers, 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.
* 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.
* Merle Morcom