780. B Hill

**From:** Beryl Hill  **Subject:** Fw: ALRC Review of Copyright and the Digital Economy, Education Statutory Licence Focus

CONTENT CREATOR SUBMISSION LETTER TO THE ALRC REVIEW OF COPYRIGHT AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY – Education Statutory Licence Focus

We are the authors of *The Australian Editing Handbook* who have created content for a living, to be used for training editors, and as an essential reference book for their use in working as editors.

Based on our many years of experience in the publishing industry we have created a hands-on reference book using our own time, creative skills and knowledge, and our material is our own intellectual property. We own the copyright in our material and we expect people who use it pay for the time and effort we have expended on our creation over many years; a third edition is currently being prepared. Not only do we expect to be paid but, as we are now both retired, we rely on that payment to provide an income.

The statutory licences that the ALRC recommends be repealed are thus extremely important to us,

At present if our work is copied and shared by teachers in the classroom, we receive a copyright payment from the Copyright Agency. These payments are recognition of the value of the material we have created, using our time, skills and experience. Just as a supplier sells paper to a school for use in a photocopier or a retailer sells laptops to a school, our work facilitates the education of those who train and work as editors.

The existing system works very efficiently and quietly with very little administrative requirement from us. However, should the proposed change be made, how could we develop licensing arrangements ourselves? How will we track down copyright breaches? How will we prosecute breaches? How will we afford to mount a legal case? What compensation will we get for loss of income; to mount legal challenges, or for the time it would take us me to administer licensing arrangements?

We are recognised as the leading Australian experts in our field, but we have little expertise in the intricacies of copyright law, nor the time to pursue breaches – no matter how concerned we are.

We oppose the proposal to repeal the very effective and fair Australian educational statutory licence system. Such a recommendation is a personal attack on our rights to remuneration.

Beryl Hill, 30 July 2012,   
Elizabeth Flann, 30 July 2012,