847. K Foxlee

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an author who writes for a living. I create something from nothing using my time and creativity and what I create is my intellectual property. I own the copyright to my material and I expect people who use it pay for the time and effort I have expended on my creation. Not only do I expect to be paid but I rely on that payment for my income.

I am absolutely shocked that the ALRC is recommending that the statutory licences be repealed.

If my work is copied and shared by teachers in the classroom, I receive a copyright payment from the Copyright Agency. These payments are recognition of the value of the material I have created. Just as a supplier sells paper to a school for use in a photocopier – or a retailer sells laptops to a school, my work facilitates education.

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

I'm a writer, not a copyright lawyer. I struggle to make ends meet and I certainly don't have time to pursue breaches nor the financial means.

I completely reject the repeal of the very effective and fair Australian educational statutory licence system. Such a recommendation is a personal attack on my rights.

Your sincerely

Karen Foxlee