856. M Edmunds

Dear members, The Australian Law Reform Commission

I am an Australian writer and journalist of 35 years experience. A BSc Economic and Social Policy (Hons) graduate of Birkbeck College, University of London, and former long-term staff journalist with the Financial Times, I am an author, writer, business journalist and copywriter. I also edit, proofread and mentor in writing and publishing.   
  
All of my work is about content creation and I work full time in this capacity. It is not a well rewarded field.  I earn income from writing content for the web, books and for newspapers where possible although MSM  business newspapers have virtually stopped using freelance contributors. I have written high quality, highly-researched features for major newspapers, *The Financial Times*, the *Australian Financial Review, The Australian* and many of these articles have been used as source material by educators. Payments via CAL make a contribution to my income. Many people don't value high quality content and the Australian Law Reform Commission's proposed repeal of statutory licences, which provide this secondary income, will as Linda Jaivin stated in today's  (July 31 *SMH*) "rob me [and many professional writers and creators] of an important source of revenue"  As Jaivin states, "the proposed new ''fair use'' exception, that would allow even businesses to use copyrighted content without permission, would mean a business could steal the product of years of work."  It is as Jaivin states, "theft".   
  
I have tutored in journalism at Bond, Griffith and Southern Cross Universities and know how much the work of writers and artists is incorporated into the teaching. Every week I would show the class fresh examples.   
  
What is "fair use" and  who decides what it is?"  Is is "fair use" for  someone to use your original content in a completely different context to promote a product or service? No.  
The conditions should apply that a creator's work is used only with permission and/or payment.   
  
Writers and creators cannot afford to pour our work into a black hole run by thieves and rip-off merchants.   
  
Yours sincerely,  
  
Marian Edmunds