

30th January 2018

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Inquiry into the Copyright Amendment (Service Providers) Bill 2017

The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) is the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia. Our mission is to advocate for and influence information policies and practices in Australian higher education that promote fair, affordable and open access to knowledge, and to support and enhance the value of university libraries. The management and compliance of the education sector copyright licences is the responsibility of the University Librarians in most Australian universities.

CAUL welcomes the *Copyright Amendment (Service Providers) Bill 2017* (the Bill) and thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide comments.

University libraries facilitate access to collections and archives for more than one million students and 50,000 academic staff for educational and research purposes. In addition, access to the facilities of university libraries is available more broadly to members of the public in alignment with each university's community engagement mission.

While libraries are vigilant in the steps taken to prevent infringement of copyright, there is still a risk that a staff member, student or member of the public will use university systems to infringe. For this reason, CAUL strongly supports the amendments to the Act that would extend the scope of the safe harbour scheme to enable the 'notice and take down' system to apply to universities, libraries and archives. This would bring us, as service providers, into alignment with the for-profit ISPs who are currently covered as 'carriage service providers'.

The simplified process of 'notice and take down' to remove or disable access to infringing material should also protect and benefit copyright owners by providing a straightforward and cost-effective alternative to a court order.

As a participant in the broader library profession and community, CAUL also endorses strong support for the Bill's inclusion of public libraries and other cultural institutions. This critical knowledge and cultural infrastructure benefits from being covered by the legal protection that is offered by this Bill.

Yours sincerely,

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and University Librarian, The University of Sydney