

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of concerned citizens draws to the attention of the House the recent Productivity Commission's report on the Parallel Importation of Books.

We, the undersigned, ask the Parliament to **retain the current Restrictions on the Parallel Importation of books for the following reasons:**

1. There is no guarantee books will be cheaper, but removing the Restrictions *will* cause severe job losses in the publishing, book printing, packaging, and distribution industries.
2. The diversity of local and international book titles will diminish as publishers are forced to make smaller print runs, and take fewer risks with new authors.
3. Australian authors should not be forced to rely on unspecified extra taxpayer funded grants and subsidies, as suggested by the Productivity Commission, to compensate income lost under Parallel Importation.
4. Imported versions of Australian-authored books will be in direct competition with authentic editions. Foreign versions often change drastically to suit overseas markets. (Removing Australian idioms, references, humour and spelling.) This is of particular concern for those Australian children who already struggle with spelling and literacy.