



**From:** Joshua Preston  
**To:** [Committee, IC \(REPS\);](#)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into software and electronics prices  
**Date:** Wednesday, 27 June 2012 2:35:16 PM

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To the Inquiry Committee,

I just wanted to send this letter to support the inquiry into the price of IT-related hardware and software.

I have always been a consumer of both software and hardware, and have resisted the urge to pirate software, though I will order it from overseas if I can get it cheaper, shipping included.

My big problem is that, with Video Games in particular, publishers set unreasonable prices for their games. Online retailers that I prefer, like Steam, are beholden to those prices, but physical retail outlets are selling the same games for significantly less using things like grey importing.

The future of all software is in digital distribution, and games that are sold exclusively via digital services leave us with no alternative except to grit our teeth, get over the fact that we are paying more for the same thing for no reason, and buy it anyway. Needless to say, many will simply refuse to buy these products instead, and nobody wins.

A change has been a long time coming, and as I buy more and more games digitally, it is extremely important that Australia not be left behind.

Regards,

Joshua Preston