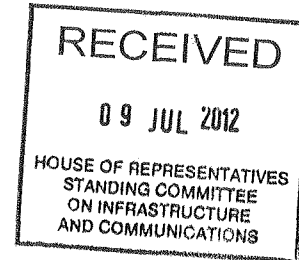


3 July 2012

Submission No: 69
Date Received: 9/7/12
Secretary: *AA*



The Secretary
House of Representatives Inquiry into IT Pricing
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

**Submission to the House of Representatives Inquiry into IT Pricing
E-Book Pricing**

This is a submission about substantially higher prices of e-books sold online by Amazon in Australia compared to prices in the US, UK and NZ.

A comprehensive submission on e-book prices has been lodged by John Dulley, a contributor to the Australian Kindle Users Forum, and I would like to add my support to that submission. I am also contributor to that forum and high prices for e-books in Australia is a frequent issue of concern.

I have reviewed four books on my wish list (which is very long as I refuse to pay the prices asked by some publishers) with the following results (all prices are in US\$):

	US price	Aust Price
Shantaram	9.99	14.92
Me Before You	14.99	8.30
Wear This, Toss That	15.99	18.06
I've Got Your Number	12.99	14.38

Just with this small sample, three out of four books are more expensive in Australia than the United States. As seen from Mr Dulley's comprehensive comparison, although on occasion we can buy a book cheaper in Australia in most instances we pay more.

I am not sure the publishers are even aware of the amount of sales they are missing out on. I would usually buy at least two new release paperbacks each month prior to buying a kindle. Now I do not buy any. The new release kindle ebooks are usually at least as much as the paperback (with the price set by the publisher not by Amazon), and given the savings on printing, freight and distribution this should not be the case.

I do not expect to get ebooks for free; I do however expect them to cost less than a paperback. Due to this problem I have now discovered the new world of independent authors and due to the low cost (and many that have been free), I now have amassed approximately 400 books to read at an approximate cost of \$80. I won't be even considering buying overpriced ebooks for quite some time, if ever.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Bruce