From: Elizabeth Litster
To: Committee, IC (REPS);
Subject: ebooks pricing
Date: Saturday, 30 June 2012 10:22:29 AM

10 Clearwater Crt
Caboolture, Qld 4510

30th June 2012

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 sold in Australia is a frequent issue of concern.

I recently bought "Wicked Business" by Janet Evanovic. I purchased the book from The Book Depository in the UK for $8.99 postage included. The same book in e-book format from Amazon (who also own The Book Depository) was to the USA $12.99 and for Australian Customers $20.07. This is for a book that has no physical presence, cannot be resold, lent or given away.

I understand that the price of the paperback reflects the ability of the seller to discount the book whereas the e-book prices suffer under the "Agency Agreement" However this agreement does not affect the fact that between the two countries there is $7.08 difference in cost, about 50% more. The e-book comes from the same data base, costs the same to produce and is sent via the internet paid for by Amazon.

The price of books in Australia has always been much more expensive than the USA and the UK. Some of the arguments used have been shipping distance and distribution costs within Australia. Neither of these can be used in the case of e-books but the price of these are still substantially more for those of us living here than in the USA or UK.

Yours sincerely,
Elizabeth and John Litster