

Senate Select Committee on US FTA

1. John Howard is now trying today to railroad the ALP on the US trade agreement. He is now prepared to accept 70 year US copyright

Yet I don't care what Senator Kerry has decided. I am an Australian author who is about to publish internationally. I estimate that obtaining copyright permissions, particularly from the US, took as much time as editing and was far more frustrating. There have been many publisher amalgamations and some publishers don't even really know what rights they have acquired. Their records in some cases go nowhere near far enough back. The same book can require obtaining US permission and then rest of world or British Commonwealth permission. Getting permission for even a forty year old book was a nightmare and in the end I gave up on one. Apart from me personally, this affects the whole Gutenberg project which has been making major literary works widely available online.

2. Also knowing something of the less pleasant side effects of a widely prescribed drug, [Effexor](#), suppression of which by a second drug in the approval trials was allegedly glossed over at the approval stage, I am concerned that the proposed FTA drug approval regime may see worse repeats of this situation.

[As to PBS pricing the Parliament should set performance benchmarks for increases in the median price of PBS drugs, which if exceeded trigger a sunset clause in the FTA automatically.](#)

Yours sincerely

Geoff Taylor