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Ms Amanda Rishworth
By Email: Amanda.Rishworth.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Rishworth

Removal of Import Restrictions on Books in Australia

Years ago when I owned Dick Smith Electronics, I was importing genuine *Atari* electronic games and selling them here for a lower price – thus benefiting the consumer.

Atari took me to Court – believe it or not under the *Copyright Act* – and said that I could not import these games, arguing that the box and the instructions sheet were their copyright.

I now understand that large companies are preventing books being imported into Australia using a similar “copyright claim”.

I have looked into this and I am totally convinced that the Government should completely remove import restrictions on books, the result of which will be significant benefits to virtually all Australians, both private and corporate across all demographics.


One simple example of the anomaly the current restrictions impose can be cited in the many small Australian businesses involved in book sales who are presently losing sales to foreign companies such as Amazon, where Australians can buy directly from overseas and do not even pay GST.

Removing import restrictions on books will result in lower prices and therefore books will become so much more accessible to all Australians, most importantly to our children.

I believe that if import restrictions on books remain, the only beneficiaries will be the large, and predominantly foreign-owned, publishers who will continue to hold Australians to intellectual and financial ransom.

If you remove import restrictions on books, you will have delivered a great service to literacy in Australia and to every Australian family.

Yours faithfully



Dick Smith