

Personal Information:

Name: Weng Wai CHAN

Organisation: NZ Society of Authors (member)

Submission:

It is important to protect and preserve copyright of New Zealand-made content because authors should be paid fairly for their work. Nobody else in society expects to do work and not be paid for it. According to the NZ Society of Authors website, *In NZ, the average author income from writing is \$13,500 (PWC, CLNZ 2016)*
- this is less than minimum wage.

I wrote a book titled *Lizard's Tale*, which is for children aged 9 and over and will be published in June 2019. It is a 50000 word novel set in Singapore in 1940, and took hundreds of hours over the course of 7 years to research, write, edit and get published . My publisher is Text Publishing, which has published authors like Lloyd Jones (NZ author of 'Mr Pip') and Graeme Simsion (author of 'The Rosie Project' trilogy, which has sold millions of copies around the world). Text Publishing has a comprehensive marketing plan to publicise *Lizard's Tale* to booksellers, via radio and NZ papers, as well as to education publications. Text Publishing consider it a strong release for the education market and it will be a lead title at key teacher and librarian conferences.

I therefore have a strong interest in copyright, including both the Public Lending Right, and would like to see the establishment of an Educational Lending Right.

Public Lending Right: I would like to see the current Public Lending Right fund stay the same or be increased. Currently the PLR applies only to print books- I would like to see it apply also to new technology such as electronic books and audiobooks as this is only fair, and I believe the increasingly widespread use of this technology has meant a decrease in authors' income from the PLR, as PLR only applies to physical print books at the moment.

Educational Lending Right: I believe an Educational Lending Right should be established, as it has been in Australia and the UK. I believe authors should be fairly compensated for books repeatedly borrowed through school libraries.

Moral rights: I would like my moral rights as creator to my content continue to be protected by copyright.

Exceptions to Copyright: I would not like to see any further exceptions to copyright. Any difficulties in administration should be able to be addressed through technology. It is not good enough to say "Some technologies can help, e.g. copyright automatic checking, but in education these systems are not sophisticated". If compliance software needs to be implemented for increasing the sophistication of education systems, then this should happen. Currently, the "fair dealing" system seems to serve everyone well. I would not like to see the "fair use" approach here in New Zealand- it would be anathema to our way of doing things and would see more litigation, and be detrimental to the creators of content and in particular New Zealand content.

In conclusion, I would like to see changes in our copyright law that recognises the increasing use of technology to both remunerate creators of content fairly, and to properly police copyright in our libraries, educational institutions and other institutions.