

15 September, 2014

Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dear Ms Shaheed

The Australian Publishers Association (APA) welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the report on the impact of intellectual property regimes on the enjoyment of the right to science and culture.

The APA is Australia's peak industry body representing the interests of publishers of books and journals, hard copy and electronic publications, large and small. Our membership represents over 90% of the Australian publishing industry by turnover.

We are writing in support of the submission by the Australian Copyright Council. Our comments are:

- Intellectual property regimes should not be presumed to be obstacles to the human right of enjoyment of science and culture but the fundamental mechanism that facilitates that enjoyment.
- Copyright protection for creators builds on the fundamental principle of choice – choice for creators to commercialise their thoughts and ideas or to choose to freely provide access to that intellectual work.
- Copyright, internationally, has developed hand in hand with the growth and development of the publishing industry. The publishing industry has, as arguably the oldest creative industry in Western culture, driven intellectual property agenda in response to practices that have undermined the sustainability of this profoundly important industry. Without copyright, there is no publishing industry.

Copyright is part of the human rights landscape - not contrary to it.

Yours sincerely



Michael Gordon-Smith
Chief Executive