

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **CONSUMERS WILL WIN WITH CHEAPER BOOKS, WITHOUT HARMING JOBS**

“The final report by the Productivity Commission into the liberalisation of parallel import restrictions is a fantastic victory for Australian consumers who could be paying up to 32 per cent less for books, without harming local industry”, Tim Wilson, Director of the Intellectual Property and Free Trade Unit at the Institute of Public Affairs said today.

A study published by the Institute of Public Affairs, *Unbinding Book Barriers*, concluded that book prices could fall by up to 32 per cent with the removal of import restrictions. The price of a typical \$19.95 paperback could drop to just \$13.56 dollars.

“This study found that since liberalising import restrictions on CDs in 1998 the average price of CD albums has collapsed by 32 per cent, without harming the copyright holders. Books will follow a similar trend – cheaper books without harming authors and jobs”.

Following careful analysis of similar reforms in Australia and New Zealand, the study demolishes the myths surrounding the debate over parallel import restrictions on books, finding that:

- The income of authors will not be harmed;
- Removing import restrictions should not result in job losses in the printing industry;
- There will be no reduction in the number of Australian books commissioned;
- There will be no impact on investment decisions by the publishing and printing industries; and
- Australian exports of books may actually grow with increased competition.

“Parallel import restrictions on copyrighted books are unnecessary and redundant. They are not a part of intellectual property protection, they are a trade barrier”, said Mr Wilson.

“The Commission’s draft report recommending partial liberalisation of import restrictions, the final report has recommended full liberalisation after three years. This is a fantastic victory for consumers”, Mr Wilson said.

“Australia can’t have an education revolution when book prices are artificially expensive and hit the hip pockets of working families”.

“The Productivity Commission’s report is right to include the total scrapping of import restrictions on books in the interests of Australian consumers and a modern, competitive book industry”, Mr Wilson said.

*Unbinding Book Barriers* can be found at [www.ipa.org.au](http://www.ipa.org.au)

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