



Media Release

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Productivity commission study – Booksellers left frustrated and disappointed.

Australian Booksellers Association CEO, Malcolm Neil said that the productivity commission appear to have listened to only a small segment of the market, and that their lack of response to bookseller concerns leaves them frustrated and disappointed.

The book industry, retailers and publishers, writers and readers will be worse off if the changes recommended by the productivity commission are adopted by government, he explained.

'After a year of uncertainty during one of the most difficult economic times in recent memory, the further disruption to our industry would have a catastrophic effect.'

Small business impact ignored

While the Productivity Commission appear to have given great attention to the concerns of big business, the study gives limited attention to one of the main policy concerns of the Rudd government – Small Business.'

- Small Businesses make up well over 30% of the retail book market and a significant component of the educational retailers.

'The cursory examination of their concerns and the cavalier way in which they are dismissed stands at odds with government policy', Mr Neil said.

Evidence lacking

*'As our currency fluctuates wildly on International markets, claim and counter-claim regarding the relative price of books in this country only prove what the Productivity Commission determined in its first draft document. **That the introduction of an Open Market would have little effect on price'** Mr Neil went on to say*

'Other than an ideological debate between various economic think-tanks, we see no evidence of a call from the rest of the community that justifies the introduction of yet more uncertainty into our industry.'

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