



Australian Council of State School Organisations Limited

THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS
SUBMISSION TO THE COPYRIGHT ACCESS REFORM BILL CONSULTATION

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) is the one national voice for every family in government education in Australia.

As an organisation, ACSSO welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Copyright Access Reform Bill consultation.

ACSSO notes that the objective of the reforms, as set out in the Discussion Paper, is to ensure that sectors such as education, which serves the public interest, can engage in the educational process effectively and efficiently in a COVID world and an increasingly digital environment. At the same time, ACSSO recognises the importance of copyright law in supporting copyright creators to produce Australian content and receive payment for their creativity.

It is ACSSO's belief that Australian schools and by default Australian students are disadvantaged by the current outdated and obsolete copyright regulations, and reform is now long overdue.

Copyright underpins many aspects of teaching and learning in our schools. However, ACSSO believes that present copyright legislation has fallen behind in the evolving digital landscape of the 21st century.

As teachers and students shift their educational and social activity online in a COVID world, they are more likely than ever to find themselves using and interacting with media in ways that raise copyright questions.

In the current COVID environment, when remote learning may be required again at any stage, Australian schools are being penalised for using digital technology. ACSSO understands that giving students access to content using digital technology can be up to four times more expensive than hard copy technologies, due to the way the copyright rules are applied. Copyright law we believe has grown into a convoluted system that prevents teachers and schools from understanding what they can and cannot share.

ACSSO supports the proposed changes to clarify and/or update Section 28 of the Copyright Act 1968 to allow for:

- the performance, watching or viewing, of copyrighted material in class; and
- any copying, communication or recording that may be required to facilitate teaching.

ACSSO also supports the restoration of Section 106 of the Copyright Act 1968 to allow all government schools to play sound recordings at non-curricular activities such as school concerts, assemblies, and graduation ceremonies.

One voice for every child in government education

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As attached the ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations, has provided a letter of support for this submission.

As requested, the Australian Council of State School Organisations provides the following in relation to this submission

Contact: Dianne Giblin AM
Chief Executive Officer
ceo@acsso.org.au
0418 470 604

Do you wish your submission to be treated as confidential?

No



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

Dianne Giblin AM
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Council of State School Organisations

25 February 2022

Dear Ms Giblin,

The ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations (Council) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to ACSSO on the proposed amendments to the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth) by the Copyright Access Reform Bill.

As the peak body for over 100 parent associations in ACT public schools, Council provides the following feedback on the proposed *Copyright Act* amendments.

The ACT Council of Parents & Citizens welcomes the proposed amendment of s 28 of the *Copyright Act* to allow:

- The performance, watching or viewing, of copyrighted material in class; and
- Any copying, communication or recording that may be required to facilitate teaching.

Furthermore, Council supports the restoration of s 106 of the *Copyright Act*, allowing ACT government schools to play sound recordings at non-curricular activities such as school concerts, assemblies, and graduation ceremonies.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office

Yours sincerely,

Alison Elliott
President
ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations