

## **Screenrights Welcomes Government's Amendments to the Copyright Act**

Screenrights, the audio-visual copyright society, welcomes the further amendments to the Copyright Act introduced into Parliament today by the Government following the recent Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry.

The Government's amendments reflect agreements reached between Screenrights and the education sector.

Screenrights put in a joint submission on issues relating to the Bill with the MCEETYA Copyright Advisory Group (CAG), the peak schools and TAFE representative body. The Screenrights/CAG position was supported by the Senate Committee and subsequently by the Government. This joint approach recognized the need for fairness and certainty for the copyright owners who invest in and create film and TV and the need for confident and easy access for the education sector who use these programs as a valuable teaching resource.

The practical effect of the amendments will be:

- An extension of the statutory educational licence to include copying of broadcasts made available online by the broadcaster such as podcasts
- Greater clarity about the limits of caching of websites by educational institutions
- An extension of the Copyright Tribunal's jurisdiction to all aspects of the operation of the statutory licences.

Simon Lake, Chief Executive of Screenrights, welcomed the Government's constructive approach. Lake said "Screenrights endeavours to always reach shared solutions between copyright owners and users and Government has been instrumental in encouraging this approach. We also acknowledge the significant considerations of the Senate Committee during the review process and their support for this approach.

"Ultimately we want to ensure that Australia's educators have access to the fantastic resources that are available on broadcast television and radio, and that there is a fair mechanism for copyright owners to be paid for this use. These changes ensure that the educational copying licence keeps up with the changing technologies of podcasting and vodcasting. Australian teachers will be able to use these resources in their teaching with the confidence that their use is covered by the educational statutory licence and creators can be confident that they will be fairly compensated for the use."

Screenrights is a non-profit collecting society for copyright owners in film, television and radio. Since 1990 Screenrights has administered the statutory licence, which allows Australian education institutions to copy television broadcasts and use them for their teaching purposes. Screenrights has over 2,500 members in 52 countries.

### **For interviews and further comment, please contact:**

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