

24 November 2025

Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL) Submission on Orphan works scheme

The Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL) is the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia and New Zealand. CAUL members are the University Librarians of the 39 institutions that have representation on Universities Australia (UA) and the 8 University Librarians or equivalent of the institutions that have representation on Universities New Zealand (UNZ).

CAUL makes a significant contribution to higher education strategy, policy and outcomes through a commitment to a shared purpose: To transform how people experience knowledge – how it can be discovered, used and shared. Members, within each institution hold copyright accountabilities and are key advisors on university strategy and operations on such matters.

CAUL is committed to copyright reform that will balance the rights of content creators, developers and users. The balanced approach recognises the unique nature of universities who produce, manage and consume content of national public interest.

This submission supports the principle-based approach to an exception for orphan works that protect rights of creators where they are known or emerge in support of education and research for national development. The amendments will enable member institutions to increase the availability of materials to their communities and overall assist in the productivity in the creation and delivery of publicly funded research. Members also endorse the balanced approach that will protect creators and ensures that recognition of creators is made where practicable.

This submission also supports the proposed amendments to remote learning noting the benefits it will deliver to remote learning contexts particularly outside of urban areas. CAUL members are central to the delivery of remote learning in tertiary contexts and the proposed changes support trends in education and community led government initiatives such as regional study hubs, more effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important draft amendment.

Your sincerely

Kylie Percival
Chair, CAUL Board
caul@caul.edu.au