

Opening Statement

As well as treasuring the stories of Western Australia, the State Library of Western Australia, champions literacy and learning, cultivates creative ideas and leads the development of the WA public library network. We partner with public libraries to ensure libraries are connected, well-resourced and free, serving hubs of community life. State Library is responsible for Legal Deposit for Western Australian published items, but Australian Standards are not published in Western Australia so cannot be included in our Legal Deposit activities.

The impact of apparently free and accessible information through the Internet continues to change our world. Many new business models have been created that are seeing significant profit, while also providing a product that is reasonably priced and provide universal access. There are currently over 100 individual databases that State Library members may use from home, wherever that home may be, there are also 16 databases that public library users across the state may use from home, wherever that may be. Databases such as Ancestry, Britannica Library (Encyclopaedia Britannica Online), Cochrane Library (collection of evidence-based medicine) as just some of the many of the databases available, through paid subscriptions funded either from State Library or consortia Public Library budgets, which started their life as paper based. Please see the sheet provided.

None of these databases have restrictions on printing or access other than normal copyright regulations. Realistically of course whatever folk do in the privacy of their own home is their responsibility, however over the past 10 years of openly available information it would seem that the business models for such publications are still profitable for their owners and shareholders.

The restrictive nature of the business model SAI Global in relation to the publication and availability of Australian standards is now starting to see alternative models being developed such as that adopted by the National Construction Code.

I would like to draw a parallel between scholarly communication / academic publishing and Standards Australia. Both see publically funded organisations such as government departments and universities who pay and support their

staff to research, write and create to produce valuable information in the shape of journal articles, books or standards. Both then require the very organisations that have supported the creation of the works to purchase access to those very items at considerable expense.

I would like to draw the committee's attention to a change that is now occurring in relation to open access. Publicly funded research undertaken within universities and grant funded partnerships is now required, as a condition of the research grant, to be published publically including the raw research. Open access initiatives have allowed university libraries to provide digital repositories of information which is freely available to anyone who wishes to view and print. Open access is making research results freely available to anyone with an internet connection rather than keeping those results hidden behind a subscription paywall.

In summary State Library is very concerned about the high levels of restrictions SAI Global places on the access and availability of Australian Standards, despite the fact that those standards are created by committees with significant and long term input of experts who are paid employees of private companies, governments and universities across Australia.

State Library

1. The current online subscription is \$22,000 per annum. This amounts to approximately \$64 per login in 2014. Please give the Committee your views on this cost, given the limitations contained in the licence regarding concurrent viewing, limited printing, etc.

I refer the Committee to a list of other databases and information providers including costs and logins. As can be seen our current online subscription to Standards Australia is extremely expensive, and is very limited in its availability. Only 2 users may access at any one time, and the users must be in the State Library in order to access.

When you find the standard you want you can only print a page at a time, you cannot print a range of pages or the entire standard, and in fact to do so would contravene the conditions of use.

This very restrictive "agreement" does not allow Inter Library Loans to any Public Libraries in either printed hard copy or electronic nor allows the State Library to retain a hard copy or electronic copy for archival purposes or future use. Therefore access by the general public to Australian Standards outside of the Perth metro area either through the State Library or through a WA public library is not available unless the member of the public travels to the State Library in Perth or to the premises of an individual library has purchased its own subscription. It is unclear whether WA public libraries have an individual subscription, sometimes the local government may, but this subscription would then not be available to the public only those employed by the local government, meaning the State Library is the only available access point.

Since 2007, SAI Global has refused to discuss the option of a consortium either for State Libraries at a National level or Public Libraries at a statewide level. SAI are only prepared to talk to each library one on one. (Through membership of the National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA) eresources consortia SLWA subscribes to 55 databases per year).

2. Your submission speaks of the terms of the licence being more restrictive than *Copyright Act* provisions. This is in terms of not allowing remote access or inter-library loans. Please outline the limitations on the service

you would like to provide that are caused by some of these additional restrictions.

The SAI Global licence/conditions of use indicates simply that "By using this Standards On-Line service, you the Licensee, are agreeing to the terms and conditions of this contract". No signature is required it is unclear whether the Licensee is the State Library or the member of the Public using the service

Document Supply is a key exception provided for in s49 of the Copyright Act that allows libraries to provide materials to users for the purposes of research and study. Typically document supply covers a small portion of material that would be scanned and supplied as required by clients.

So according to the Act a library could photocopy a section from an AS then scan and supply as required to their client, e.g. State Library supplying to Port Hedland library OR to Mr A Nonymous of Nedlands. The Terms and Conditions (Section 2 p3) indicate "The Licensee must not:transfer an electronic file or printed publication to any party" thus preventing this.

Interlibrary loan provision s50 permits the loan from one library to another of a whole publication. The Terms and Conditions (S2 p3) indicate "The Licensee may: Print downloaded Publications, but such printed versions must be for internal organization use only" again this preclude the Library of providing legitimate services to the WA community.

State Library would like to be able to provide access to Australian Standards for West Australians from their homes, i.e. remote access using public library or State Library membership details to provide a level of authentication. At the present time any public library member may from home using their internet browser, access the Britannica Library and use it freely within their home.

We would also like to be able to print an Australian Standard in its entirety and supply a copy through Interlibrary Loan or Document Delivery processes as allowed under the Copyright Act.

3. A wider subscription, permitting inter-library loans, was cancelled in 2005 on cost and low usage grounds.

To clarify, the subscription was for hard copy standards, one full set was subscribed to but was not lent to ensure the standards were always available in the library. A second full set was subscribed to and thus this second set was available for Interlibrary Loan.

- what was the extent of the usage in 2005 outside of the State Library?

As regards to usage it was reported that in FY 2001/2002 43 ILL requests for Standards and the first 6 months of FY 2002/2003 54 ILL request were received. Unfortunately we have no other data available as it was so long ago

- what was the wider cost?

You don't have to be a member of Standards Australia to purchase a subscription, but there is a significant additional cost applied if you do not. SLV asked about this - response. " The current billing structure from SAI Global includes a membership fee, known as the "Buyer Advantage Program" (BAP). Each year, in addition to paying for the Standards Online Library Edition subscription we are invoiced a membership fee for the BAP. Each year we are advised that opting out of the membership would result in increased subscription cost. For the current 12 month subscription period (ending November 2015) we were advised that without the BAP we would be required to pay an additional \$4,637." So SLWA pays the membership fee to SAI Global. Costs for purchasing subscriptions to Standards Australia include a membership annual fee plus the subscription or service cost. I have provided a sheet showing the costs to SLWA over a number of years.

Cost

2003 was Subscription \$8,820 plus Membership \$300, We then doubled our purchases

2004 Subscription \$15,200 plus Membership \$300,

2005 Subscription \$15,650 plus Membership \$300, We then cancelled our extra subscription

2006 Subscription \$7,950 plus Membership \$340.

- what would be the cost of that wider licence in 2015?

We do not have a current price for a wider licence as we source many subscriptions for resources through the NSLA consortium in order to gain the best prices and our experience with working through NSLA over the last few years has shown that SAI Global have refused to deal with anything other than a single library site licence.

All *library representatives*

4. What is the extent of the contribution made by your members' staff in terms of volunteering on SA committees?

SLWA contributes to SA committees through the auspices of NSLA. There are a number of working groups in various areas, so contributions are made through those groups.

At the present time no one on SLWA staff participates in the SA committees.

I understand that Margaret Allen, CEO & State Librarian participated in the IT-19 committee during the 1990s whilst working for a private information technology company, and was also a CASL representative to IT-19 whilst at the State Library of South Australia around 2000 - 2002. This contribution included regular travel from South Australia to meetings on the eastern seaboard and New Zealand, as well as time taken to write, think and participate in various SA activities.