



<b>TO</b>	MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION, AND EMPLOYMENT
<b>FROM</b>	VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
<b>DATE</b>	05 April 2019
<b>SUBJECT</b>	VUWSA Submission on the Review of the Copyright Act 1994

## **BACKGROUND**

Victoria University of Wellington Students Association (VUWSA) is the body that represents the approximately 22,000 students of Victoria University of Wellington. As a student association we are mandated to deal with issues that affect the students, whether they be internal or external issues. The Copyright Act 1994 can affect students' ability to access educational resources in print, media or online.

We welcome the opportunity to submit on the issues raised by the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) on an issues paper pertinent to the review of this legislation. On this matter, VUWSA submits that we welcome changes to the Act so long as they will NOT impede students' abilities to continuously access educational material in any way, including but not limited to financial impediments.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

A very important component of tertiary education is accessing educational resources, including but not limited to journal articles, newspapers, books, and films. These resources complement the learning environment provided by the traditional classroom setting. Many students rely on having either a digital or physical copy of these resources when they do their academic work. The increasing digitisation of education considering the current teaching practices and technologies has allowed for greater flexibility for students to access educational material. This flexibility greatly contributes to student academic success.

As mentioned in the issues paper, the Copyright Act 1994 was designed during a time when the traditional classroom setting was the mode of instruction in most (if not all) education providers at all levels. Twenty-five years on, new modes of teaching and learning have been welcomed in our schools and universities; particularly digital modes such as recorded lectures, use of online material etc.

Furthermore, students now use apps for their learning. At Victoria University of Wellington, students use an online portal and application called Blackboard, and from there we access material such as articles, learning videos, copies of the lectures, and similar educational material. Some students access and consume these materials through digital devices, while others still prefer to print out the material. Students understand that these materials are covered by copyright.

Victoria students also have access to academic (and similar) databases, such as JSTOR, Thomson Reuters Westlaw, and Shibboleth, which gives students access to thousands of journal articles, cases, e-books, and the like, for our own study and research. These accesses, which have lent itself to major student successes, are free of charge to students.