

Copyright deal with CAL

28.08.07

On 12 July this year, the CEOs of AGS and the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) signed an agreement on copyright works. AGS now has a GovCopy licence to use third-party published copyright works for our legal business and client legal work.

AGS is the first government agency to sign such an agreement to regularise the copyright status of a government business enterprise. The agreement is the result of lengthy negotiations with representatives of CAL by our National Library Manager Cheryl Brickell and by Philip Crisp, Special Counsel and AGS's senior IP legal adviser.

About CAL

CAL is a copyright management company that represents book, journal and magazine publishers and hundreds of thousands of Australian and international authors, photographers, journalists and visual artists. CAL administers a range of copying licences that help organisations by removing the obligation to reach separate agreements with individual copyright owners whenever an article or other published work is used.

AGS's GovCopy licence

AGS's GovCopy licence regularises our use (particularly photocopying and electronic storage and communication) of third-party published copyright works.

Commonwealth departments using published works in the service of the Crown operate under a Commonwealth-CAL agreement and have a statutory government licence to use the material. As a Commonwealth government business enterprise, AGS is not covered under the current version of that agreement. The new GovCopy licence provides a framework whereby AGS obtains the effective benefits of the statutory government licence.

We can now report that we have taken reasonable, practical steps to address copyright issues and risks arising from our photocopying, faxing and electronic storage of works.

Why this agreement is important

It is important for us to have this agreement because we have a special relationship to the Attorney-General's Department, which has policy responsibility for copyright. We also need to be a role model for clients whom we advise about copyright law policy and practice.

Our CEO, Rayne de Gruchy, is quoted in the CAL brochure that will be sent to all agencies as saying: 'We were pleased to work with CAL to obtain a licence that supports our compliance with copyright law, policy and practice within the Commonwealth.'

Other statutory agencies in a similar position to AGS regarding the Commonwealth statutory licence are now likely to follow our lead on this.

Practical guidance

For information about what AGS staff can and cannot do under the agreement, please follow this link.



Jim Alexander, CEO of the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL), with Rayne de Gruchy at the signing of AGS's agreement with CAL