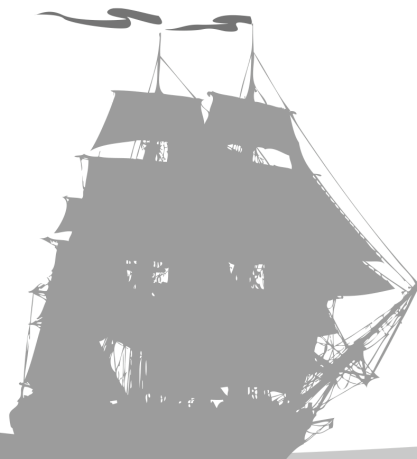




# **Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Intellectual Property Arrangements Draft Report**

Mozart Olbrycht-Palmer (mozart.palmer@pirateparty.org.au)  
Thomas Randle (thomas.randle@pirateparty.org.au)

3 June 2016



The Pirate Party thanks the Productivity Commission for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft report of the Commission's inquiry into Australia's intellectual property arrangements. The Pirate Party would like to firstly commend the Commission for producing what is perhaps the most comprehensive report on the economic aspects of Australia's intellectual property frameworks ever produced. Secondly, the Pirate Party wishes to pass along its deepest sympathies and condolences to the Productivity Commission's staff and commissioners for the wasted time and effort, as the recommendations of this report will be inevitably ignored.

In general, the Pirate Party agrees with the draft findings and recommendations contained in the report. However, the Pirate Party's views diverge from those of the Commission with regard to software patents and pharmaceutical patents.

The Pirate Party does not support the abolition of software patents in their entirety. It is the Pirate Party's view that patents over software (or inventions primarily embodied in software) should incur a higher patent continuity fee and the term should be reduced to five years. The increased fees should be used to fund impartial, professional reviewers and consultants who are experienced in the relevant areas to more rigorously review software patents.

The Pirate Party supports the abolition of pharmaceutical patents rather than their reform; however, techniques for creating pharmaceuticals should remain patentable. The savings made by substituting brand name drugs for generics on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme can be used to fund research for the public benefit. Funding should also be allocated to trial a bounty system that rewards companies and firms that create drugs which serve an identified public benefit. If the trial of the bounty system is successful, negotiations should begin on a global medical research and development treaty following the same principles as the domestic trial.