



**MEMBER
RESOURCE**

Understanding Copyright

Copyright law is designed to protect those who have invested their time, talent and other resources in creating products, such as visual art, film, writing, music and multimedia.

Anytime you use materials that you did not create, you must acknowledge the creator, and be mindful of what you can and can't reproduce legally.

In Australia, we have a federal copyright legislation that applies nationally. Some of the key elements to be aware of:ⁱ

- Copyright protection is free and applies automatically when material is created.
- There is NO registration system for copyright in Australia.
- Copyright does not protect names, titles or slogans – these must be registered as trademarks.
- There are no general exemptions from copyright law for non-profit organisations.
- There are some situations where copyright law allows people to use copyright material without permission for their own personal use, but these are narrow and specific.
- Australian copyright law applies to actions that take place in Australia, even if the material used was created or first published in another country.

The Australian Copyright Council (<http://www.copyright.org.au/>) is a great resource for all things to do with Australian Copyright Law. We suggest taking a look at their website and contacting their team with any Copyright questions.

There are a diverse range of Information Sheets available on Australian Copyright Council Website at <http://www.copyright.org.au/find-an-answer/>. Some resources that we found particularly useful are:

- **An Introduction to Copyright In Australia (Information Sheet)**
This document provides general introductory information about copyright
- **Protecting Your Copyright (Information Sheet)**
This information sheet, we discuss how people who have created copyright material can protect it
- **Permission: Do I need it? (Information Sheet)**
Outlines issues relating to permissions and clearances for copyright material.
- **Permission: How do I get it? (Information Sheet)**
this information sheet we provide some suggestions on how to locate copyright owners for people who want permission to use copyright material. It also gives information about licences available from copyright collecting societies for some uses of copyright material.

Should you have any questions about the information provided in this document, please contact the Regional Arts Victoria team on 03 9644 1800.

ⁱ As outlined in *An Introduction to Copyright in Australia* (G010v17) http://www.copyright.org.au/admin/cms-acc17_images/15053623324f42cf09a556f.pdf