

aml

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 7 October 2021 11:38 pm
To: aml
Subject: Feedback re anti money laundering act

Kia ora,

I am not even a hundred percent sure this is caused by the money laundering act but some people I have talked to have said they thought this was the reason for these difficulties. Hopefully they will be relevant to your review.

Basically, I am an author and sell my books via Amazon (Kindle Direct Publishing). Most of my customers are in the US or UK but I sell the odd title in India, Denmark, Brazil etc.

New Zealand seems to be an annoying country to come from when you are starting out, as for most people they get transferred their royalties to their banks no matter how much it is. New Zealand banks for some reason can't accept electronic transfers and so you need to get WIRED the money - but this is only done when you meet a \$100USD threshold in each marketplace.

ie: you need to get \$100 sales in the UK for the UK marketplace to send your royalties or \$100 royalties from Denmark to be paid from Denmark.

This causes big delays in cashflow and big fees. It just generally sucks, especially when you only building your list of titles and actually really need every dollar to put back into it. Like, when I started out I could see my royalties stacking up but if there was \$80 or even \$99USD sitting there I'd still know I couldn't actually get it until it passed the threshold, got to the end of the month and then went through the 3 month pay cycle. That means big delays when trying to save for editing or covers etc on the next manuscript.

And if you never earn a full \$100USD in a marketplace and don't find an alternative way to get paid I guess when you die it just gets absorbed back by Amazon and goes towards Mr Bezos seatwarmer on his next rocketship 🚀
Seems like a pointless loss of kiwi effort in making and selling a thing if you struggle to get paid for it. I'm not sure what the story is exactly with music royalties from all the subscription services but I've heard they are a nightmare too so I would suggest looking into it at the very least.

In the end I've had to use Payoneer as an interim bank, then send it through NZ to send through Hnry to get the taxes taken out.

Not only do my earnings get eroded by another 1% from Payoneers fees but it's also a huge pain in the butt as all of my royalties get lumped together and I would have to sit down and do a whole bunch of math to actually figure out what is coming from paperbacks and what is coming from ebooks from each marketplace. I actually MOSTLY sell ebooks, which don't have to have ACC taken out of them whereas paperbacks do, but as this long process of (KDP royalties in multiple currencies → Payoneer in USD and Euro → NZD Bank in NZD) changes amounts with the conversion rates messing with all the numbers multiple times is a massive headache and I don't want to underpay tax I just end up paying ACC on all of it (which is probs something like 60 to 80% more than I should be paying)

It's conflated and confusing, and at the end of the day I'd rather spend my time making and selling more stuff than trying to navigate this system. It's very much my I outsource my tax-related-stress to Hnry in the first place.

I mean, if there's drug harm etc that you can reduce do what you have to do, but I do also think that when you are looking at international business you need to make it as easy as possible to get money in and taxed simply (even if it's just in allowing electronic transfers from trusted places like KDP and other common companies kiwis use for distribution of electronic, print on demand or drop shipped goods).

It's a good way to legitimately make money from other countries with next to no export costs 🙄

Would love it if this process could be simplified to make it easier for people to start out.

Thanks,

Laura Williams