



Submission No 70

**Review of Australia's Relationship with the  
Countries of Africa**

**Name:** Professor Simon Adams

**Organisation:** Monash University – Supplementary Submission

**Drew, Gillian (REPS)**

**Subject:** FW: MARI - for Australia's relations with Africa  
**Attachments:** Monash MARI proposal 2008.docx

Dear Senator Forshaw,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade last Thursday regarding Monash's relations with Africa. Further to our discussion, I would like to follow up on a few items which arose from the hearing.

1. Monash Annual Report

There was a question regarding our spending in Africa, and suggestion that further details could be found in our annual report. The report can be found on our website here:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/pubs/ar/AnnualReport2009.pdf>

2. Monash South Africa Tuition Fees

Ms Sharon Grierson asked about the comparison of tuition fees between our Australian and South African campuses.

Below is a basic comparison of the Bachelor of Arts degree, and further details about the fees for Monash South Africa can be found here: <http://www.monash.ac.za/fees/payments/rates.html>

Australia (per annum)

Commonwealth supported place (CSP): \$5,310 AUD

International fee per 48 credit points: \$21,500 AUD

South Africa (per annum)

All students: \$6,890 AUD (46,800 ZAR)

3. African Studies/Research Institute

Most importantly, as discussed in the hearing, Monash has been keen to further increase Australia-Africa research activities through the formation of a centre for African research. Two models have been developed and proposed by Monash's Senior Management; the Monash Africa Centre (MAC) based at Monash South Africa, and the Monash Africa Research Initiative (MARI) based in our Faculty of Arts in Melbourne. Given the interest in a centre for African Studies/Research based in Australia, I would like to share further details about MARI, which were not contained in our initial written submission. The full MARI proposal was finalised in May 2008 and a slightly abridged version is attached. An overview is as follows:

MARI aims to be a new and innovative research initiative for the Australian higher education sector. MARI aims to be established as a cross-disciplinary, cross-institutional initiative of Monash University in collaboration with other universities within Australia and Africa, and beyond the borders of those two countries. MARI will provide a critical foundation upon which to build our knowledge of Africa, through which we can foster Australian-African understanding, cooperation and collaboration. MARI will be the only centre for African research in the Australian higher education sector. The aims of the initiative include:

- \* to support research on Africa and Africans;
- \* to serve as a portal whereby international media, government institutions and the corporate sector can access Monash and other Australian expertise on the complexities and dynamics of Africa;
- \* to forge links with similar institutions throughout Africa and internationally;
- \* to help coordinate cross-institutional research and postgraduate supervision in African Studies within Australia and through linkage agreements with institutions across the globe;
- \* to provide an institutional framework for mobilising untapped human resources within African migrant communities in Australia.

While MARI has been primarily conceived of as a research initiative, it will also provide an impetus for the development of coursework units in African Studies, both in Africa as well as Australia.

The document attached here is the one endorsed by Monash's senior leadership in 2008. While none of the information, or attachments, are strictly confidential, they remain Monash internal documents and I would appreciate it if you did not put them on the public record at this stage. I am, however, happy for you to informally circulate them to members of the committee for their interest, as you see fit.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present on Monash's engagement with Africa. Finally, as I was unable to be present at the hearing in Melbourne, I would be keen to speak with you personally and informally regarding Monash's African engagement and the Monash Africa Research Initiative. I would be happy to meet you in Canberra if you would be willing to meet and would like to nominate a suitable date and time.

Thank you for considering our feedback and recommendations.

Regards,

Simon

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