



Submission No 69

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

Organisation: Chisholm Catholic College

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Lawson, Cliff (REPS)

From: Rosemary Hutchings [R.Hutchings@chisholm.wa.edu.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 October 2002 5:26 PM
To: Lawson, Cliff (REPS)
Subject: RE: Nalsas Funding

Chisholm Catholic College
1104 Beaufort St.
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Dear Mr.Lawson

I do wish the submission below to be accepted as a formal submission from my school into your Committee's inquiry into Australia's relations with Indonesia. I have the support of my School Principal who has read and approved this email. I have amended this submission slightly to include references to the document you mentioned.

* With both the support of our Principal and NALSAS funding, Indonesian was introduced alongside Italian and French as a choice for Year 8 students at Chisholm College in 1996. Since then students have been able to continue studying Indonesian through to Year 12. Regular external funding (via NALSAS) has enabled the school to purchase resources, support teacher retraining and in-servicing. Without this funding the Indonesian programme is at risk of becoming a short term dalliance due to the drain this second language will place on limited school resources.

At Chisholm College, the cultural background of the majority of the student population is Italian. Indonesian gives the students an opportunity to explore a language and culture quite different from their own and develop cross cultural understandings which will allow them to perform as effective citizens in the Asian Region.

Earlier this year a document was launched at Curtin University (WA) entitled "Maximising Australia's Asia Knowledge - Repositioning and Renewal of a National Asset". This report was by the Asian Studies Association of Australia, Inc (<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/>). In part of the document it states that, "Australians need to be equipped for a world in which people from different places and histories increasingly talk to each other, work together and understand the complexities of each other's political and social pressures" (pg. xv). The recent tragic events in Bali serve to highlight the need for Australians who are able to understand and relate to our closest neighbours. Continued appropriate levels of funding are crucial to schools being able to educate students appropriately.

We would hate to see the current trend in universities and schools of the downgrading of studies of the Asian region or the Indonesian language affect the language programme at Chisholm College, because of the absence of NALSAS funding.

Mrs. R Hutchings (Coordinator French/Indonesian)
Chisholm College

