



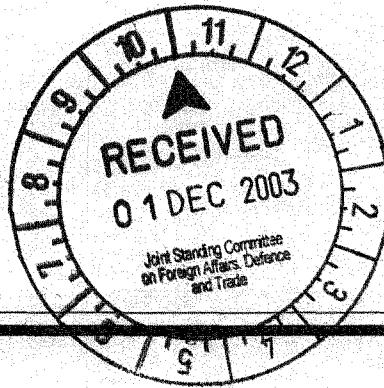
Submission No 113

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

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To The Secretary of the Committee

As a teacher of 23 years and a teacher of Indonesian language for the last ten of those years I wish to make a comment to the Joint Standing Committee on Australia's relations with Indonesia.

The main point I wish to make to the committee is that I, and I know many other teachers, would like to see the Australian Government consider more closely its ties with Indonesia especially in the area of education and specifically, in what ways the Australian education community could be working with the education community in Indonesia for the mutual benefit of citizens of both countries.

For example, currently the Indonesian Education Department (*Departemen Pendidikan Nasional*) are attempting to implement a new *Kurikulum Berbasis Kompetensi*, which has similarities to Australia's efforts over the last decade in moving towards offering more outcomes-focused education programs in our schools. My understanding is that the implementation of this more contemporary curriculum is being hampered by a severe shortage of expertise in the Indonesian Education Department and its schools, and a great reluctance by teachers to learn about this contemporary approach.

Specifically, I would like to see the Australian Government fund programs across Australia to allow our teachers here to share their knowledge and experience gained throughout our recent decade of dramatic curriculum change here in Australia, to assist Indonesian schools with coming to terms with the curriculum shift waiting to occur in Indonesia. I am not talking about academics and researchers from universities but programs which allow the **teachers in schools** to share and learn practical pedagogies and methodologies which support outcomes focused education.

This sharing of knowledge should occur across education sectors, levels and learning areas and is not the sole domain of the universities. Teachers of primary middle and senior schools in both Australia and Indonesia should be involved in the sharing and learning which would occur, and which would also go a long way to developing intercultural understandings that would have far reaching effects.

Yours sincerely

Karen Bailey
Teacher of Indonesian