



Submission No 66

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

Name: Ms Jeanette M Debney

Address: Ballarat Secondary College
PO Box 1877
Mail Centre
BALLARAT VIC 3354

**SUBMISSION REGARDING CESSATION OF NALSAS
FUNDING**

To: Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.
From: The Indonesian Language Teachers' Network, Ballarat,
Victoria.
18/10/02

I was concerned to learn that the funding from the NALSAS will no longer be available to support Studies of Asia in our schools and also the study of Languages Other Than English.

I would like to draw your attention to remarks made in The Age newspaper on 17th October 2002 by Hugh White, who is the director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. These remarks reflect his personal viewpoint and not necessarily that of the Institute.

Writing in the aftermath of the bombing in Bali on 12th October he said, "The deepest message of the Bali tragedy is the abiding importance of Indonesia in Australia's security."

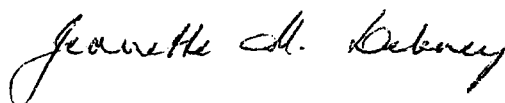
We have a huge stake in the success of Indonesia's democratic experiment and in the slow rebuilding of an effective, cooperative relationship with Jakarta."

Teachers of Indonesian have a vested interest in their professional careers in funding for LOTE of course, but our concerns are with the broader picture as sketched so ably in the words of Hugh White. We know that by studying a language other than English, students learn a great deal about the culture and the lives of the people too.

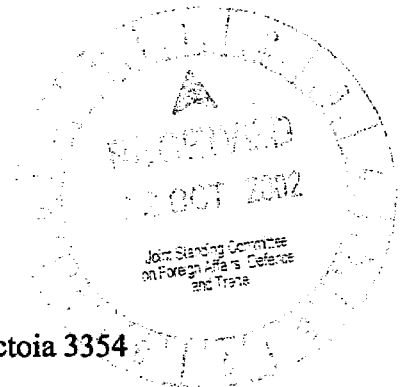
In educating the next generation it is important that they be familiar with our neighbouring countries and are able to show understanding and compassion rather than ignorance, prejudice and fear. Through a Study of Asia and LOTE the next generation of Australians will be better equipped to assist in building positive relationships with the peoples of South-East Asia.

It is for these reasons that I strongly support the retention of all funding to these studies.

Yours faithfully,



JEANETTE M. DEBNEY



Ballarat Secondary College, P.O. Box 1877, Mail Centre Ballarat, Victoria 3354

