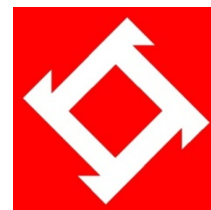


ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Professor Louise Edwards

President

Email: louise.edwards@unsw.edu.au



20 January 2016

Hon. Gareth Evans, Chancellor
Professor Brian Schmidt, Vice Chancellor
Professor Veronica Taylor, Dean of ANU College of Asia & the Pacific
The Australian National University
Acton ACT 2601

Dear Chancellor Evans, Vice Chancellor Schmidt and Dean Taylor,

On behalf of the ASAA, the premier body of Asian educators and researchers in Australia, I would like to express our members' deep concern at the potential cuts to the ANU School of Culture, History and Language (CHL) in the College of Asia and the Pacific.

Academics in the CHL have been global leaders in propelling knowledge about the rise of Asia over many decades. Their leadership in the field of Asian Studies both nationally and internationally has been instrumental in ensuring that regional voices from Australia and its near neighbours have an authoritative place in the global conversation about the diversity and complexity of Asia. CHL houses scholars of the highest international reputation, policy advisors of measured judgement and impartiality, and teachers of excellence. ANU's Asian Studies program has trained educators, researchers, administrators and scholars who now occupy eminent, strategic positions all around Australia and the world. CHL's diversity of language and culture course offerings is fundamental to the training of Australians' Asian knowledge—a rich program that is not only vital to the sustained prosperity of Australia but also to the international prestige our Asian Studies expertise currently garners internationally.

The ASAA's global CHL alumni are distressed to hear of the potential cuts, as are the many academics and teachers local to Australia that depend upon the expertise and networking leadership that CHL has provided. Individuals from a host of different spheres depend upon the strength of CHL to maintain the Asia literacy that enables them to advise their state governments, local businesses and NGOs. ANU is the hub for disseminating the first-rate information, expertise, and networking that enables Australia's Asia Literacy programs, in both the public and private sectors, to continue.

I hope that you will reconsider the plans to reduce CHL funding. Such dramatic cuts would be a heavy blow to the entire Australian Asian Studies field, to Australia's Asian knowledge and would be regarded with shock internationally.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Edwards".

Louise Edwards FAHA, FASSA, FHKAH
President, ASAA
Professor Chinese History, UNSW Australia