



**Catholic Education Office
Lismore**

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Committee Secretary JSCFADT
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE : Australia's Relations with Indonesia

The importance of a positive relationship between Australia and Indonesia is obvious.

Over the past eight years, I have been directly involved in the implementation of programs of study of Indonesian Language and Culture in the school at which I was Principal and at two neighbouring schools, and the professional development of staff. This year, as a Curriculum Support Advisor, I have begun the training of 16 staff members from schools throughout the Diocese in Bahasa Indonesia, which they are introducing to their students. We are, in a small but significant way, contributing to the development of a positive relationship with our nearest Asian neighbour.

I have observed similar trends in other schools, Government, Catholic and Independent. This has taken much time and effort on the part of individuals who believe in the value of what is being achieved.

I believe that none of this would have occurred without NALSAS funding and that the Commonwealth must continue to lead the way and demonstrate its on-going commitment to making Australia a more Asia literate society.

An improvement in Asian languages, cultures and education through school based programs was considered a priority by the Commonwealth Government in 1994 and is no less a priority today.

Yours sincerely

John Bourke
Curriculum Support Advisor
Diocese of Lismore

