



4 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
Australia

Via email: gareth.evans@anu.edu.au; brian.schmidt@anu.edu.au; veronica.taylor@anu.edu.au

Dear Chancellor Evans, Vice Chancellor Schmidt, and Dean Taylor,

On behalf of the American Anthropological Association, I am writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to reconsider the university's decision to reduce next year's budget for the School of Culture, History, and Language (CHL). We understand that the proposed budget cuts would result in a dismissal of up to one-third of CHL's professional staff, an irretrievable loss of expertise that serves the international community of anthropological scholars as well as the Australian National University.

Anthropology and language scholars like those resident at CHL make an enormous contribution to advancing human understanding, and to applying this understanding in the search for solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems. As global connections strengthen economic, environmental, and institutional ties, we believe it is precisely the wrong moment to dismantle the outstanding constellation of intellectual expertise represented by CHL's scholars. At the American Anthropological Association, we look to our colleagues at the ANU for their intellectual leadership in the social anthropology of Asia and the Pacific, their illumination of immigration policies and lived experiences, and their extensive international collaborations in archaeology and natural history.

More than 100 of AAA's members are Australian, and we regard the CHL in particular as such an outstanding international resource that this irretrievable loss of expertise would be widely felt. Thank you for considering this request to look again at the serious implications of the CHL budget cuts. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,
American Anthropological Association

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