



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

VICE-CHANCELLOR

**Professor Paul Johnson**  
MA, D.Phil. Oxf. AcSS

23 April 2012

Mr Chris Angelkov  
Vice-President  
Macedonian Community Council of WA  
PO Box 271  
MIRRABOOKA WA 6941

Dear Mr Angelkov

***Macedonian Community of WA (Inc.) (MCWA) v Professor Melville Jones and  
The University of Western Australia and the Australian Macedonian Advisory Council***

I write this further to the letter to you of the University's former Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Robson dated 9 December 2010.

The subsequent exchange of submissions in the proceedings before the Commonwealth Human Rights Commission and the exchange of views at the recent conciliation conference have clarified the motivation for your original complaint to Professor Robson on behalf of the MCWA.

It is clear that the members of the Macedonian community represented by the MCWA took offence at innuendos that clearly can be construed from the last paragraph of the speech of Professor Melville-Jones. Just as clearly, it is the case that it is not unreasonable that the members of your community were offended by such innuendos.

The University regrets that the speech caused the offence, and the indignation and hurt associated with it. The University's regret stems from the fact that the University publically espouses and promotes, as far as it is able, the harmonious coexistence of ethnic traditions in Australia, and mutual respect between the various traditions. To be associated in any way with events that run contrary to this attitude is clearly not something that the University would wish for.

However, the University had neither actual nor constructive knowledge that the speech was to be given, nor did the University in any way consent to publication of the speech. In addition the University is satisfied that the speech was not motivated by malice on the part of Professor Melville-Jones, or any desire on his part to cause the hurt to your community that has resulted from it.

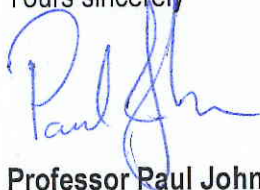
Of course the University does not take a position in regard to the 'naming issue', and its underlying causes, presently before the United Nations, but it certainly respects the right of parties to express their views, subject to reasonable constraints of courtesy and respect. If Professor Melville-Jones exceeded those constraints the University is satisfied that that was unintentional. The University is pleased that Professor Melville-Jones assurances to your community to that effect have ameliorated your community's indignation and enabled the matter to be put to rest.

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In any event, please be assured that the University has no reason to have anything but goodwill towards the members of the Macedonian community represented by the MCWA and takes pride in the fact that assuredly many fine graduates of the University have come from that community and that many more will do so in the future.

I am delighted that you have agreed to meet with Professor Melville-Jones and me to discuss the broader issues concerning the Macedonian community and in particular those members of that community represented by the MCWA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Professor Paul Johnson**  
Vice-Chancellor