

4 December 2013

School of Human Movement Studies  
Head of School  
Professor Doune Macdonald  
CRICOS PROVIDER NUMBER 00025B

Mr Steven Zhang  
President - Wikimedia Australia  
steven.zhang@wikimedia.org.au

Dear Mr Zhang

As Head of the School of Human Movement Studies, I am writing to commend to you the Wikipedia project underway in conjunction with The University of Queensland (UQ), Wikimedia Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee, which investigates the History of the Australian Paralympic Movement. The project partners collaboratively developed and submitted the project to the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant program and were all delighted that it was successful. They look forward to your support for a final sign-off on the ARC Linkage contract so that this exciting and highly original project can proceed without further delay.

This project exemplifies the community engagement that Universities see as crucial in the contemporary digital world. It brings together two iconic partners; the Australian Paralympic Movement that supports and showcases the struggles, challenges and successes of sportspeople with a disability and Wikipedia, with its global reach and incredible volunteer contributors. This grant is the first in Australia that formally acknowledges the status of Wikimedia in the University sector. In many ways, the ARC Linkage grant reinforces the views of Burdick (2012) who recognises the virtues and achievements of Wikipedia in her internationally acclaimed book *Digital\_Humanities*. She advocates: 'At this moment, in its short life, Wikipedia is already the most comprehensive, representative, and pervasive participatory platform for knowledge production ever created by humankind. That is worth some pause and reflection'.

This ARC Linkage Grant will enable the scholars at The University of Queensland (Associate Professor Murray Phillips and Dr Gary Osmond) to expand an already established relationship with Wikimedia Australia. Associate Professor Phillips and Dr Osmond have

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engaged in several Wikipedia workshops and helped generate articles, as well as presenting papers at National and International Conferences, have published a journal article and have a book to be released next year, all of which examine Wikipedia. The ARC Linkage Grant will enable these opportunities to expand. The funding provided by the ARC will support Research Assistants to develop, organise and make available materials for Wikipedia workshops around Australia with the goal of generating more articles and improving the quality of existing articles on the Australian Paralympic Movement. Part of this initiative will introduce new volunteers to Wikipedia which will increase the number of editors contributing to the online encyclopaedia. In addition, the ARC Linkage Grant provides funding for a PhD student whose work will focus on Wikipedia and the thesis will have the capacity to contribute to understanding the global Wikipedia phenomenon.

In conclusion, The University of Queensland, the School of Human Movement Studies and Associate Professor Phillips and Dr Osmond are thrilled about the opportunities to work with Wikimedia Australia on this worthwhile project pending the completion of formal documentation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Macdonald', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Doune Macdonald, PhD  
Professor and Head of School