



**CHINESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**澳華社區議會 OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

CCCA Incorporated in NSW No. 9887465

All Correspondence to the National President, Dr Anthony Pun, OAM  
PO Box 298 Kingsgrove NSW 2208 or [tonypun@hotmail.com.au](mailto:tonypun@hotmail.com.au) Mobile 0414976363

To: Editor, China Matters

Thank you for an opportunity to make response to Mr Kwok's article.

A Response to Jackson Kwok's article in China Matters

1. Each Australian university that hosts a Confucius Institute should form a working group of independent experts to review the university's contract with its CI to ensure the university's unilateral control over all academic matters. If necessary, the contract should be re-negotiated.

Comment: The selection and composition of "independent experts" should be transparent. The criteria for inclusion or appointment of an independent experts should be published. Who decides the criteria is important and reading current dissertations on Cis, consultation with Australian department (DFA) and the Chinese community of the draft co-written by the University and CI, would invite less criticism.

2. The contract between a university and its Confucius Institute should be made publicly available on the university's website, as should all information on curricula, teaching material, and board members.

Comment: Agreed

3. Student surveys should be used to assess each Confucius Institute lecture and language program. The student survey should probe issues of self-censorship or infringements on freedom of expression, and be conducted by independent university faculty members.

Comment: Agreed on proviso that the survey questions are not bias, or do not give the perception that it is biased. Hence, the questions should be a consensual agreement for all parties.

4. Independent university faculty members should conduct an annual review of each Confucius Institute. The reviewers cannot be Confucius Institute board members.

Comment: An independent annual review by faculty members is not pragmatic where such review only consists of the “independent” reviewer/s. Such report can attract criticism that it has political motives. If no CI Board members are included as reviewers then it is only fair that the review report carries a dissenting report (or if the Board is happy, a consenting report).

5. The Go8 should develop a uniform code to outline terms of an agreement between an Australian university and foreign government when they sponsor a joint project on campus. This code should provide clear standards to hold a Confucius Institute accountable to and define parameters for termination in case these standards are breached.

Comment: Agreed. Such a bi-lateral government agreement would deter unnecessary criticism of foreign influence. The agreement must contain provisions for complaints, feedback and adjudication when conflict arises.

6. A university should maintain control of the composition of its Confucius Institute board by appointing the majority of the board’s members.

Comment: It would depend on the contract between the University and CI. If the contract stipulates that CI is part of the structure of the University and operates under University’s by-laws then it is clear that the university should maintain control of the composition and appointment of the CI Board.

Furthermore, the University should consider membership of the Board to be filled by Chinese Australians of good standing in the community (see rationale below).

7. A university should not incorporate a Confucius Institute into its China studies department. Students should be offered classes in Chinese history, PRC foreign policy, politics and society by non-CI university faculty.

Comment: This is an unnecessary paranoia.

This proposal is somewhat contradictory to the principle of academic freedom when the University acts as a Censor to dictate what ideology can be taught and what cannot be taught. However, it is not unrealistic to expect such bias exists even at the Lecturers level particularly in the subject of Political Science.

There nothing wrong with a person who has a passionate and belief in a political ideology to cast his/her ideas to student of Political Science. What is important here is the true education of the University, i.e. to train and assist students to

think independently and to make informed decisions through analysis of the evidence provided or researched. Listening to propaganda does not make you a convert if you have an independent mind.

### General Comment:

#### The Rationale for Participation by Chinese Australian community in Cis

Declaration: It is important for readers to know that the author is a product of British and American influence and education and believes in Australian democracy. Although of Chinese descent, the author knows more about Western civilization, literature, and culture than Chinese ones. However the author's bias lies in the development of good Australia-China relations that would bring peace and prosperity to both nations.

The genesis of Jackson Kwok's article on Cis owes much to the "China Panic" (a term introduced by Prof Bob Carr of ACRI) events triggered by the Australian media in late 2016. The response by the Chinese Australian community on this issue has been discussed elsewhere.

Should Australians be worried about China's growing influence in the country? Is China waging a "campaign of psychological warfare" against Australia?

<https://www.quora.com/Should-Australians-be-worried-about-China-s-growing-influence-in-the-country-Is-China-waging-a-campaign-of-psychological-warfare-against-Australia/answer/Anthony-Pun>

What is the Chinese Australian community reaction to the recent public debate in the media alleging foreign interference and espionage by Chinese in Australia?

<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-Chinese-Australian-community-reaction-to-the-recent-public-debate-in-the-media-alleging-foreign-interference-and-espionage-by-Chinese-in-Australia/answer/Anthony-Pun>

The most serious consequence of the China Panic is the introduction of the foreign interference bills in Parliament in Dec 2017. A proponent of the bills is Emeritus Professor John Fitzgerald of Swinburne University, in his Lowy Institute paper alleging breach of Australian Parliamentary sovereignty.

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/contributors/articles/john-fitzgerald>

The 1.2 million Chinese diaspora in Australia is diverse in respect to their place of birth, education, political ideology and cultural background and more than half of them are considered Western educated, predominantly with roots from the British Empire. These people, who are of good standing in the community, would have the maturity and intelligence to make independent decision that best represents the interests of Australia whilst having an empathy in the propagation of Chinese language, history and culture.

The appointment of such persons will buffer the CI against critics who could perceived that the Board is full of Chinese spies.

In the author's assessment of the China Panic events, it would make it would be difficult for the media to spin a story when there is presence of high profile Chinese Australians who have no direct contact with the CCP and are genuinely working in the interests of Australia. This is not a criticism of the CCP but rather not to invoke Western prejudices on the political system of China.

The whole pathogenesis of the China Panic is equivalent to a secondary earthquake trigger by the US-China "Tectonic plates" colliding.

The more participation of Chinese Australians in public institutions would reduce unnecessary criticism of China's perceived influence in Australian politics.

Author:

Dr Anthony Pun, OAM  
National President, CCCA