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FAQ, AIIA China Matters Fellowship

What's the purpose of the Fellowship?

To invest in the next generation of Australian China specialists and add depth and alternative views to the Australian discussion about the important relationship with the People's Republic of China and by undertaking policy-relevant research on China itself.

Where does the money come from?

Funding is sourced primarily from individuals, giving in a personal capacity. The founding donors and contributors are all publicly named on the AIIA and China Matters websites. All of them are Australian citizens. A small number of Australian-owned companies have also donated to the Fellowship. These too are publicly listed on the AIIA and China Matters websites. Before acceptance of a donation, AIIA and China Matters follow guidelines drawn up by each organisation's board of directors stipulating approval of funding sources.

How was the Fellow chosen?

After extensive public advertising and through a competitive selection process. The selection committee was co-chaired by the Founding Director of China Matters, Ms Linda Jakobson and AIIA Research Chair, Professor Brendan Taylor of the ANU. Other selection committee members were AIIA National President, Allan Gyngell and China Matters Board Member, Andrew Parker, the leader of PWC's Asia Practice in Australia.

How does it work?

The Fellowship is a close collaboration between the Australian Institute of International Affairs, a community-based organisation with branches around Australia, whose mission is to help Australians know more, understand more, and engage more in international relations, and China Matters, an Australian policy institute established in 2014 to inform public and elite opinions about China and recommend solid Australian policy on the complexities of Australia's relationship with the PRC.

The donations were raised by China Matters. Use of donations is jointly agreed upon by both organisations. The Fellow is employed by the AIIA and works under the guidance of the AIIA Research Chair, Professor Brendan Taylor and China Matters Founding Director, Linda Jakobson. The Fellow will be able to draw upon the extensive network of expertise available to both organisations. Her product will be published by both AIIA and China Matters.