

Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries  
The Culture and Arts Division

To whom it may concern,

I came to Australia in 1999 and shortly thereafter joined the Fellowship of Australian Writers WA (FAWWA) where I was Writer in Residence for a few semesters. It was at that time I got to know Patricia (Pat) Johnson. Pat joined FAWWA in 2007 where, initially, she was an assistant to the president, the late Trisha Kotai-Ewers, before being elected to the committee and later, the presidency herself.

In her varied roles as arts worker, committee member, and president, Pat continually maintained a strong and abiding commitment to deliver high-quality creative writing programs and experiences tailored to the West Australian community. Programs she devised such as: Writers-in-Residence; Creative-Writing Workshops; Informal Writers' Classes; and Mentorships have, in my view, unfailingly encouraged diversity and inclusivity in the areas of creative writing and Australian literature. During Pat's time many regional writers and poets were hosted at Mattie Furphy House in Swanbourne as Writers in Residence, and as FAWWA's administrator she also mounted two art exhibitions: one for Aboriginal artist Muriel Meahan; the other for Jyoti McKie.

Pat has a long experience in, and a deep passion for, the arts. As an immigrant herself, she can understand many of the difficulties migrants face and has striven to offer encouragement and support to writers from other cultures. She has worked assiduously to offer meaningful programs that people want while keeping program costs at affordable levels. She is quick to recognise the achievements of others and her priority has clearly been to attract a wide and diverse array of people to participate in the important art of creative writing. Because writing tends to be a solitary art, Pat has been active in promoting social occasions which, along with the

writing groups and workshops, has helped build a network of connections among writers throughout Western Australia.

In her various roles at FAWWA Pat also mastered the art of writing grant applications, having written successful applications to DCA, the Copyright Agency, Lotterywest, and Nedlands Council.

In view of the above, I strongly believe that Pat has the necessary experience and artistic discernment to be a valuable member of a Peer Assessor Panel. She has extensive experience in considering funding applications and is well qualified to assess their financial budgets and validity of support material. I have noticed in my dealings with her that Pat expresses herself well and articulately in meetings and is able to make a meaningful contribution to any discussion on matters relating to the arts. It is clear to me that Pat appreciates the unique place that WA has in Australia and in the world and has worked hard to promote the wide diversity that underpins the creativity and well-being of our state.

Yours faithfully



John Harman

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