

# QUADRANT

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"the most cosmopolitan and sophisticated small magazine in Australian history"  
— Greg Sheridan, *The Australian*, January 2008

December 14 2009

Dear Subscriber,

Last week the Literature Board of the Australia Council slashed its annual grant to *Quadrant* magazine by 30 per cent. The board reduced our funding from \$50,000 to \$35,000. This is a big chunk out of our very modest operating budget and a major blow to our publishing operations.

The entire Australia Council grant goes to the writers of *Quadrant's* literary content, that is, our book reviews, poetry, short fiction, and articles on literature, film and the arts. We have to account for every dollar of this expenditure. The Australia Council does *not* fund our opinion pieces, political commentary, administration, printing or Quadrant Online.

This Literature Board has made a patently political decision. Throughout the eleven years of the Howard government, its appointees never reduced the funding of overtly left-wing publications like *Meanjin*, *Overland* and *Australian Book Review*. In fact, those three journals always received more money than *Quadrant*, even though they carry a fraction of our literary content. *Meanjin* and *Overland* publish only four editions a year. The latest grants are at: [http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/amr/literature/literature\\_-\\_december\\_2009](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/amr/literature/literature_-_december_2009)

We have three immediate options: (i) reduce the magazine's books, literature and arts content by 30 per cent, (ii) pay our writers 30 per cent less for their contributions, or (iii) appeal to our subscribers to make up the money we have lost. We are loath to take either of the first two options. Our literary content, edited by the great poet Les Murray, distinguishes the magazine and attracts many readers. The existing rates of pay for our writers are already pitifully low.

So, I am writing to ask you to help us in a small way. You can do one of two things:

- renew your regular annual subscription today. This would mean you are donating to the magazine the cost of however long your subscription has left to run this year, or
- take out today a Quadrant Premium subscription for \$300. This subscription gives you the printed magazine for one year, unlimited access to Quadrant Online, and free copies of all Quadrant Books we are publishing. It is good value. The first two books you would receive are *Older and Wiser* by Frank Devine (320 pages, retail \$44.95) and *The Howard Era* edited by Keith Windschuttle, David Martin Jones and Ray Evans (538 pages, retail \$44.95). We will also send Premium subscribers who renew before Christmas a free copy of my new book *The Fabrication of Aboriginal History, Volume Three, The Stolen Generations, 1881–2008* (656 pages, retail \$59.95).

Please fill out the form overleaf and return it ASAP. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Keith Windschuttle  
Editor