



Australian
Historical
Association

14 November 2019

Statement of support for UWA Publishing

The Australian Historical Association (AHA) is the peak body representing historians across Australia. On behalf of its members, the AHA executive strongly urges the University of Western Australia to reverse its decision to close UWA Publishing, a prestigious publishing house which has a long history of bringing the stories of Western Australia to the world.

Many distinguished Australian historians including Geoffrey Bolton, Anna Haebich, Regina Ganter, Frank Crowley and David Walker have published with UWA Publishing. The closure of this leading Australian publishing house will mean the loss of a farsighted publisher that has enthusiastically supported historians tackling the great national themes of our time, including Australia's relations with Asia, the continuing legacy of colonialism and the importance of understanding the historical experiences of Indigenous people. The demise of UWAP will result in a sharp decline in the national understanding of the significance and contribution of Western Australians, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to Australian history and culture.

The closure of UWA Publishing would mean the significant loss of understanding of Australian cultural and historical knowledge. It is a short-sighted decision which will discourage academic study of Western Australia, to the detriment of the whole nation.

Yours sincerely,

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