

teaching at pre-tertiary level in the 1970s.

According to the Commonwealth Advisory Committee report, in 1969 twenty five (25) schools in Australia taught Japanese with a total of one thousand one hundred and eleven (1,111) students, divided as follows by States:

Table 1: Number of Schools Teaching Japanese in 1969¹⁴

State	Number of Schools	Number of Students
NSW	2	80
Victoria	3	133
Queensland	6	398
South Australia	5	268
Western Australia	9	232

Ten years later, in 1978, it is reported that in Queensland alone, nine hundred and sixty nine (969) students have elected to take Japanese in secondary schools (Bonning & White 1978), nearly two hundred and fifty percent (250%) increase on the 1969 student numbers. This figure does not include an estimated one thousand five hundred (1,500) students who were taught Japanese in the year eight compulsory language curriculum.¹⁵

In South Australia, Quackenbush reported that in 1977, one thousand and seventy one (1,071) students enrolled in Japanese in fourteen (14) secondary schools (Quackenbush 1978). Although this figure does include approximately two hundred (200) students who were studying Japanese in the year eight 'exposure' courses, both in student numbers and the number of schools teaching Japanese, the increase on the 1969 figure is impressive.

2.6 Initiatives Outside Universities

During the 1960s and 1970s, Australia's relationship with Japan became ever closer with the rapid growth in trade. The awareness that Australia's need to do more in terms of understanding Japan and its culture was finally spreading beyond the confines of Japan specialists and into the

wider community. Caiger wrote in 1972:

Although Australians and Japanese are probably more at ease with each other than at any time in this century, people in government, journalism and business in this country who deal closely with Japan have publicly recognised a growing need to find ways of 'getting on', as working contacts increase between the two communities. (Caiger 1972:126)

The business community was naturally the first to recognise this need. E.M.T. Briggs of the Australia-Japan Business Cooperation Committee (AJBCC) claimed in 1972, that one of the elements which caused the increase in Japanese teaching in the 1960s and onward was 'the impetus of outside bodies (such as AJBCC) which have got the Government departments and schoolmasters to develop an interest in the teaching of Japanese' (ibid.:141).

The AJBCC is the oldest of all the bilateral business councils established between Australia and Japan. As early as 1964-1965, the Committee began a campaign to promote Japanese studies in Australia. It offered scholarships and travel grants to Australian teachers enabling them to study in Japan. The Committee also brought Japanese teachers to Australia. The AJBCC helped fund the Japanese program at the University of Queensland and was largely responsible for establishing the Chair of Japanese at the University of Western Australia.

The Myer Foundation is another significant body which actively contributed to the promotion of Japanese studies in Australia, particularly in the cultural aspect. The Foundation has a long-standing record for its contributions towards Asian Studies at large. FitzGerald described the Foundation as unique 'among all Australian institutions outside government and the universities in the provision of funds specifically for a sustained program in the Asian Studies field' (FitzGerald 1980). The Foundation contributed towards the establishment of the Department of Oriental Studies (later changed to East Asian Studies) at the University of Melbourne. Other initiatives taken by the Myer Foundation include Asian

Studies Travel Grants, Asian and Pacific Fellowships and Grants-in-aid.

In the early 1970s, the attention of the Myer Foundation turned to the specific importance of Japanese studies. In 1973, the President of the Foundation expressed concern that, against the background of a rapidly growing trade relationship between Australia and Japan, there was no complementary development of cultural relations with Japan, either from private or government sources (ibid.). Subsequently the Foundation established three Japan-related projects: Geijutsu Fellowship in Creative Art in 1974; Aspects of Urban Development in 1975; and Japan Travel Grants in 1976.

In 1974, the Australia-Japan Cultural Agreement was signed by Australia's Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, and the visiting Japanese Prime Minister, Kakuei Tanaka. This led to the establishment of the Australia-Japan Foundation in 1976. The significance of these events is that the Australian government now officially committed itself to the development of better understanding between Australia and Japan. The serious intent of the government was demonstrated in the speech made by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam in relation to the introduction of the Australia-Japan Foundation Act, which had preceded the establishment of the Australia-Japan Foundation.

For all the growth in co-operation of the past generation, for all the growing closeness in our relations in that time it must be said that all too often we look at each other with a stare of mutual incomprehension and mutual ignorance. It is therefore very important that we should create a framework within which well motivated and competent Australians and Japanese who wish to build understanding and goodwill between our two countries can operate more effectively. We all recognise our great community of interest, equally we have to recognise that there are great barriers - language, tradition, culture, distance - in the way of making that community even closer and warmer. Let us begin to break those barriers down. (Whitlam 1985:62)