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PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**Freshwater Fish Group &
Fish Health Unit**
Centre for Fish & Fisheries Research

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: DR RICHMOND LOH, APPLICATION TO THE GEORGE ALEXANDER INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

I am writing to support the application by Dr Richmond Loh for the George Alexander International Fellowship 2012. Dr Loh is one of a small number of veterinarians in Australia who specialise in aquatic animals, providing diagnostic and treatment advice to commercial aquaculture operations, the wholesale and retail ornamental fish industry and private aquarium owners. Dr Loh is highly respected in the aquatic animal health field. He holds an adjunct position in the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Murdoch University, and teaches aquatic animal health to veterinary students in a range of courses.

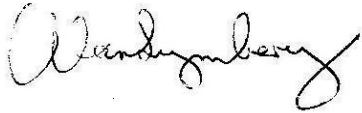
There is an increasing need for fish health professionals in Australia to service the needs of the rapidly growing aquaculture and ornamental fish industries. Disease is a major problem in these industries because of the artificial environments in which fishes are kept, leading to outbreaks of disease on a scale rarely seen in natural populations. Unfortunately, there is a major shortage of veterinarians with skills in aquatic animal health, to meet these disease challenges. I know from personal experience that our group at Murdoch University receive many enquiries related to fish health, enquiries to which we often cannot adequately respond because of a lack of skilled personnel.

Exacerbating the shortage of fish health professionals is the very limited availability of advanced training courses in fish health within Australia. Although some courses are run by organisations such as the University of Tasmania, Murdoch University and CSIRO, these are typically limited in scope, often ad hoc and usually pitched at a relatively basic, entry-level audience. Intensive, advanced training courses in fish (and other aquatic animal) health are only available overseas, for example at Cornell University and the University of Florida in the USA, Stirling University in the UK and Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

I strongly believe that the skills gained by Dr Loh in attending such advanced training courses will be of major benefit to the Australian aquaculture and ornamental fish industries. These benefits will arise both from improving Dr Loh's capacity to directly provide a high quality service to these industries and also, through his teaching roles at Murdoch University (and, potentially, other institutions), enhancing the quality of fish health knowledge among new veterinary graduates.

I have no hesitation in supporting Dr Loh's application. Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Lymbery', with a stylized, cursive script.

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