



Strong case: Vice-Chancellor Alan Robson says UWA has a long tradition of studying Australian literature.

UWA wins national chair in literature

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A new chair in Australian Literature will be based at the University of WA. Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard will announce the chair today.

She said many universities submitted impressive proposals but UWA was judged the stand-out candidate.

The Government will provide \$1.5 million towards the endowment, which will be matched by UWA.

The former Liberal government pledged in August that it would establish a new chair in Australian

literature to give its teaching greater prominence in schools.

Ms Gillard said UWA was committed to the teaching and research of Australian literacy studies.

UWA vice-chancellor Alan Robson said the new chair would play an important role in developing Australia's cultural and intellectual capital and allow Australian literature to regain its place as "a vibrant and vital component of the nation's cultural life".

It would shape the study and appreciation of Australia's creative writers and take their work to national and international audiences.

Professor Robson said UWA put in a strong case to get the chair endowment.

"We've got a long tradition of studying Australian literature at the university and we're very keen to have a professor of Australian literature in the university," he said.

"Having that chair, you then build around it some other people, so it will become a major centre in the teaching of Australian literature."

Education Minister Mark McGowan said UWA had a long-standing commitment to the promotion of literature. The initiative could make WA a national hub for the teaching of literature.