

## **University of Western Australia response to questions from The Australian:**

The University of Western Australia is not aware of any of its academics who have been involved in The Thousand Talents program since 1 July 2016.

Although our previous response indicated that UWA had two employees involved in the Thousand Talents Plan, we've since discovered that one of those academics, while offered the fellowship, did not take up the role.

UWA has not advised the University Foreign Interference Taskforce nor the Counter Foreign Interference Taskforce of the number of employees participating in the Thousand Talents Plan, as Professor Dongke Zhang's involvement ended seven years ago. The taskforces were established last year.

Professor Zhang was offered a remuneration of AU\$5,000 for the Thousand Talents Plan three-year fellowship in 2010, but donated the money to support research and scholarships. He continues to offer "Zhang's Scholarships" for outstanding postgraduate students, providing the funding support out of his own pocket.

Professor Zhang has established collaborations with several Chinese institutions that have resulted in enormous mutual benefits to both countries – in terms of joint publications, bringing research funds to Australia, reducing pollutant emissions from energy systems, educating bright young students with scientific knowledge and principles, and promoting Australian culture and values.