



20 August, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to express my strong support for the Lalitha Kalalaya School of Bharatanatyam, which teaches a form of traditional classical dance originating from the Tamil Nadu province of India.

I recently attended a showcase evening produced by the school, and I was blown away by the high quality of the dancing and by the production values of the show.

The teachers and organisers at Lalitha Kalalaya seem to have done an excellent job of building a strong school community of parents and students who are passionate about preserving and sharing traditional Indian culture, and I'm pleased to hear that the school is now seeking opportunities to engage with the wider Australian community.

Bharatanatyam is a highly revered spiritual dance tradition of immense cultural significance, and is particularly respected within Brisbane's Indian diaspora communities. The stories encoded within these dances are thousands of years old, and it's important that this knowledge and cultural tradition is passed on to future generations.

For the children of Indian migrants, it's particularly important to have opportunities to connect with their cultural origins and feel proud of their identity, and I believe this dance school contributes positively to that goal, while also helping to build cross-cultural understanding and connection with people from other communities.

Having attended a large number of traditional dance performances originating from across the Indian subcontinent, I can say without hyperbole that the Lalitha Kalalaya School of Bharatanatyam is one of the highest-standard classical Indian dance schools I've seen anywhere in Australia. I believe the school should be offered public funding and support so that its students can showcase their work to a wider audience.

If you ever have the chance to watch one of the dance drama performances by their senior dance group, I warmly encourage you to take the opportunity.

Regards,

Jonathan Sri

Councillor for the Gabba Ward