



23 February 2005

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

I am proud to be a Patron of the National Tournament of Minds programme.

I feel a lifelong debt to my schools, my teachers and fellow students in the expansion of my mind that occurred when I was young. At school, I was encouraged to take part in debating, in public speaking, in acting in plays and competing with others to express myself and to convince others. It is by argument and persuasion, verbal competition and debate that human beings lift our species to quest for the rational resolution of contests over resolution by brute power, money or force.

I hope that other young Australians will take part in the National Tournament of Minds Programme and thereby sharpen their minds so that they can contribute to bettering our society and improving the world.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Kirby".

MICHAEL KIRBY

The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG

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