



Where language and culture come together

## COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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November 4, 2018

### **ANDREWS LABOR GOVERNMENT MAKES STRONG COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY LANGUAGES EDUCATION IF RE – ELECTED**

Community Languages Australia welcomes the Andrews Labor Government strong election commitment to strengthening community language school education by announcing a boost in funding of \$7.5 million over 4 years if re-elected.

The announcement was made yesterday by Minister for Education the Hon James Merlino, Minister for Minister for Early Childhood Education, Jenny Mikakos and Steve Dimpoulos Member for Oakleigh during visits to Greek community languages schools and by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Robin Scott and Neil Pharaoh Candidate for Prahan in a visit to a Chinese community language school.

The Premier reiterated the commitment whilst outlining a series of election commitments at Federation Square.

The three-part election commitment package includes:

- a first – Support for early childhood and preschool-aged children in community language schools,
- a per capital increase to all students by \$30.00 bringing the per capita funding to \$245 per year and
- additional \$100,000 for professional development, training and administration.

Victoria has a strong commitment to languages education. Community language schools play a major role in delivering language education to over 36,000 students in a range of 40 languages in 167 community language schools.

Over 2000 new early learners would have access to this funding, bringing the total number of students funded to over 38,000.

“Many communities throughout Victoria would benefit from this funding commitment as community language schools are a hub for language learning and retention, cultural maintenance, community connectivity and social cohesion”, CLA Executive Director Stefan Romaniw said.

This election commitment goes a long way in supporting schools. It also now introduces a key area – the early years of education, where foundations are laid.

CLA – ESAV have been advocating for increased support for community languages schools for some time, outlining the role of the sector and the additional responsibilities being taken on by CLA and schools themselves. The issues raised in negotiations are very much reflected in this commitment. ” Mr Romaniw said.

A Media Release is attached and will also be available in number of languages.

**Further information contact Stefan Romaniw 0419 531 255**