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5/2006

E-Language

QUEENSLAND ETHNIC SCHOOLS – STRENGTHENING LANGUAGES EDUCATION

The delivery of quality programs in Queensland's ethnic schooling program was the central topic of discussion in a series of meetings held in Queensland yesterday. The close cooperation between the Ethnic of Schools Association of Queensland (ESAQ), Education Queensland (EQ) and Multicultural Queensland (MQ) has seen the development of modules that form the basis of curriculum in ethnic schools.

These efforts coupled with the work of Community Languages Australia's National coordination and quality assurance program are providing measurable outcomes.

Aligning the Queensland modules with Queensland Study Authority's (QSA) framework strengthens overall languages education provision in Queensland.

Community Languages Australia Executive Director, Stefan Romaniw held a series of meetings in Queensland to provide details about the National coordination and quality assurance program and the current work being undertaken.

Meetings were held with:

Tamara Romans, Principal Officer Queensland LOTE Centre,
Narendra Nand, President of the ESAQ and members of the ESAQ Executive.

A further joint meeting between ESAQ and Ms. Romans discussed cooperation between ESAQ and EQ in -

- Formation of a joint working party for Quality Assurance Framework Workshops.
- National Conference to be held in Queensland on October 7, 2006
- Supporting the joint FECCA –National Prescribing Service (NPS) *Quality Use of Medicines* (QUM) Program.
- Queensland to identify a curriculum writer to prepare a curriculum document for the QUM project and the ESAQ agreement to trial it in its schools.

These meetings were followed by a General Meeting of ESAQ members who were addressed by a number of speakers.

Narendra Nand outlined the work being undertaken in areas of curriculum and professional development and overall wide-ranging activities of ESAQ.

Steve Maguire Executive Director of Multicultural Queensland spoke about the important role played by ethnic schools in not only in fostering language and culture, but ensuring young people integrated into the broader community.

Tamara Romans outlined the ongoing cooperation between all stakeholders and the important fact that Ethnic Schools have been written into the National Languages Education Plan and Statement endorsed by all Ministers of Education through MCEETYA.

EQ fully supports the efforts of improving delivery of Languages Education programs and the LOTE Centre under her direction has been proactive in delivering training and professional development.

Stefan Romaniw provided an overview of the National Coordination Project and Quality Assurance Framework. He also provided information about:

- National Conference in October
- National Professional Development and Learning program
- Sharing of resources
- Materials development
- FECCA –NPS Project
- Participation of ESAQ Executive Officer(EO) Kelly Timmons at the National Webmaster's Forum (Melbourne Feb 9) and the National EO Planning Meeting (SA March 15)

The overall outcomes of the series of discussions throughout the day were as follows:

- *Presentation of a Report on DEST funded National Project for Improved Coordination and Quality Assurance in Ethnic Schools*
- *Support for a joint EQ - ESAQ Working party on quality assurance*
- *The National conference program should include -*
 - ✓ *series of practical workshops*
 - ✓ *strong key note speaker to highlight the importance of languages education*
 - ✓ *engage all providers of languages education in Queensland*
 - ✓ *engage ethnic community leaders and media to promote the importance of linguistic and cultural maintenance*
- *Ongoing work to ensure modules were aligned with QSA frameworks and to seek to have ethnic school reports included in mainstream school reporting*
- *EQ will seek to identify a curriculum writer for the NPS Project*
- *ESAQ to trial NPS pilot*
- *Queensland to be involved in the National Professional development and learning Program with a series of workshops to be offered in Queensland*
- *Round Table of stakeholders be held in May – June 2006*
- *Ongoing cooperation with MQ in the delivery of Government's Multicultural Agenda and The Smart State agenda*

Queensland has a strong model based on cooperation and interaction between ESAQ, EQ and MQ focused around the LOTE Centre.

The ESAQ continues to be a driving force in ensuring that quality programs remain on the agenda and members participate in PD programs (approx. 100 instructors attend regular to PD sessions).

LOTE Centre provides the expertise in driving the agenda and delivering programs.

This model is how it runs on the board.

Photo 1 Meeting with ESAQ Executive - L-R Heidi Englhofer, Kelly Timmons.

Tamara Romans, Stefan Romaniw, Narenda Nand, Irene Tavutavu, Myria Prianes

Photo 2 Tamara Romans Principal Officer LOTE Centre addressing meeting

Photo 3 ESQA President -Narenda Nand and Members Heidi Englhofer, Irene Tavutavu