



May 2016

ETHNIC SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER

Community Languages Schools
Where Language and Culture Come Together

MEDIA RELEASE

VICTORIAN BUDGET DELIVERS INCREASED FUNDING OF \$4M TO VICTORIAN COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Community Languages Australia and Victorian community language schools welcome the Andrew's Government Budget announcement of \$4 million over 4 years for community language schools to provide after-hours language education to students across Victoria.

The additional funding will support in excess of 37,000 students studying in a range of over 50 languages. Community language schools are complementary providers of language education.

"Many communities throughout Victoria will benefit from this funding. It also delivers a strong statement that the Victorian Government supports languages education and has confidence in the programs provided by Victoria's community language schools," Stefan Romaniw, Executive Director of Community Languages Australia said today.

"The program adds a further dimension to student learning and provides another strong bow to Victoria's ability to connect globally for educational, social, cultural and economic benefits," Mr Romaniw said.

"Victoria's community language schools are an integral part of delivering language teaching and learning. They are also the heart and soul in communities. As an analogy, I have mentioned numerous times, it takes students from being a 2 or 4 cylinder to an 8 cylinder – adding power and knowledge," Tassos Douvartzides Chairman of Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations said.

"We are grateful for this support and we will continue to lobby to have our early childhood learners included into the program," Mr Douvartzides said.

Community Language Australia and the ESAV have expressed their appreciation to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, The Hon James Merlino and to the Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, The Hon Robin Scott for their support and understanding in making this funding a reality.

Community languages school provide languages education and cultural maintenance programs in authentic settings and contribute strongly to social cohesion in Victoria and nationally.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

Representatives from the many community language schools are available for comment in their language.

Stefan Romaniw OAM
Executive Director, Community Languages Australia

Ethnic Schools Association
of Victoria Inc.

Languages & Multicultural
Education Resource
Centre

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Carlton 3053
Ph: (03) 9349 2400
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Email: info@esav.org.au
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ABN 97 461 789 657

2016 COMMUNITY LANGUAGES ACHIEVEMENTS! Schools meet Minister for Education James Merlino



Language education and cultural maintenance are very important elements to families who wish to give their children an added advantage, another lifelong skill.

It doesn't come easy because it requires effort. Every week in Australia over 100 000 students learn their mother tongue in range of 70 languages in the community language school setting.

Community Languages Australia (CLA) a body representing community language schools' associations advocates on behalf of the schools to seek funding, improve quality, provide training and support social cohesion.

On Monday April 11, 2016 CLA and the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria held a Meet and Greet event at the Drill Hall in Melbourne with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education the Hon James Merlino.

Over 200 teachers, parents and students attended.

Prof Mark Rose provided the acknowledgment to country highlighting the importance of languages and reminding those present that many indigenous languages have been lost and we should do all we can to pass on language to our children.

Students from Keysborough PS inspired everyone with their rendition of the National Anthem and other songs.

In his opening remarks Community Languages Australia, Executive Director Stefan Romaniw said, "Community languages schools are an integral part of languages education and cultural maintenance and social cohesion in Victoria."

CLA has expanded its programs, and is evaluating its mission and direction and planning for the future according to the new needs that life brings including –

- Expanding the partnerships,
- Addressing issues of Emerging communities and the more established communities,
- Seeking to hear parental and student voices
- Improving Quality Assurance
- Examining Modes of delivery

are all critical to the work our schools do. Our partnerships spread far and wide.

Minister Merlino in his address expressed the Victorian State Government's support for community languages school. He reinforced the message that the State Government has a strong commitment to languages and that the Government would continue supporting this important partners in education. He indicated while he is no position to release State Budget details (which will be released in late

Continue - Schools meet Minister for Education

April) he was hoping he and Minister for Multicultural Affairs would be able to make some funding announcements soon.

The Minister also presented certificates to successful teachers and instructors who completed the Certificate IV in Community Language Teaching course.

CLA as now a Registered Training Organisation.

Dr Teresa De Fazio gave an overview of the program and the journey to reach this stage.

Over the past 18 months CLA has been delivering courses for CLS teachers.

The first fruits have been born – The first set of graduates received their certificates – This is a positive aspect on a number of fronts

- We have created a real pathway for teachers and students
- We are improving quality
- We are contributing to the supply of teachers and support in mainstream schools.

In conclusion the Chairman of AFESA Tassos Douvartzides proposed that State Government provides per capita funding to preschool. He highlighted the fact that it's in these early years that critical language learning was required and that funding should reflect this. He called on all to embrace their language and make it bigger and better.

A productive and enjoyable event.

LINKS TO PHOTOS: <https://goo.gl/photos/GWktGtZPfZqgDD2P9>

2016 GRANT APPLICATION



Dear Principals

In the next few days, you should be receiving a letter providing details of funding your organisation will be receiving under the Department of Education and Training (the Department) Community Languages Schools Funding Program, for 2016.

Together with this letter, you will also be receiving copies of your Common Funding Agreement (CFA) with the Department, which sets out your organisation's funding, reporting and other obligations. You will note that the CFA is either for a 3-year period (2016-18) or a 1-year period (2016), depending on where your organisation sits within the current accreditation/re-accreditation cycle. For those of you who were accredited/re-accredited last year for a 3-year period, then the 3-year CFA aligns with your accreditation/re-accreditation. For those of you who are due for accreditation/re-accreditation in 2016 or 2017, you will be entering into consecutive 1-year CFAs for these years.

The Department's rational, as outlined at the information sessions earlier in the year, is to ensure that all administrative processes are streamlined and that all CLS are brought into one common cycle from 2018 onward. The goal is to then accredit/re-accredit all CLS in 2018 for a 3-year period (2019-2021) and have these schools enter into a 3-year CFA for the corresponding period (2019-2021).

SPEAK MY LANGUAGE

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS UNITE TO PROMOTE HARMONY AND LANGUAGES EDUCATION



Victoria's community language schools joined together in launching the *Speak My Language* Campaign to reinforce the importance of languages education, cultural maintenance and social harmony.

Over 40 communities came together at Parliament House on Wednesday February 24, 2016 at an event organised by Community Languages Australia (CLA) as part of the UN International Mother Tongue program.

The program encourages communities to reinforce the importance of language learning by encouraging students, parents and community leaders to focus on the importance of learning a language and maintaining culture.

CLA Executive Director Stefan Romaniw welcomed all present and explained the purpose of the event - *"The challenge that lies before us today is to encourage young families to take on learning a language with their children, Though the Speak My Language program we hope to send a strong message. We must all take responsibility!"*

Prof Mark Rose provided the acknowledgement to country, welcoming everyone on the land of the Wurrunjerri people *"I welcome you and want to reinforce the message - do not to be complacent. Many indigenous languages have been lost – We all need to work hard in maintaining and in some cases reviving languages"*

Students from Gladstone Park PS sang the National Anthem and other songs to set the mood. Members of the State School Spectacular also provided entertainment throughout the evening.

The Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Finance, The Hon Robin Scott addressed those present reinforcing the Andrews' Government support for languages education and cultural maintenance. *"Languages and culture are the soul of a community and we should all commit to ensuring language education prospers. The Andrews' Government is committed to this"*

The Minister for Education James Merlino who attended briefly had previously written to CLA confirming the Andrews' Government support and commitment. (Letter attached)

The State Opposition Multicultural Affairs Spokesperson Inga Peulich MP shared her childhood and professional experiences and offered bipartisan support for languages education in Victoria.

Continue next page

Continue – Speak my Language

She encouraged communities to work hard in promoting languages education. Opposition Leader The Hon Matthew Guy also attended briefly to offer support,

Mike Zafiroopoulos – chair of the *Speak Greek in March* committee relayed the committee’s strategies that drove the campaign last year and encouraged communities to do the same.

VMC Chairperson Helen Kapalos spoke of her own experiences and how she is now studying to improve her Greek. Her support is reflected in these words;

“Keeping a language alive is about more than learning text and grammar. It is born of an intrinsic need to preserve our cultural legacy, in the traditions and customs which strengthen our membership to that world... and it plays a huge part in identifying who we are and where we have come from and then placing that meaning in the context of who we are today. It doesn’t take away from the other language or languages we speak, it only adds to them, and richly so.”

AFESA Chairperson Tasso Douvartzides made a passionate plea to all - ‘*Love your language, keep it close to your heart*’ He acknowledged the support of the late Joan Kirner former Premier of Victoria and Minister for Education who believed in community languages and actively worked to promote their recognition.

Steve Dimopoulos Member for Oakleigh provided a word of thanks and set the challenge – *“In 2034 in Oakleigh where I am the local Member wouldn’t it be great to see a Greek, Indian, and Asian student sitting at one table speaking Greek, Hindi and Chinese – How great would that be - That is our challenge.”*

A number of new language ambassadors were also introduced. The Love of Language website- www.loveoflanguage.com.au, hosts numerous high profile language ambassadors. It is a powerful tool for teachers, schools, parents and communities to use in encouraging languages education. The new Ambassadors’ statements can be viewed on the site. The site is supported by the Department of Education and Training.

The DET also provides strong support through the Community Language Schools Program in Victoria.

The *Speak My Language* project builds on the successful *2015 Speak Greek in March* campaign introduced by the Greek community in Victoria.

The event brought together students, community school representatives, leaders and our elected Members to show that language education is alive and well in Victoria, that Government commitment and bipartisan support should give all those who work in the area confidence. The Commonwealth Government through Department of Education and Training also actively supports the national coordination of the CLS program.

The building blocks are in place – We all need to take on shared responsibility to ensure our students are exposed to best practice learning models, provided by teachers and instructors who continuously strive to improve their teaching methods. Communities must play their role and show support for these important educational activities.

The Community Languages School Program is a living, practical example of social harmony. Apart from languages education and cultural maintenance it exposes students, parents, instructors and community leaders to many other cultures. We share, we learn from each other, we support each other – Constantly keeping our eyes on the ball – not the man – Our eyes are on ensuring that language and culture are maintained and used for the benefit of the greater good –Australia.

Photos from the event <https://goo.gl/photos/ruwoBkqrrjJVN4419>

Attached: Letter of support from the Minister for Education The Hon James Merlino

Letter of support from the Minister for Education The Hon James Merlino



The Hon James Merlino MP

Deputy Premier
Minister for Education

1 Treasury Place
Melbourne Victoria 3002
Telephone: +613 9651 1222

COR 12950

Mr Stefan Romaniw
sromaniw@bigpond.com

Dear Mr Romaniw

Thank you for your email regarding languages education in Victorian schools. Your ongoing support for languages education is noted and appreciated.

The Education State sets out the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to support all students to reach their potential by giving them access to quality education regardless of their location, learning needs or backgrounds. This includes expanding and strengthening languages programs in Victorian schools.

Languages education is one of the eight learning areas that all Victorian schools are required to provide in order to meet the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* minimum standards. As such, languages are part of the core/mandated curriculum all Victorian schools are required to provide.

Given the cognitive and other benefits of language learning in equipping children and young people to effectively participate in an increasingly interconnected, innovative and technological world, the Victorian Government will expand and strengthen languages education as part of our broader Education State reform agenda. I will be seeking input over the coming months from key stakeholders, including the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria, on how best to achieve this.

If you would like further information, please contact Ms Therese Mercader, Manager, Languages Unit, Secondary Reform, Transitions and Priority Cohorts Division, Early Childhood and School Education Group, Department of Education and Training, on 9637 2197 or by email: mercader.therese.t@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

The Hon James Merlino MP

1.12.15

2016 VICTORIAN STATE COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE



Community Languages Australia
Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria



*Theme: Community languages schools –
Challenges in a new environment – Exploring solutions*

**Saturday July, 9, 2016
Storey Hall – RMIT**

PROGRAM

- ✓ **Key note addresses**
- ✓ **Workshops**
- ✓ **Networking**
- ✓ **Cultural program**

Numbers will be limited this year, please book by Thursday May 30th - No further booking will be taken after this date

Bookings: Mr Fahry Abubaker, abubaker.fahry.f@esav.org.au



Education
and Training



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training



VICTORIAN REGULATION & QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

A message from the Director



As you will read in this edition, there is much work underway to assist education and training providers to understand and meet the child safe standards. The VRQA is working with schools towards compliance on 1 August 2016, and is conducting information sessions for schools throughout May and June.

The **VRQA Child Safe Standards Self-Assessment Tool** was recently distributed to registered non-school senior secondary providers (NSSSPs). I encourage all NSSSPs to participate in the self-assessment tool before it closes on 18 May 2016. Further details are outlined in this edition.

The VRQA this month launched a revamped child safe standards website. Make sure you are checking this site regularly as it is continuously being updated with resources and information to help education and training providers meet the child safe standards.

May I remind all VET providers to complete and submit their annual declaration of compliance and notify the VRQA of any third party arrangements you may have in place.

And finally, I am delighted to share with you an interview with the newly appointed VRQA Chair, Pam White PSM. Ms White joined the VRQA Board in March this year and gave an interview to our senior communications officer about joining the VRQA, working with stakeholders and the opportunities ahead for the VRQA.

Link: <http://enews.dvdesign.com.au/t/y-l-dhitjrl-siyLhkis-y/>

Lynn Glover
Director, VRQA

2016 VRQA REGISTRATION

All member schools who are registered as a VCE single study provider should have received the 2016 registration form via email. The due date has been extended to Wednesday **May 18th**. For further details please contact our office on 03-9349-2400.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY



Reference No: **11030873**
Insurer Policy No: 03.300.0572814

Period of Insurance: **01/04/2016 – 01/04/2017**

A Certificate of Currency of the 2016 public liability insurance policy is now available, please contact our office 03-9349-2400 to obtain a copy.

For insurance claims please contact our Broker Mr. Angelos Didaskalou on 03-9412-1335 or angelos.didaskalou@ajg.com.au | www.ajg.com.au

2016 ESAV MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All member schools are requested to complete and return the 2016 membership renewal form and also to make sure that they are financial members

You contribution is important

All cheques (\$30) should be made out to ESAV membership

1-MINUTE FILM COMPETITION

A promotional poster for the 1-Minute Film Competition. The background is a blue geometric pattern of triangles. The text is arranged in a hierarchy: 'ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN!' in white at the top, followed by '1 MINUTE' and '1 MINUTE' in large black letters, then 'FILM' in the largest black font, and 'COMPETITION' in large black letters. Below that, 'FOR YOUNG PEOPLE' is in white. A red horizontal bar contains the text 'THIS YEAR'S THEME IS DIVERSITY' in white. Below the bar, 'TO ENTER, CREATE A 60-SECOND FILM ABOUT DIVERSITY AND YOU COULD' is in black, followed by 'WIN \$1000 CASH!' in large white letters. At the bottom, 'For more information on how to enter, and on prizes, visit' is in black, followed by '1-minutefilmcompetition.org' in large white letters. Below the website, 'Entries close midday AEST, Friday 5 August 2016' is in black. At the very bottom, 'The 1-Minute Film Competition is free to enter, and is open to all primary and secondary school students in Australia and New Zealand' is in small black text.

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN!

1 MINUTE
1 MINUTE
FILM
COMPETITION

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS DIVERSITY

TO ENTER, CREATE A 60-SECOND FILM ABOUT DIVERSITY AND YOU COULD WIN \$1000 CASH!

For more information on how to enter, and on prizes, visit
1-minutefilmcompetition.org

Entries close midday AEST, Friday 5 August 2016

The 1-Minute Film Competition is free to enter, and is open to all primary and secondary school students in Australia and New Zealand

Proudly presented by:



CLs are encourage to run a **film competition for students** to make a short film, and enter it into our "1 Minute film competition". The theme this year is 'diversity' and they stand to win \$1000 in cash. You could pre-judge your own entries and screen the 10 films you deem to be winners at the Youth Media Festival. Those 10 winners could get the free passes to Youth Media Festival. There is a comprehensive guide to filmmaking on the website:

<http://1-minutefilmcompetition.org/about/>

Community Languages Schools Guidelines for Parent/Guardian complaints

The child's Community Languages School should always be the first point of contact as issues are best resolved at the school. The Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria (ESAV), which is the umbrella organisation for accredited Community Languages Schools, expects most issues to be resolved at the school level.

Parents/guardians of children attending Community Languages Schools are encouraged to contact the child's teacher or principal to discuss general issues in relation to their child's languages program. The following guidelines will support parents/guardians who wish to make a formal complaint in relation to their child's attendance at an accredited Community Languages School.

In making a complaint or seeking to resolve an issue, parents/guardians should follow the three steps below.

STEP 1: How do I raise an issue with the teacher?

Student teaching and learning works best when parents/guardians and teachers talk to each other and work together to resolve problems. To address a particular issue, parents/guardians should:

- make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the issue.
- plan what to say so you can clearly explain the issue.
- listen to the teacher's response.
- make a note of who you spoke to and the date you spoke with them.
- outline the steps already taken to resolve the issue.
- explain what action you would like to be taken to resolve the issue. Be reasonable and realistic about your expectations.
- If the issue involves another student at the school, do not approach them or their parents/guardians directly.
- understand the school could refer you to a more appropriate person, or agency.

STEP 2: How do I raise an issue with the principal/assistant principal?

If you still have a concern after talking to the child's teacher, you may choose to meet with the assistant principal or principal of the school.

- make an appointment with the assistant principal or principal and follow the same procedures as you did with the teacher.
- If the issue is still not resolved after speaking with the assistant principal or principal of the school, you may choose to contact the ESAV who will assist you and the school to resolve the issue.

Should the issue remain unresolved following consultation with the assistant principal/principal, the parents/guardians concerned should refer the matter to the ESAV. The procedures for referring complaints to the ESAV are outlined below.

STEP 3: Raising a complaint in writing with ESAV

If the issue cannot be resolved by the parents/guardians and the Community Languages School teacher and/or assistant principal/principal, the parents/guardians may make a formal complaint to the Executive Director, Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations by submitting the *Complaint* Form:

www.communitylanguages.org.au/Documents/DET_CLS_Parent_Complaint_Guidelines.pdf.

When attempting to resolve complaints, the relevant school and the ESAV may engage the services of the Dispute Settlement Centre Victoria, which provides a mediation service free of charge. Further information is available at: www.justice.vic.gov.au/disputes/.

Continue next page

Continue – Guidelines for Parent/Guardian complaints

If after all avenues for resolution of the complaint have been explored, or if the parents/guardians are dissatisfied with the manner in which the complaint was handled by the ESAV, the parents/guardians may choose to refer the complaint to the Victorian Ombudsman.. The Office of the Victorian Ombudsman is located on level 9, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, telephone: 03 9613 6222 or email at ombudvic@ombudsman.vic.gov.au.

Any complaints about possible criminal behaviour and activity relating to a Community Languages School or staff should be referred directly to the Victoria Police.

The ESAV will take reasonable steps to destroy or permanently de-identify personal information if it is no longer needed for any purpose. Under the Public Record Act 1973 the ESAV is required to keep full and accurate records and implement a record disposal program. Destruction of personal information must be carried out using the ESAV's disposal schedules.

CERT IV IN COMMUNITY LANGUAGES TEACHING 2016 a year for professional upgrading of skills

RTO ID: 22602



With the many changes in the field of languages, the introduction of the Victorian Curriculum in 2017, the Australian Curriculum, the discussion on language policy, it is no wonder that many community language teachers are seeking opportunities for quality professional learning.

The Certificate IV in Community Languages Teaching is running in 2016 with one group already started and the next group to start later in May/June.

This is what some of our participants have said about the course:

“I have learnt so much from this course. I feel like a real teacher. I feel confident in what I am doing” – Vietnamese language teacher 2015

“This is a good course, a very good course. I have learnt so much to help me guide my teachers at my school” Principal, 2015.

The Certificate IV in Community Language Teaching is made up of a range of units of competency to assist teaching and leadership development:

TAEDES401A	Design and deliver learning programs
TAEDEL401A	Plan, organize and deliver group based learning
VU20623	Utilise information and communication technologies in community language teaching
TAEDES502A	Design and developing learning resources
TAEASS401B	Plan assessment activities and processes
TAEASS502B	Design and develop assessment tools
VU20621	Design learning programs to develop the four macro skills
VU20622	Apply intercultural skills
VU20624	Teach the grammatical structures and discourse forms of community languages

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Continue – Cert IV in Community Languages Teaching

Currently, CLA is investigating options for participants to undertake **single** units of competency or the complete course.

If you are interested in finding out more there is an **information session** scheduled for **2 June, 2016**. Please refer to www.esav.org.au for more details on the program including time and fees.

You can also contact **Leah** at certiv_admin@communitylanguages.org.au or phone the office on 9349-2400.

ESAV ACTIVITIES: SEMESTER 1 – 2016

LOTE METHODOLOGY COURSES

Course ID	Course Title	Start Date	End Date	Venue	Status
CRS10206	Monash Uni - Principal Preparation	04-May-16	25/06/2016	Monash Uni – Clayton Campus	Underway
CRS10205	VUT Uni Phase I & 2 Vietnamese	03-May-16	2/06/2016	Victoria Uni – Footscray Campus	Underway
CRS10210	Deakin Uni - LOTE Methodology	12-Apr-16	14/06/2016	Deakin Uni - Burwood Campus	Underway
CRS10208	RMIT Uni Phase II Chinese	01-Apr-16	20/05/2016	RMIT Uni –City Campus	Postponed
CRS10209	RMIT Uni Phase I Mixed Level	30-Mar-16	18/05/2016	RMIT Uni –City Campus	Postponed
CRS10207	RMIT Uni Phase I Chinese	21-Mar-16	23/05/2016	RMIT Uni –City Campus	Underway

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

PD_ID	PD Title	Presenter	Date	Time	Venue
PD10227	Introducing electronic games in LOTE	Paschalis Karakehagias	14-Apr-16	6:00 PM	LMERC, Carlton
PD10228	VCE Languages School Assessed Coursework and the Audit Process	Maria Dikaiou	18-Apr-16	6:00 PM	LMERC, Carlton
PD10229	Group work to enrich learning with new activities	Elizabeth Karakehagias	27-Apr-16	6:00 PM	LMERC, Carlton
PD10230	Creating Educational Materials	Majida Ali	10-May-16	6:00 PM	LMERC, Carlton
PD10231	ICT (CamScanner/GoogleSites/GoogleDocs/GoogleSheets/Kahoot/Quizlet)	Tina Isaakidis	25-May-16	6:00 PM	LMERC, Carlton
PD10232	AusVELS/Victorian Curriculum	Dr Andrea Truckendbrodt	30-May-16	6:00 PM	LMERC, Carlton

FIRST AID COURSES

Activity ID	Activity Title	Act Date	Venue
ACT10129	Anaphylaxis - Sem1- 2016	24/04/2016	LMERC, Carlton
ACT10130	Asthma - Sem1- 2016	24/04/2016	LMERC, Carlton
ACT10131	First Aid Level 2 - Sem1- 2016	24/04/2016	LMERC, Carlton