Community Languages Victoria
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Strong Turnout at Community Languages Victoria AGM as New Committee Elected

Community Languages Victoria (CLV) has elected a new Committee at its 2026 Annual General Meeting, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening community language education, advocating for the rights of community language schools and supporting the sustainability of the sector across Victoria.

The AGM, held on 19 November 2026, brought together representatives of community language schools, educators and members from across Victoria to reflect on the organisation's achievements, consider key challenges facing the sector and determine its leadership for the coming year.

The meeting acknowledged the contributions and service of outgoing Committee members and recognised the important role they have played in supporting community languages and the broader community education sector.

New CLV Committee elected

Members participated in the election of the new Committee, resulting in the following appointments:

- **President**: Elias Doufas OAM (AHEPA Greek School)
- **Vice President**: Kosta Pataridis St Anargiri Greek school)
- **Secretary**: Helen Lambris (Aetolian College)
- **Treasurer**: Dr Ruilan Yuan (RLY Chinese Culture and Language Academy Inc)
- **Ordinary Committee Members**:
    - Mehdi Hussaini (Elia Language School Inc)
    - Yunqing Kai (Australian Multicultural Language & Cultural Association Inc)
    - Thomas Wu (JNU Melbourne Chinese Language and Culture School)
    - Marina Makarova (Pushkin Lyceum)
    - Bozena Iwanowski (Polish Community Council of Victoria School)

CLV congratulates all elected members and looks forward to working collaboratively with the new Committee to advance the organisation's strategic priorities and strengthen its representation of community language schools.

Advocating for the future of community language education

A significant focus of the AGM was the ongoing challenges surrounding the registration and accreditation arrangements for community language schools delivering senior secondary language programs (VCE).

Members received an update on the status of CLV's registration with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and its permission to deliver VCE language programs through the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

CLV outlined the extensive work undertaken over the past five months, including engagement with the relevant authorities, seeking legal advice and allocating additional organisational resources to address the matter.

While interim arrangements have been established through the Victorian School of Languages (VSL) to support students continuing their language studies, concerns were raised by schools regarding access, availability and the continuity of language programs.

The incoming CLV President, Elias Doufas, acknowledged the initiative taken by the Greek Community of Melbourne and Victoria on the 15th November to obtain firm commitments from both major parties to reinstate the VCE accreditation to the Community language Schools, and requested all CLV members to contact their local MPs to honour these commitments.

CLV will continue to advocate for a sustainable resolution, including pursuing an extension of registration and exploring alternative arrangements that protect the interests of schools, teachers and students.

The AGM also highlighted the importance of continued engagement with state parliamentarians and political representatives to secure long-term commitments for community language education.

Key advocacy priorities include:

- Restoring and strengthening VCE delivery and registration pathways for community language schools.
- Securing appropriate and sustainable funding for community language education.
- Advocating for preschool language education and early language learning opportunities.
- Supporting access to suitable and affordable school premises.
- Strengthening child safety, governance and compliance across the sector.
- Ensuring community language schools are appropriately recognised and supported within Victoria's education system.

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Celebrating CLV's achievements and sector support

The AGM also reviewed CLV's activities and achievements throughout 2026.

The organisation reported on its support for 187 funded community language schools, alongside professional development initiatives, teacher training, university partnerships and sector-wide capacity-building activities.

Key initiatives included professional learning opportunities, teacher summits, the development of training pathways and the transition of Registered Training Organisation (RTO) responsibilities to Community Language Victoria.

CLV reaffirmed its commitment to supporting schools through professional development, governance resources, compliance guidance, advocacy and opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Looking ahead

The newly elected Committee will work with CLV's management and member schools to progress the organisation's strategic priorities, strengthen partnerships with government and education authorities, and ensure that the voices of community language schools are heard.

Community languages play a vital role in Victoria's multicultural identity, contributing to students' linguistic capabilities, cultural understanding, social cohesion and connection to their communities.

Community Languages Victoria remains committed to ensuring that every community language school has the recognition, support and opportunities it needs to provide quality language education and preserve the linguistic and cultural diversity that makes Victoria stronger.

ENDS

Fahry Abubaker
Chief Operating Officer
Community Languages Victoria