



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF MODERN
LANGUAGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS INC.

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From the President

I am looking forward to seeing many of you again when we meet at the Sydney Conference in early July. The 2009 Conference Committee has already done an outstanding job in organizing an exciting and entertaining program of events, including guest speakers, overseas visitors, and a fabulous academic program.

You will note after reading the sections below that a number of the projects reported in the February 2009 News-In-Brief are still ongoing. There have been exciting developments for newer projects. The languages agenda nationally has, I believe, never been so dynamic. I trust you are able to conceive of the enormity of what is happening and can take part in some way with these projects and activities.

Best wishes,

Lesley Harbon

Update on MCEETYA and Other National Projects

Several of the National Strategic Projects, the key elements in the implementation of the *National Statement for Language Education in Australian Schools*, *National Plan for Languages Education in Australian Schools 2005 – 2008*, and reported in detail in the February 2009 News-In-Brief, are now complete. Updates are available below for other projects that are not yet complete.

1. ***Develop and distribute a guide to the teaching, learning and assessment of languages in the 21st Century for schools and teachers:*** Conducted by the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures Education at the University of South Australia. This project developed support materials aimed at languages teachers and school leaders in Australian primary and secondary schools and after-hours ethnic/community language schools, to assist them in planning, resourcing, implementing and evaluating effective languages programmes based on an intercultural approach. *Teaching and Learning Languages: A Guide*, by Angela Scarino and Anthony J. Liddicoat (2009) is now published, and has been posted to many individuals, groups and jurisdictions. The official public launch of the *Guide* will occur at the Sydney AFMLTA Conference in July.

2. ***Professional Standards Project Phase 1:*** Conducted by the AFMLTA. This national professional learning initiative used the *Professional standards for accomplished teaching of languages and culture* as a framework. 400 teachers nationally participated in Stream A (overview workshops for large groups of teachers) in early 2008. Stream B and teacher investigations continued with smaller groups of teachers through the second half of 2008. See the website for more information at: <http://www.pspl.unisa.edu.au/>.

3. Professional Standards Project Phase 2:

Conducted by the AFMLTA, 2009-2010.

DEEWR continues to fund the project and the AFMLTA/UniSA management team are offering Stream A again for a further 300 teachers as well as preparing Stream C which will focus in more detail on languages assessment. Key Contacts are about to receive detailed information about the new Stream A places for teachers in each state and territory over the remainder of 2009. The University of South Australia writing team will have new assessment modules ready for a Train-the-Trainer late in 2009. Trainers will be involved in case studies as part of their involvement. Trainers will work with language teachers during the Stream C implementation phase in all states and territories in the first half of 2010.

4. Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships (January each year):

Conducted by the Asia Education Foundation. Approximately 200 practising and preservice language teachers participate in in-country study programs in January each year. Programs for teachers are offered in Germany, Italy, France, Japan and China, Spain, Korea and Jordan. Indonesian continues to be held in Darwin. Go to the program's webpage at: http://endeavour.deewr.gov.au/language_teachers_fellowships

5. Student Participation in Languages Study Across Australia: data collection:

Conducted by the Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-cultural communication (RUMACCC) at The University of Melbourne. This data collection was a first step towards comprehensive national data collection on student participation in Languages study across Australia, on language study through VET and data in relation to teachers of languages. Reports of student participation for 2005 and 2006 have been finalized and provided to Working Party Members. Reports for student participation in 2007 and 2008 are being developed this year.

6. Assessment project: This new project, conducted by the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures at the University of South Australia, is designed to collect and analyse data about typical student achievement by program type. The fundamental question it will explore is *What is it that children and young people in Australia actually achieve as a result of learning languages as part of their education, at any point along the K-12 continuum?* This work will complement and inform current policy discussion in Australia and the development of the National Curriculum for languages. It will provide important information, given that there is no nationally and jurisdictionally agreed baseline data or reference point that adequately describes what students actually learn in languages education at different points along the K-12 continuum

7. Senior Secondary Syllabus developments for Heritage Learners:

The Australian Government has provided funding for a national project to develop a curriculum framework and courses of study in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean for heritage speakers at the senior secondary level. The courses of study will cater for those students whose background, experiences and/or achievements make them ineligible for the Continuers course but for whom the Background Speakers course is too advanced. The project will be led by the New South Wales Board of Studies in collaboration with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the SACE Board of South Australia on behalf of the Australasian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities. The curriculum framework and courses of study will be developed as part of the Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages (CCAFL) program. A National Forum was held in Sydney for key stakeholders in late February 2009.

8. Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools: As part of the 'Building the Education Revolution' plan, the Prime Minister announced on 3 February 2009 that schools could be in line for a share of the 1 billion dollar funding set aside to build language centres in secondary schools. Construction of these Centres is to be completed by 30 June 2010. The AFMLTA prepared a 'guide', or a list of considerations for schools wishing to apply for a Language Centre, and this list can be seen on the AFMLTA webpage: <http://www.afmlta.asn.au>, and click on the What Makes a Good Language Centre link on the right side of the homepage.

9. National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program: We have been eager to see developments in the Government's plans for the teaching and learning of Asian languages in the school curriculum, funding for which has begun with the announcement of two schemes: the *Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund*, and *Becoming Asia Literate: Grants to Schools*. Further information on the NALSSP Strategy can be found at:
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NALSSP/Pages/default.aspx>

10. Languages National Curriculum: The remit of the National Curriculum Board is to develop a national, K-12 Curriculum in English, mathematics, the sciences and history in the first phase. Consultation about the broad shape for languages national curriculum in the second phase of developments for National Curriculum will take place across the remainder of 2009. Further details can be found at the National Curriculum Board's homepage:
http://www.ncb.org.au/home_page.html

11. AFMLTA Biennial Conference 2009:



The MLTA of NSW is pleased to be hosting the AFMLTA 17th Biennial Conference from 9th -12th July 2009 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Opening Plenary: **Professor Miles Turnbull (Canada)**

Closing Plenary: **Professor Ofelia Garcia (USA)**

Conference registration is now open. For further details and to register for the conference go to: www.mltansw.asn.au