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## **E-Language**

### **VICTORIAN COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS MEET TO DISCUSS NATIONAL ASIAN LANGUAGES AND STUDIES SCHOOL PROGRAM (NALSSP)**

Chinese, Japanese and Korean Community languages schools authorities in Victoria met last night Wednesday July 2, 2008 at LMERC to discuss a major component of the Australian Government's Education Revolution the new languages education program titled *National Asian Languages and Studies in School Program (NALSSP)*.

The program focuses on four languages and cultures; Japanese, Korean, Mandarin and Indonesia.

NALSSP funding for the 2008-2011 period is \$62.4million.

The purpose of the meeting was to seek input to a submission being prepared by Community Languages Australia to the Department of Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

DEEWR requested Community Languages Australia to provide input as to how community languages schools could be involved in the program and seeking advice on the implementation of the program in mainstream schools and community languages schools.

This is a major initiative and responses should be based on the expert advice of practitioners such as members of staff and administration.

The Consultation was facilitated by Community Languages Australia Executive Director Stefan Romaniw and ESAV Executive Officer Fahry Abubaker.

Participants were involved in robust discussion and highlighted the importance of ensuring there was a strong, coherent and accepted languages policy, providing strong support to teachers and those promoting languages, ensuring training programs were accessible, overseas qualified teachers with language proficiency should be targeted for secondary school training.

Processes and strategies for encouraging students to take an Asian languages and giving 'real reasons' for studying a language were important and readily identifiable.

Delivery of any program should ensure quality curriculum and strong teachers. Students studying a language in mainstream schools who wish to extend their proficiency, knowledge and cultural immersion should be supported to attend community languages schools. The possibility of holding an Asian languages fair organised by community schools was mooted. Mainstream teacher and principals, school councils, local community and business, students and parents could be the target audiences.

Community languages schools provide an authentic learning environment which assists with the cultural inclusiveness and awareness raising.

In some language groups – Korean there appears to be an abundance of teachers but lack of programs.

Mandarin is growing and a range of settings provided Japanese has also expanded in the community languages area.

This consultation forms part of the national consultation being undertaken by Community Languages Australia through its members associations

Schools are also encouraged to provide a written submission.

**Further information Stefan Romaniw 0419 531255**