



Where language and culture come together

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

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E-Language

MEETING WITH VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESMENT AUTHORITY - SMALL CANDIDATURE LANGUAGES CALL FOR MORATORIUM ON SUSPENSION OF LANGUAGES

A meeting was held with the VCAA today to express concerns of the number of small candidature languages that may drop off the VCE program due to the imposed minimum 15 student clause and the number that have already that have been suspended.

The meeting was attended by David Howes acting CEO VCAA, Maree Dellora Manager LOTE VCAA, and Prof Michael Clyne, Stefan Romaniw OAM Executive Director Community Languages Australia, Frank Merlino Principal VSL and Pandora Petrovska Deputy Principal VSL.

A request was made to the VCAA to support a proposal to put a moratorium on the policy of suspending languages with small candidatures.

The reason for seeking a moratorium is to allow more work you be done on the issues and study the impact of decreasing number of languages being offered.

The current policy also deters some students in early high school years considering taking some community languages as they cannot be given guarantees the language will be available in 3-4 years when they reach years 11 and 12 .

A moratorium will allow to plan strategically in context of the new National Curriculum, which may create better opportunities for the delivery and uptake up languages nationally. The CCAFL structure or similar structure should be retained and expanded to allow more languages to be taken across jurisdictions. Jurisdictions that are not part of the current process or only in limited way should be encouraged to become more proactive.

Communities and home land governments should take a stronger and more concerted effort in promoting languages.

Mr Howes was sympathetic to many of the proposals and agreed to explore the moratorium issue and report back to group i the issue will be taken up the VCAA Board. If he Board agrees this would allow for the discussions to be opened up again nationally.

As information becomes available it will be distributed.