



Where language and culture come together

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

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185 Faraday Street Carlton, Victoria 3053

Telephone (03) 9347 0379 Fax: (03) 9347 0297

Email: afesa@netsol.net.au

ABN 77 674 760 578



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E-Language

MEETING WITH NSW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS PROGRAM IN NSW

A meeting with the **NSW Minister of Education and Training The Hon Verity Firth, MP** to discuss Community Languages School issues in NSW was held on Wednesday February 25, 2009.

Albert Vella President of NSWFLS together with two Executive Members and NSWFLS Education officer and Stefan Romaniw Executive Director Community Languages Australia participated in the meeting

The meeting was productive and the following issues were discussed:

- **The Minister agreed that the outcomes and recommendations of the Review of Community Languages School Program undertaken last year be presented to the NSWFLS and Community Languages Australia and then be made public**
- **The Minister undertook to examine the appointment of new members to fill vacancies to the NSW Community Languages Schools Board**
- **That the Minister reaffirm the NSW commitment to languages education and funding arrangements under new COAG arrangement for languages education and the community languages schools program**
- **That the Minister considers agreeing to a \$1-\$2 per capita grant to support Community Languages Australia's national activity.**
- **That the Minister considers an increase in funding to community languages schools. The issue will need to be taken up through Treasury... If there are to be increases they will have to come from new funds allocated to DET from Treasury. There also needs to be an exploration of new funding options under partnership, NALSSAP and other initiatives**

The Minister and her adviser Paul Martin were open and supportive of the issues raised

NSWFCLS and Community Languages Australia will now write to the Minister to confirm the discussion.

Recently meetings have also been held on **Queensland, South Australia and in Victoria** through MACLEM (Ministerial Council)

A meeting is schedule in **Perth** on March 4. 2009 which will be attended by Enzo Sirna ESWA and Stefan Romaniw

Meetings are being planned with Ministers and Department officials from **ACT, Tasmania and NT**. The visits are a direct outcome of an AFESA Council resolution to raise awareness about community languages schools and also to seek jurisdictional reaffirmation of funding for languages education community languages as part of the COAG arrangement.

A full report on all meetings will be provided shortly.

For further information contact Stefan Romaniw on 0419 531255