



Where language and culture come together

## COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

Where language and culture come together

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# E-Language

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR EDUCATION** **SHOWS LEADERSHIP** **IN SUPPORT OF LANGUAGES AND ETHNIC SCHOOLS** **PROGRAM**

A strong commitment and uncompromising stand on the importance of languages in education and support for the ethnic schools/community languages schools program best describes South Australian Minister for Education The Hon Jane Lomax – Smith MP.

In a meeting on Monday April 6, 2009 in Adelaide with Community Languages Australia (CLA) Executive Director Stefan Romaniw, Chairman of the Ethnic Schools Board of SA, John Kiosogoulos, ESA SA President Raniah Daou, AFESA Treasurer and ESA SA Administrative Officer Inta Rumpe and ESA Board Executive Officer Jeannette Barrachina, the Minister articulated her full support for the ethnic schools program and reinforced the importance languages education plays.

Community Languages Australia has embarked on a program of meeting with State and Territory Ministers of Education to discuss the new Commonwealth – State funding arrangements under the COAG Agreement signed in December 2008 and the implications of this funding on languages education in mainstream schools and the ethnic schools/community languages schools program.

Community Languages Australia is raising awareness about its role and the important role ethnic schools/ community languages schools play in delivering linguistic and cultural maintenance in Australia. CLA maintains that funding for and positioning of language education in our mainstream schools is paramount. The support and funding for the ethnic schools / community languages schools program as complementary providers is also very important. CLA is also seeking assurances that funding these activities will continue.

The SA Minister was unequivocal in her response that in SA *its business as usual* and the support for the areas raised is clear and expressed in her Government's actions.

Dr. Lomax –Smith has also written to the Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Minister for Education the Hon Julia Gillard seeking support for the ethnic schools/ community languages schools program.

The passion and commitment expressed by Dr Lomax –Smith was very much appreciated and her willingness to raise the issue of ongoing support for languages educational and the ethnic school / community languages schools program nationally with her Ministerial colleagues shows leadership and will result in productive dialogue .

The Federal Minister for Education Julia Gillard has previously highlighted her commitment and support by providing Community Languages Australia a four yearfunding agreement to undertake National coordination and support for state and territory community languages schools / ethnic schools in delivering quality languages education.

In discussions Community Languages Australia has had with Minister Gillard on the issue of new COAG arrangements, the Minister was most supportive of the ethnic schools/ community languages schools program.

Whilst the new NEA arrangements are in place and provide States and Territory Governments flexibility in funding, the ethnic schools / community languages schools program plays a very important role in delivering languages education in wide range of languages and funding should continue.

**Further information Contact Stefan Romaniw 0149 531255**



**Photo L-R  
Standing**

**Minister Jane Lomax –Smith , Stefan Romaniw , Inta Rumpe  
John Kiosogoulos Raniah Daou Jeannette Barrachina,**