



Where language and culture come together

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

Where language and culture come together

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate release

UNEQUIVOCAL AND RESOUNDING SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGES EDUCATION AND THE ROLE COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS

The importance of languages education and the role community languages schools play in the delivery of linguistic and cultural maintenance together with strengthening social inclusion were the key messages reinforced at 9th National Community Languages Schools Conference held in Melbourne Sunday July 3, 2011.

The Hon Nicholas Kotsiras - Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, reinforced the State Government's commitment to languages education and that he would do all in his power to ensure there are quality programs, **David Howes** General Manager Curriculum VCCA spoke on the National Curriculum and support for all languages and **Katherine Henderson** Regional Director, Western Metropolitan Region DEECD, spoke about the partnerships between mainstream schools and community languages schools

The above speakers gave the over 400 community languages schools instructors and teachers from over 40 languages strong, consistent messages. Collectively they provided unequivocal support for languages education and for all providers including community languages schools.

All present were uplifted by the commitment to partnerships, commitment ensuring languages policy is correctly formulated and backed by resources.

The conference theme *Partners in delivering language education in Australia* reflects the strong role community languages schools play in linguistic and cultural maintenance and the endeavour to build meaningful partnerships with students, families and the community.

Maddison Brown representing Netball Victoria spoke about the positive attributes developed through sport and encouraged schools to get involved with netball. **Kashif Bouns** from Essendon Football Club spoke about the Essendon Football Club program GLOBall which endeavours to bring people into contact, connect and settle them. Both were full of enthusiasm, encouraging young people to participate in sport. Both spoke about the bridges that sport builds.

Dennis Banfield from the Starlight Children's Foundation spoke about getting involved in assisting sick children in receiving their wishes and the work Starlight undertakes. As it turned out one of the teachers present had lost his son to a terminal illness in recent years and had they as a family experienced the Starlight moment. Schools were encouraged to be involved with Starlight. A spontaneous gold coin collection for Straight brought close to \$1000.



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Presentations and workshops filled the rest of the day - Again the enthusiasm, commitment of all participants, presenters was a pleasure to watch - Thriving for excellence, learning from each other, networking were the order of the day .

The comments from many stated **the place is really buzzing.**

The Workshop programs included;

“Developing Cultural Intelligence in Our Schools”

Dr Helen Kalaboukas, The Centre for Psychology

Masterchef in the classroom: Creating a language and cultural experience

Dr Teresa De Fazio, Educational Services - EducaTess

The Principal as a Manager and Leader of People

Lance Vertigan, Leadership Support

Using web conferencing to support the learning of languages

Krystie Alleaume, DEECD

Top Ten Speaking and Listening Activities for Teaching and Learning Languages”

Lili Cvetkovic, DEECD

Developing intercultural awareness through language awareness activities

Dr Margaret Gearon, Monash Uni

Interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning Languages

Maree Dellora, VCAA

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a school to discipline child

Elizabeth Karakehagias, Educational Consultancy Group

How student-centred are my lessons”

Megan McLaughlin, Bayside Teaching And Learning Consultancy

Members of the Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations (AFESA) Council blended with the many participants and worked together throughout the day seeking a common goal of delivering strong linguistic and cultural maintenance programs to over 100 000 students in 69 languages, nationally.

Participants were welcomed by Community Languages Australia Executive Director **Stefan Romaniw** and AFESA Chairman **Tassos Douvartzides**.

Both highlighted the roles and responsibilities of Government and community language schools when a partnership is formed. The State Government's commitment to languages education and community languages schools forms a strong base for strengthening the partnership.



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As participants arrived they were also welcomed by **Noriko Tadano** who played traditional Japanese folk songs as well as original pieces on the Tsugaru Samisen (Japanese Banjo). Lunch entertainment was provided by **Eduardo Iguano** and his accordion, a performing waiter who moved from table to table playing live music. Both performers were sourced by Multicultural Arts Victoria.

This Conference reinforced the need for strong policy positions and also provided practical advice on how to be effective teachers in the community languages schools setting and how to form and utilise partnerships.

Community Languages Australia acknowledges the support of The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, (DEECD) Victorian Multicultural Commission, (VMC) The Commonwealth Bank (CBA) and OAMPS for their financial support.

It's now up to all who attended to implement much of what was discussed and be the ambassadors and sell the word That partnerships are very important and must be nurtured.

The other message is that through sport, through charities and community activity we strengthen not only schools, but the individual, we help the child to grow and realise as individuals, as families, as schools and as communities we are the building blocks for a strong society - But we must all take responsibility. We must all contribute.

The 10th National Community Languages Schools Conference will be held in Adelaide on July 14, 2012.

Further information contact Stefan Romaniw 0419531255

More information on

Community Languages Australia

www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au

(Presentations will be the site shortly)

Essendon Football Club GLOBall

www.essendonfc.com.au & www.globall.com.au

Netball Victoria

www.netballvic.com.au | www.melbournevixens.com.au

Starlight Children's Foundation

<http://www.starlight.org.au/Pages/default.aspx>