

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

July 2014

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA FOR LANGUAGES EDUCATION

Minister Pyne outlined the government's agenda for languages education at the Adelaide Language Festival on Friday 16 May 2014. Commitments and plans include:

- 40 per cent of Year 12 students studying a foreign or classical language within a decade
- Strengthening our links with Indonesia and other Asian countries
- Early Learning Languages Australia: a one-year trial of online foreign language learning for children in preschool programmes
- Prioritising development of the national languages curriculum for foreign languages in mainstream schools by 2015 plus new funding to develop curriculum for Hindi, Turkish, Classical Greek, Latin, and AUSLAN
- Asia Education Foundation to conduct research into ways to encourage more secondary students to continue foreign language education in Years 11 and 12
- Improving teacher training to put a focus back on languages
- A target of 40 per cent of participants recruited into the Teach for Australia programme to specialise in foreign languages
- Continuing Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships that offer language teachers a three-week immersion programme in their language home country
- Launch of New Colombo Plan, offering scholarships and mobility grants to undergraduate students for study and internships or mentorships in the Asia-Pacific region.

For full copy of the speech, see <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/opening-address-adelaide-language-festival>

Related possibilities:

- Government plans to subsidise stand-alone diplomas could attract fresh recruits to language courses and give universities an incentive to open new programs: see article by Melbourne University's John Hajek.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/standalone-diplomas-may-tap-new-languages-market/story-e6frgcjx-1226910807340?sv=7499494ef10ea11dfc87f9701f325843>

2. COMMUNITY INTERPRETER TRAINING

Information session about a training course which will prepare students to take the NAATI para-professional interpreter test and gain accreditation as a community interpreter.

When? 6pm-7pm Thursday 31 July **OR** 3pm – 4pm Saturday 2 August

Where? 2nd Floor, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Civic

The course will be held at CIT, Reid Campus and is planned to start in September 2014.

Course fees will be greatly subsidised thanks to funding provided by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and scholarships will be available for the NAATI test. Once accredited, course graduates will be required to register with the OMA so that their services can be called on by ACT government departments.

Course entry: There will be a fee of \$100 to cover the cost of a voice recorder for each participant in the program.

Language requirements: As well as proficiency in your own dialect, there will be a requirement to have a good level of proficiency in the standard form of your language. You will also need to have a certain minimum level of proficiency in English, equivalent to Level 6 in the IELTS General Training scale (i.e. a competent user of English).*

The information sessions will be run by CIT Solutions and the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF), and will cover course aims, format, costs, and how to apply for a place.

For more information and/or to register for one of the information sessions, please contact: antje.klupsch@cit.edu.au

* NOTE: If you need to improve your English skills, we recommend you attend one of the programs available through CIT: <http://cit.edu.au/languages> Enrolment sessions for these courses will be held on 22 and 24 July.

3. LANGUAGE COURSES in the ACT ENROLLING NOW

There are a number of short courses in various languages enrolling this week for third term or second semester. These include the following:

- Recreational Evening Classes
 - Lake Ginninderra <http://www.lakenitelearning.com.au/>
 - Erindale College <http://erindalecep.com.au/lan.html>
- ANU Centre for Continuing Education: www.anu.edu.au/cce/languages
- CIT Solutions: <http://shortcourses.cit.edu.au/>
- For specific languages
 - Polyglot Club, French, Spanish, German and Danish conversation: <http://canberrapolyglot.org/> or email tim.gulliver@hotmail.com
 - French: Alliance Française de Canberra www.afcanberra.com.au/
 - Italian: Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra info@dantecanberra.org.au or phone 6247 1884 (website currently out of action)
 - German: www.actgermanschool.org.au/adult-division and www.actgermanschool.org.au/further-courses

4. TALKS TO PARENT GROUPS ABOUT LANGUAGES

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) is planning to offer short talks to parent groups - at both community language schools and mainstream schools – to help promote language learning and support home languages. The overall aim is reinforce understanding of the many benefits to children’s personal, social and cognitive development of knowing another language and to suggest practical ways for parents to assist their children’s learning and to sustain interest in the language.

If you know of a school or a parent group that ACTBEA could contact about hosting a presentation, or would like to help planning these talks, please contact ACTBEA at canberrabilingual@gmail.com

5. BILINGUALISM WORKSHOP MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

When? Friday, 8th August 2014

Where? Level 1 Lecture Theatre, Australian Hearing Hub, Macquarie University

This workshop, co-sponsored by the Centre for Language Sciences (CLaS) and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders (CCD), will be a forum to learn about and

discuss research relating to bi- and multilingualism. It will feature presentations from invited speakers Professor Theo Marinis (University of Reading) and Professor Jason Rothman (University of Reading), as well as Macquarie students and postdoctoral fellows. Topics will cover all areas of bi-/multilingualism, including language development, language processing, and linguistic outcomes of bilingualism.

This is a free public workshop with several talks in the morning and afternoon sessions, together with ample time set aside for discussions among the participants.

For further information:

<http://www.ccd.edu.au/events/conferences/2014/bilingualism/index.html>

6. CLOSURE OF MYLANGUAGE WEBSITE (mylanguage.gov.au)

MyLanguage, a partnership project between state and territory libraries, went live as a multilingual portal in 2005. The main aim was to provide electronic resources in languages other than English to complement other library services to culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Now there are a wide range of online resources easily available in many community languages and the general community has become increasingly digitally literate, fewer people have been using MyLanguage. Many former users have found other alternatives. This has led to ongoing strain upon the libraries supporting MyLanguage to continue its funding and resourcing.

After a review of the MyLanguage website and program, including an extensive survey of stakeholders and users, National and State Libraries Australasia has taken the decision to close the MyLanguage website and program. The impact of this is likely to be minimal as the information and resources are available elsewhere.

The MyLanguage Committee has commenced archival processes on the MyLanguage website, including harvesting a copy of the website for the Pandora web archive (www.pandora.nla.gov.au). The archived website is available now. The live website has been updated with information about the closure, and will be removed from public access on **Friday, 8 August 2014**.

Information and resources previously found on the MyLanguage website will now need to be accessed through other online services. Please visit the help page at <http://www.mylanguage.gov.au/faq.html> for some resources and suggestions to assist.

If your organisation has any links to the MyLanguage website on your website this is the appropriate time for you to remove it plus and any shortcuts from your public access or staff PCs.

FEEDBACK ON THESE UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME.

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

<http://canberralanquages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>