



# Media release

**The Hon Martin Dixon MP**  
Minister for Education

**The Hon Matthew Guy MLC**  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and  
Citizenship

Monday 27 October 2014

## **\$5.4 million to expand community languages schools**

- **Re-elected Naphthine Government will increase funding to \$210 per student**
- **Expand community languages school enrolment to four year-olds**
- **Love of Languages website to help deliver Coalition's languages vision**

At the launch of the *Love of Languages* website at Parliament House this evening, Minister for Education Martin Dixon and Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Matthew Guy announced a re-elected Naphthine Government will increase community language schools per student rate from \$190 to \$210 and for the first time expand community languages to four year-olds.

Minister Dixon and Minister Guy also recommitted the Naphthine Government's *Vision for Languages Education*, which was released in 2011, during the *Love of Languages* website launch. Mr Dixon and Mr Guy were joined by Hawthorn great Robert "Dipper" Dipierdomenico, journalist Helen Kapalos and other Language Ambassadors

Mr Dixon acknowledged the importance of learning a second language early and the positive impact it can have on a student's first language and broader education.

"What better way to prepare our young Victorians for a life living, working and studying around the world than providing them with the opportunity to start learning a second language before they start school," said Mr Dixon.

"That is why the Naphthine Government has made a commitment for every student in a government school from Prep to Year 10 to start learning from Prep next year a second language by 2025."

A re-elected Naphthine Government will also expand the program to four year-olds so they can begin learning a second language at their local community language school before they start primary school.

Mr Guy welcomed the announcement that a re-elected Naphthine Government would increase the per student rate in community language schools from \$190 to \$210 for the 36,000 community language students studying across Victoria.

"Community language schools are an important part of our hugely successful multicultural society in Victoria," said Mr Guy.

"With 27 per cent of Victorians born overseas, maintaining or learning a language other than English ensures the strength of our multicultural community and also boosts economic value through the international trade and investment doors that languages open up for us."

For more information about Love of Languages website, go to: <http://loveoflanguage.com.au/>

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