



Where language and culture come together

## COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

Where language and culture come together

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## MEDIA RELEASE

May 29, 2015

### ETHNIC SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF WA REPRESENTING COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (ESAWA)

The Ethnic Schools Association of Western Australia (ESAWA) has resolved to develop a strategic plan to enhance its role in coordinating and representing community language schools in Western Australia.

At its Executive meeting on Thursday May 28, 2015 it was resolved to develop a strategic plan through a four-pronged process:

1. ESAWA Executive to analyse current situation and propose new directions
2. Undertake a meeting with Community Languages Australia Stefan Romaniw in July 2015 to finalise the strategic plan
3. Share the proposal with the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMI)
4. Share the proposal with ESAWA members and non members

"Ethnic Schools Associations/ Federations in State and Territory play a critical role in supporting, representing community language schools and advocating on their behalf," Stefan Romaniw OAM, Executive Director of Community Languages Australia said at the meeting with the ESAWA Executives.

"ESAWA is a major player at the national AFESA Council and we look forward to working with ESAWA and community languages schools in WA and OMI and the Department of Education in WA," Mr Romaniw said.

"ESAWA has in the past offered professional learning and support for schools. We welcome the enhanced Professional Learning Program being offered through OMI with the assistance of CLA and look forward to being part of the process," Enzo Sirna AM, President of ESAWA said.

"We, as an organisation are underfunded, but look forward to future support to ensure that we are able to effectively represent and support the sector in WA," Mr Sirna said.

We welcome CLA initiatives to launch the Love of Language website [www.loveoflanguage.com.au](http://www.loveoflanguage.com.au) with high profile Western Australian identities in the future and a proposal to conduct a Round Table on languages education with major stakeholders in the future," Mr Sirna said.

ESAWA Executive calls on all schools to become members, so they speak with one voice on issues pertaining to effective language provision and cultural maintenance through community language schools.

Harmony, social cohesion, commitment to Australia are all part of the community language school activity," Mr Sirna said.

Applications for ESAWA Memberships will be available on our website [www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au](http://www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au)

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