



January 3, 2008

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E-Language

MEETING WITH VICTORIAN MINISTER FOR EDUCATION THE HON. BRONWYN PIKE

Community Languages Australia and Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria representatives Stefan Romaniw and Tassos Douvartzides recently met with the Victorian Minister for Education the Hon Bronwyn Pike.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Minister with an overview of activities and plans of Community Languages Australia and the ESAV. Departmental representative Carol Kelly and Ministerial adviser Simonne Wood were also present

The Minister outlined her support for the community languages schools program and was keen to see improved relationships and partnerships with mainstream schools.

- A brief report on the Victorian Training and Professional Development was provided outlining the importance of this component of the Community languages schools program as it assisted in improving classroom teaching and student learning. Programs are tailored made to meet the needs of community languages schools teachers and instructors.
- The Quality Assurance Framework and National project supported by the Department of Education, Science and Training were also discussed.
- The challenges associated with hiring Government school facilities and the issues of strengthening relationships between mainstream schools and community languages schools was also discussed. It was agreed that Regional Offices through Regional Directors and LOTE Networks were central in improving relations on a local level and that more contact needs to be maintained with these Offices.
- A number of proposals were presented to the Minister for consideration which included :
 - **That the Minister in cooperation with Community Languages Australia host a State Round Table on Languages Education Policy and the Role of Community Languages Schools in the delivery of this policy.** It was agreed that awareness raising , the increased support of Regional Directors and Officers together with enhanced partnerships with Principal Associations, School Councils and Parents groups could only lead to better working relationships with community languages schools.

- The Minister was also providing with general information on a planned Joint CLA-ESAV-VMC –Review and Future Directions Paper - **Community languages Schools in Victoria - The Way Forward, 2008 and Beyond**
This work is being planned between March and September 2008
- The Minister was also briefed on the recent audit conducted by the Department on some community languages schools. The audit found schools were compliant. A request that school be provided with written report on the audit was also discussed.
- The Minister agreed to provide a Minister’s Message for each ESAV Newsletter in 2008

This was a product meeting in which the Minister stressed the importance of communication and cooperation by all stakeholders. A follow up meeting with Ministerial staff is scheduled in mid January.

Agenda – Meeting with Minister Bronwyn Pike :

1. Community languages schools in Victoria - Overview
 - Data
 - Programs
 - Training and Professional Development
 - Working with Children
 - Conferences
 - Quality Assurance Framework
 - Emerging communities
 - Parliamentary Languages and Multicultural Supporters Group
2. Community languages schools, nationally
 - Project DEST
 - Data
 - Statement
 - Quality Assurance
 - Organisational manual

Planning

- **Round Table with stakeholders hosted by Minister February – April 2008**
Community languages Schools Role in Victorian Education
Victorian Government, Department of Education , VCAA, Parents Groups, Regional offices, School Council Organisations, Principal Associations, Training Institutions, Student representation
- **Joint CLA-ESAV-VMC – Future Directions Paper - March – September 2008**
 - Community languages Schools in Victoria
 - The Way Forward, 2008 and Beyond
 - Strategic Partners:
 - MACLEM, Department of Education, Parent Groups, Community groups, VCAA, Tertiary Institutions

Issues

- Message from the Minister ESAV Newsletter
 - Use of Government facilities – Rental issues
 - Guidelines – Funding program
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