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## E-Language

### MESSAGE FROM THE HON BRONWYN PIKE MP, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

#### TO VICTORIAN COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS



I wish Community Languages Schools a warm welcome to 2008. This year, the *Year of Languages* as proclaimed by UNESCO, will provide us all with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the value of language learning.

Victoria is Australia's most multicultural state with 180 different languages spoken. In such a rich linguistic context, the Government is committed to the offering of high quality languages programs to all students through provision in mainstream schools, Community Languages Schools and the Victorian School of Languages.

In a recent meeting with Mr Stefan Romaniw and Mr Tassos Douvartzides we discussed the continuing contribution that Community Languages Schools make to language provision in Victoria. I appreciated the breadth of initiatives undertaken by the ESAV and AFESA to guide and support the valuable work of Community Languages Schools. It is through these collaborative ventures that the linguistic and cultural heritage of so many young Victorians is maintained.

As a result of these discussions, I have agreed to support a roundtable forum about the role and contribution of Victorian Community Languages Schools this year. I look forward to participating in this roundtable and continuing to work with you to improve opportunities for our communities.

To parents, principals, teachers and students in Community Languages Schools, I wish you every success in achieving the desired educational outcomes in language learning for 2008.

The Hon Bronwyn Pike MP

Minister for Education