



Where language and culture come together

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

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November 15 , 2010

STATE ELECTIONS POSITION OF POLITICAL PARTIES SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS

Community Languages Australia (CLA) and the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria (ESAV) welcome the election commitments announced by the Liberal - National Party Coalition on Saturday November 6, 2010 and by the ALP on Saturday November 13, 2010.

The strong support not only in financial terms, but also the in principle support for community languages schools in the overall delivery of languages education in Victoria is heartening. Community languages schools certainly play a major role in delivering not only languages education but strengthen out multicultural make up and also in furthering social cohesion.

Victoria has always prided itself on the bipartisan support for languages education and community languages schools. We congratulate both sides of politics for their understanding and support.

CLA and ESAV have been in touch with representatives of both parties to obtain the details of their policies and how they plan to deliver their election commitments.

Both parties have committed to ongoing professional development, training and administration support.

Liberal National Coalition position

Year	Budget	Amt Increased Per Capita	Total Fund Per Capita
2011-2012	\$2.38m	\$70	\$190
2012-2013	\$2.38m	\$70	\$190
2013-2014	\$2.38m	\$70	\$190
2014-2015	\$2.38m	\$70	\$190
Total	\$9.52m		

COMMENTS -

Liberal Nationals Coalition Government Opposition Leader Mr Baillieu

Fluency in languages was important to build Victoria's future. "

"Languages are the key to the global village for Victorian students and an internationally competitive economy," "The Coalition's bold plan for expanded

languages education in Victorian schools will ensure the next generation of Victorians is not left behind. "

"Community language schools also do a great job but need more help to give students more opportunity to expand their language skills. "

"Enabling students to study in a targeted environment with smaller classes and access to fluent speakers means they will be able to advance their language studies to an expert level."

"The \$190 per student investment by a Coalition Government will help to meet the cost of tuition, materials, books and classrooms. "

Many of Victoria's 180-plus community language schools have limited space for growth and are forced to pay increased rental to remain open at their current size. "A Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will also develop a framework agreement for community language schools to negotiate rental costs for accessing government school facilities after hours."

"The Coalition will provide \$190 per student starting from July 2011 and continuing for four years after that, every year."

A Coalition Government will also develop a framework agreement to ensure community language schools do not pay too much rent when using school facilities.

ALP Commitment

Year	Budget	Amt Increased Per Capita	Total Fund Per Capita
2011-2012	\$1.7m	\$50	\$170
2012-2013	\$2m	\$58.82	\$180
2013-2014	\$2.4m	\$70	\$190
2014-2015	\$2.7m	\$80	\$200
Total	\$8.8m		

COMMENTS - ALP Commitment

Victorians from diverse backgrounds will receive support to help preserve their culture and languages and improved access to government services in a \$19.2 million package under a future Labor Government.

Comments from the Premier John Brumby

"The centrepiece of the package was greater investment in subsidising community language schools to help preserve languages amongst the next generation of Victorians. We come from more than 200 nations, speak over 200 languages and follow more than 120 faiths – Victoria is one of the great multicultural societies,"

"Our rich cultural diversity is one of Victoria's greatest strengths and most defining features and Labor believes it delivers social, cultural and economic benefits to all Victorians.

Mr Brumby said a future Labor Government would invest:

- \$8.8 million in additional funding for community language schools.

- This will see an increase in the subsidy for students from \$120 per student to \$200 per student over the course of the next four years;

**Comment from Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs
James Merlino**

"Labor would invest in Victoria's network of over 200 community language schools catering for more than 34,000 students. "

"Learning a language helps people to stay connected to their culture and heritage or to learn more about another culture,"

CLA and ESAV request all schools to make this information to school communities.

**Regards,
Stefan Romaniw OAM
Executive Director, Community Languages Australia**