



Where language and culture come together



COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

Where language and culture come together

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MEDIA RELEASE

July 1 2011

OVER 40 COMMUNITIES TO MEET AT NATIONAL COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS CONFERENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF AUSTRALIA

Over 400 community languages schools instructors and teachers from over 40 languages will attend the 9th National Community Languages Schools Conference at RMIT Storey Hall Swanston Street, Melbourne this Sunday July 3, 2011 commencing at 9.30am.

Delegates from throughout Australia will blend together in a tapestry of diversity around the common goal of delivering strong linguistic and cultural maintenance programs to over 100 000 students in 69 languages.

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship The Hon Nicholas Kotsiras will open the conference at 9.30am and provide participants with an overview of the Baillieu Government's strong commitment to languages education and support for community languages schools.

Minister Kotsiras will also provide a report on the delivery of the Government's election commitments to community languages schools and languages education in Victoria

The conference theme *Partners in delivering language education in Australia* reflects the strong role community languages schools play in linguistic and cultural maintenance and the endeavour to build meaningful partnerships with students, families and the community.

The Conference will look at strengthening relations with mainstreams schools, principal and school council associations and inter community activities.

It will also examine the role of community language schools in the new proposed national languages curriculum.

Community connections, networking and social cohesion will be reflected in presentations by the Essendon Football Club, Netball Victoria and Starlight Children's' Foundation in discussing ways of strengthening social cohesion by making the connection with community languages schools, sport and community organisations.

A range of workshops will lead teachers and instructors in examining leading practices and classroom teaching strategies.

"Community language schools are strong connectors and facilitators of languages education and social cohesion" Community Languages Australia, Executive Director, Stefan Romaniw said today

"Today we see students, parents and school communities working in partnership in ensuring languages are maintained and taught with the highest degree of effectiveness, Mr Romaniw said

"This Conference will set strong policy positions and also give practical advice on how to be effective teachers in the community languages schools setting and how to form and utilise partnerships," Mr Romaniw said

"Having such a great number of participants from so many backgrounds, gathered together, committed and focussed, is again a reflection of how diversity is respected and used practically for the benefit of Australia" Mr Romaniw said.

The conference is being hosted by Community Languages Australia and the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria.

The Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations (AFESA) National Council will meet on Saturday July 2, 2011 to discuss issues of policy and national coordination.

**Further information - Stefan Romaniw 0419531255
Representatives in range of languages are available for comment**



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