



Where language and culture come together

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

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185 Faraday Street Carlton, Victoria 3053

Telephone (03) 9347 0379 Fax: (03) 9347 0297

Email: afesa@netsol.net.au

ABN 77 674 760 578

4 May, 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

\$16.3 MILLION BOOST FOR COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS OVER FOUR YEARS ANNOUNCED IN VICTORIAN COALITION GOVERNMENT'S 2011-12 BUDGET

Victoria' community languages schools welcomed the announcement of an increased investment of \$16.3 million over the next four years for the community languages schools program

The 2011 - 12 Victorian Budget has increased per capita support by \$70 .to a total of \$190 per year per student.

"This is a sound investment in Victoria's social , education and economic future," Community Languages Australia's Executive Director Stefan Romaniw said today.

"In supporting this program the State Government is providing a solid foundation and investing in Victoria's future in a global context", Mr Romaniw said

"The plan to develop a rental agreement framework to assist Community Language Schools to access mainstream school facilities outside of school hours is also a very positive initiative" Mr Romaniw said

Community languages schools are complementary providers of languages education, Over 35, 000 students study a range of 47 languages many of these at VCE level. Victorian community languages schools have the highest retention rate of students undertaking VCE.

The Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria and Community Languages Australia express their gratitude to the Baillieu Government and in particular to the Minister for Education Martin Dixon and Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Nicholas Kotsiras for their support and for honouring their election commitment.

Language education is a key corner stone in a child's; education.

Minister for Education Martin Dixon made the following comments:

“ Community Language Schools build new generations of foreign language speakers, opening up new horizons while enhancing Victoria’s reputation as Australia’s multicultural capital,”

“This Budget investment supports multiculturalism and provides skills for the next generation of international business people, diplomats and language teachers for Victorian schools.

“The Coalition Government’s major increase in funding for community language education in Victoria is the first step in realising our vision for a truly multilingual school system and society,”

Further information Stefan Romaniw 0419 531255