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## *E-Language*

### **AFL AND COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA KICKING GOALS TOGETHER**

#### **AFL AND COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA FORM PARTNERSHIP**

Community Languages Australia and the Australian Football League (AFL) will work together in promoting the strengths and benefits of cultural and linguistic diversity through Australian Football.

AFL Multicultural Project Coordinator Nick Hatzoglou and Community Languages Australia Executive Director Stefan Romaniw met to discuss ways of promoting the strengths of diversity through Australian football and community languages/ethnic schools in Australia.

The AFL is committed to promoting the benefits of diversity to the broader Australian community. The League is also keen to promote football as a code to all culturally and linguistically and diverse communities.

Initial discussions focused on ways of supporting each others objectives and becoming partners to further a common message.

Some of the plans include:

- Promotion of the AFL information sheets in ethnic schools, being prepared in 17 languages
- Presentations by the AFL at the State Ethnic Schools Conference in Victoria on July 1, 2006 in Melbourne on the AFL Multicultural program and how ethnic schools can get involved
- Inviting ethnic school students and teachers to an AFL at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in 2006 as part of Ethnic Schools Day being organized by the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria.
- An AFL competition in schools to raise awareness about Australian Football.
- Ethnic Schools using the theme *Australian football* as part of classroom activity with Community Languages Australia preparing a pilot series of classroom activities
- Ethnic Schools inviting AFL footballers to schools to stimulate discussion and classroom activities.
- The possibilities of a Community Languages Schools /AFL Cup as part of the Ethnic Schools Days in 2007 organized by ethnic schools associations.

“Our initial discussions have been most fruitful as we look at using Australian Football to promote harmony, initiate discussion in schools on sport and in furthering communicative approach in the classroom using football as a catalyst” Mr. Romaniw said –

“It’s another great opportunity to form a strategic partnership and in turn making the language classroom come alive with a relevant and passionate topic for so many students” Mr. Romaniw said

Australian football builds bridges between communities and in this case will assist teachers make the ethnic schools classroom come alive “Mr. Romaniw said