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E-Language

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA FACILITATES MEETING OF ETHNIC SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS / COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS FEDERATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' FORUM IN CANBERRA

Community Languages Australia facilitated a meeting of Ethnic School / Community Language Schools Association –Federation Executive Officers Forum in Canberra yesterday Wednesday July 26, 2006

The purpose of the forum was to:

- Discuss current activities as part of the National Coordination and Improvement of Quality Assurance in Ethnic Schools Project funded by Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST)
- Receive updates on current local activity
- Exchange ideas and best practice and
- Plan ongoing and future activity

Participants were:

ACT –

New South Wales

Queensland

South Australia

SA PD Officer

Victoria

Community Languages Australia, Stefan Romaniw

Mimi Zhang

Eva Tzadouris

Kelly Timmons,

Inta Rumpe

Jacquie Von Wersch

Fahry Abubaker

who discussed a range of issues that will continue to bring a stronger and more coordinated ethnic schools sector nationally

The meeting was also attended by **Judy Gordon, DEST Assistant Director - Values and Languages Education Section Quality Schooling Branch** who was presented with an overview of the activities, highlights and issues from State and Territories.

Ms Gordon also provide some invaluable information about national activity and reinforced the fact that ethnic schools are complementary providers of languages education under the National Statement and Plan for Languages Education they should avail themselves to the programs and initiatives on offer.

Doris Kordes from FECCA who is working with the NPS and CLA on the Quality Use of Medicines Multicultural Project joined the meeting for lunch and provided informal feedback on the project and the development of the pilot in Queensland.

Some of the outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

State and Territory Survey and data collection forms will sent to AFESA members and Jurisdictions next week with a request that data be returned within 4 weeks

- ***That a National Annual Report on the activities of AFESA members be introduced***
- ***That the ESAV data base be circulated for consideration in other State and Territories***
- ***That AFESA consider the development of a common data base for use of AFESA members***
- ***That Tertiary Training, national delivery and credit bearing status of courses be examined***
- ***That the roles, funding and support for Executive Officers be examined by the AFESA Council***
- ***That the Quality Assurance Framework working parties continue their work***
- ***That the National Conference be strongly promoted over the coming period throughout Australia and that all registrations be sent to ESAQ***
- ***That website updates be provided regularly***
- ***That final feedback on the Organizational and Administrative Manual be returned within a fortnight***
- ***That the Draft National Statement on Languages Education be again discussed and that final feedback be provided within 2-3 2weeks***
- ***That the next Executive Officers Forum be held in Sydney***
- ***Census 2006 information and CD distributed***
- ***Governance handbook from SA distributed***
- ***National Training and PD –***
 - ***Raising Children Bilingually – Hobart August 27, 2006***
 - ***ACT Training – Jacqui Von Wersch (SA) to deliver – Date TBC***

The reports from each of the representatives were an indication of the strong work and commitment of each of the Executive Officers.

They play a major role in driving and implementing the decisions made by committees and councils. It was obvious from the discussions that the hours of work allocated in most cases need to be increased and more formal arrangements be put in place in some cases to ensure that Associations and Federations continue to expanded and work effectively for their members.

The Forum is also being recognized for its capacity in bring people together, to provide the opportunity for participants to share ideas and learn from each other.

It allows those who work in managing the affairs of Association to come together and discuss their every work with others in a similar role.

Many thanks for the attendance and contribution.

Further information contact Stefan Romaniw 0419 531255

Photo 1 Judy Gordon (DEST) discusses issues with forum participants

Photo 2 Executive officers examine data base proposal

"This forum was supported through funding from Australian Government through the Schools Languages Programme, administered by the Department of Education, Science and Training."



Australian Government

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