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## **E-Language**

### **VICTORIAN COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS MEET TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON FUNDING CAMPAIGN**

Members of the Ethnic School Association of Victoria met last night Tuesday August 1, 2006 to receive an update on current negotiations in seeking

- a \$40 per capita funding increase and
- to develop a systemic solution to the high rental cost being paid to mainstream schools for use of community facilities.

Community Languages Australia Executive Director, Stefan Romaniw provided information (**Attachment 1**) on current level of strong cooperation from all stakeholders in pursuing a solution.

A series of meetings have been held with representatives of the Offices the Minister for Education and The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Parliamentary Secretary for Education Liz Beattie.

All have received the attached brief and open and cordial discussions are progressing.

As some Members of the ESAV had recently expressed a willingness to visit their local Member of Parliament, information was provided as to the current level of activity to ensure there is consistency in messages and most importantly that the whole program be managed.

An information sheet was presented (**Attachment 2**) on how to undertake such a visit.

**There was unanimous support for a coordinated and managed program through the ESAV rather than a scatter gun approach.**

Participants received clear instruction that currently negotiations are progressing and any additional campaigning must be coordinated.

It was suggested that school authorities wanting to meet with their local member should coordinate this with other ESAV members in the area, rather than having streams of representation going through offices. These visits should be negotiated with the ESAV.

The main objective of such visits should be to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of languages education,
- Explain the role of community languages schools
- Provide information on work currently being done in schools, in training, professional development and quality assurance areas
- Provide information that currently negotiations are progressing

School visits – inviting local Members to schools to show first hand the activity of schools was also proposed.

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