



June 25, 2006

43/2006

## **E-Language**

### **VICTORIAN COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS MEET WITH STATE GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS INCREASED FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS AND REDUCTION IN RENTAL COSTS**

The Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria (ESAV) and Community Languages Australia have presented the Victorian Government with a submission for increased per capita funding for community languages schools in Victoria and also requesting that the issue of rental changes for use of Government school facilities be addressed.

On Tuesday July 25, 2006 Parliamentary Secretary for Education Liz Beattie MP met with a delegation at Parliament House which included a representative of the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria (ESAV) Tassos Douvarzides, Executive Director of Community Languages Australia, Stefan Romaniw and former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Victorian Parliament the Hon Alex Andrianopoulos.

The delegation presented Ms Beattie with the submission outlining:

- current support received from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments in terms of per capita funding, funding for Credit Bearing Teacher Courses, Professional Development, Administration, National Coordination and the implementation of a Quality Assurance Framework.
- the strong work relationship exists between the ESAV, Community Languages Australia and key stakeholders - the Minister Kosky's Office, the Department of Education and Training (DET), the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).
- The funding submission seeking a \$40 per capita increase and also that the DET examine the possibility of a systemic change in Government school funding that would decrease the amounts charged to community languages schools for the use of premises for community language classes

The ESAV and Community Languages Australia have also had discussions with Minister for Education The Hon Lynne Kosky's Office, officers of the Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs The Hon John Pandazopoulos and the VMC in seeking support for the submission.

The reasons presented for an increase are as follows:

- Workload pressures and commitment level of school authorities have increased significantly as new requirements have been introduced;
- Teacher work load has also increased significantly;

- There is shared agreement between DET, ESAV and Community Languages Australia that quality programs are of the utmost importance. Currently a new Quality Assurance Framework is being introduced which will require increased accountability. The process will also demand high levels of commitment from schools to develop a range of elements and dimensions to meet the Framework's Key Result Areas (KRA's). This framework will involve a high level of involvement at all levels and may form the basis for new DET and Accreditation processes;
- Through the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) community languages schools teachers and instructors have attend training to better understand the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS);
- Costs have increased by at least 20-25% over four years taking into account minimum CPI levels and other costs;
- Rental costs have increased significantly with up to 60% of funding now being paid;
- The proposed increase of \$40 per capita would cover the next 24–36 months.
- No increase in funding for 4 years

The Parliamentary Secretary was requested to examine the issues and to be the *auditor* on the progress of the submission.

A follow up meeting was agreed to in 6 weeks,

**The ESAV is holding an information evening to discuss the submission for increased funding on August 1, 2006 at 6.00pm at LMERC  
150 Palmerston Street Carlton. All welcome  
Photo L- R Liz Beattie, T. Douvartzides, S. Romaniw Alex Andrianopoulos**

**Visit our website;**

**[www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au](http://www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au)**

**ABS WEBSITE [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)**

**CENSUS 2006, 8 AUGUST 2006**

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