

# **MCEETYA LANGUAGES EDUCATION WORKING PARTY**

## **Update on activities**

**October 2006**

### **Working Party meetings**

Since our first update earlier this year, the Working Party has met via tele-conference in May, and in Adelaide on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Discussion to date has explored a number of areas, including:

- data collection in relation to student participation, teacher supply and demand, and student achievement
- provision of distance education and opportunities for sharing
- monitoring the progress of national projects
- the identification of priorities for future national projects.

The Working party will meet next in Canberra, following the National Languages Seminar.

### **Data Collection**

AESOC has endorsed the collection and analysis of student participation data, in order to monitor the state of languages education. The first collection will take place in May 2007, with a request to all jurisdictions for 2005 and 2006 data, by language and by year level from Reception to year 12. Such data was last collected for the 2003 MCEETYA Review of Languages Education, for 2000, 2001 and 2002. It will be interesting to observe variations from 2000/01/02 to 2005/06, and to analyse trends.

### **National Languages Projects**

There is a great deal of activity at the moment in Languages Education, with a number of initiatives that have emerged from the National Statement and Plan for Languages. Attached you will find a progress update, provided by DEST, of each of the national Languages projects funded by DEST. For further information on any of these projects, contact Judy Gordon at [Judy.Gordon@dest.gov.au](mailto:Judy.Gordon@dest.gov.au)

### **National seminar on Languages Education for Key Stakeholders**

This seminar, which is one of the national DEST funded projects outlined on the attachment, is organised by the Asia Education Foundation (AEF). It will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October; and will be opened by the Hon Julie Bishop. 137 participants are expected to attend, representing principals and languages teachers associations, all schooling sectors from all states and territories, the tertiary sector, indigenous languages, ethnic schools, curriculum and assessment authorities, and parents.

### National Projects on Languages Education : Progress Update

#### National Projects Implemented from 2005 School Languages Programme funds

Project	Description	Contractor and Project Team	Timeframe	Progress update (May – September 2006)
<p><b>1.</b> Improvement in the national coordination and quality assurance of ethnic schools.</p>	<p>This project aims to strengthen national coordination and quality assurance in after-hours ethnic/ community language schools in Australia, with a focus on 3 key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) national coordination and promotion;</li> <li>b) improving quality assurance, including trialling a nationally agreed Quality Assurance framework, and subsequent development of implementation guidelines. The implementation of this framework in consultation with State / Territory education jurisdictions will assist after-hours ethnic schools in planning for accreditation, planning for external reporting, and providing opportunities for school review and teacher self evaluation; and</li> <li>c) professional development for teachers.</li> </ul>	<p>Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations (AFESA), known as <i>Community Languages Australia (CLA)</i>.</p>	<p>July 2005 to Dec 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing maintenance and updating of the Community Languages Australia website – see <a href="http://www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au/">http://www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au/</a> .</li> <li>• Regular meetings have been held with stakeholder groups in each State and Territory to raise awareness of the work of CLA and / or assist in formation of strategic partnerships, developing professional learning programmes etc</li> <li>• Quality Assurance workshops continue to be held in consultation with each jurisdiction (conducted by Erebus International); QA Implementation Guidelines and supporting 'train-the-trainer' model package is under development.</li> <li>• Data collection has begun; aggregation of data will be included in Final Report.</li> <li>• Planning for 4<sup>th</sup> National Community Languages Conference - to be held 7 October in Brisbane - is well underway.</li> <li>• <i>'Community Languages Schools: Contributing to Quality Languages Education in Australia</i>, a statement prepared by Community Languages Australia, is currently being finalised following wide-ranging consultation with State and Territory Associations.</li> <li>• Draft <i>Operational and Procedures Manual for Community Language Schools</i> is currently being refined after being circulated to State and Territory Associations for comment and feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.</b> Investigation into the current provision of Indigenous languages programmes in Australian schools.</p>	<p>This Project aims to improve the quality and sustainability of Indigenous language programs in Australian schools. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• investigate current policy and provision of Indigenous language programmes in schools, including issues related to staffing these programmes;</li> <li>• examine existing models of teacher preparation and training for those involved in the delivery of Indigenous languages programmes; and</li> <li>• identify and evaluate examples of good practice in Indigenous languages programmes in schools reflecting different settings.</li> </ul>	<p>Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)</p>	<p>July 2006 to Aug 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Project Advisory Group meeting has been held.</li> <li>• Literature Review is underway.</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultations have begun.</li> <li>• Preparations for identification of good practice case studies are underway.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b> Investigation into the state and nature of languages education in Australian schools</p>	<p>The objective of this project is to build on previous research to generate a comprehensive national picture of languages education, and recommend strategies to increase effectiveness and quality of school-based languages programmes. It will particularly investigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• current State and Territory languages policies and curriculum frameworks, modes of delivery, and teacher supply and demand;</li> <li>• how policies respond to issues of mandatory language study, choice, continuity, and workforce planning; and</li> </ul>	<p>University of South Australia - Research Centre for Languages and Cultures Education</p>	<p>July 2006 to July 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Project Advisory Group meeting has been held and project outline completed.</li> <li>• Literature review is underway.</li> <li>• Preparations for stakeholder consultative process are in progress, with consultations to begin soon.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the roles of and interrelationships between mainstream and complementary language providers in each State and Territory.</li> </ul>			
4. Development of a nationally coordinated promotion of the benefits of languages learning in schools.		TBA		Yet to be tendered.
5. Review of teacher education for languages teachers.	<p>This project aims to produce a comprehensive national picture of the nature and effectiveness of teacher education and re-training opportunities for languages teachers. Key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>investigate course entry requirements, course content and structure;</li> <li>identify structural impediments relating to the development of teachers' linguistic and pedagogical competency; and</li> <li>explore the potential application of the <i>Professional Standards for Accomplished Teaching of Languages and Cultures</i>, developed by the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers (AFMLTA), in teacher education for languages teachers.</li> </ul>	Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)	July 2006 to July 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Project Advisory Group meeting has been held and Project Outline completed.</li> <li>Literature review is underway.</li> <li>Stakeholder communication and consultation process will be commencing shortly.</li> </ul>
6. Development and distribution of a 'Guide to the Teaching, Learning and Assessing of Languages in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century' for teachers and schools.		TBA		Yet to be tendered
7. Leading Languages Education Project.	<p>This is a professional learning project for principals and school leaders that aims to promote greater awareness of action at the national level to support languages, current teaching directions, and benefits of language learning. The Project will comprise an information dissemination strategy to support Principals and school leaders in the crucial role they play in implementing an effective languages programme.</p> <p>Key elements of this strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>face-to-face forums in each State and Territory;</li> <li>a 'Leading Languages Education' webpage on the APAPDC website</li> <li>electronic and print communications</li> </ul>	Australian Principal Associations' Professional Development Council (APAPDC)	July 2006 to April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Project Advisory Group meeting has been held.</li> <li>Forums are being planned in consultation with State and Territory education authorities and APAPDC branches (ACT, VIC, TAS and SA in 2006; NSW, WA, QLD and NT in 2007).</li> <li>Webpage and first e-Newsletter are under development.</li> </ul>
8. National Seminar on Languages Education: "Maximising the Opportunity"	<p>This will be an invitational seminar for up to 125 key stakeholders to be held in Canberra on 30 – 31 October 2006. Outcomes and contributions of the Seminar will be summarised in a report. Key objectives of the National Seminar are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide time and opportunities for State and Territory teams to consider what the MCEETYA <i>National Statement and Plan for Languages Education 2005-08</i> means for their local contexts and priorities and to plan strategies that can be taken forward after the Seminar;</li> <li>provide an update on action being taken at national level to assist the implementation of the MCEETYA <i>National Statement and Plan for Languages Education 2005-08</i>, particularly the national projects funded under the School Languages Programme;</li> <li>share effective practice in languages education, in particular work being undertaken to enhance intercultural language teaching and learning;</li> <li>promote the broad benefits of languages education;</li> </ul>	Asia Education Foundation (AEF)	June 2006 to Jan 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First and second Project Advisory Group meetings have been held.</li> <li>Venue has been secured: the National Museum of Australia.</li> <li>Seminar Programme is being developed in consultation with the MCEETYA Languages Education WP and Project Advisory Group.</li> <li>State and Territories have been invited to identify a team to attend the Seminar. These teams will be cross-sectoral and include each State/Territory's representative on the MCEETYA Languages Education Working Party and an active member of the local Modern Language Teachers' Association (MLTA).</li> <li>Key stakeholder organisations (as identified by the MCEETYA Languages Education Working Party) have been invited to nominate a representative at the Seminar.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raise awareness of the links between languages education and other national and State education priorities.</li> </ul>			
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**Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme**

<p>Intercultural Language Teaching and Learning in Practice (ILTLP) project</p>	<p>A national professional learning programme on intercultural language teaching and learning, which will build on the outcomes of the Asian Languages Professional Learning Project (ALPLP). The ILTLP will be conducted in 4 Phases:</p> <p><i>Phase 1:</i> Commissioned, supported school-based research and development to generate exemplars in long-term programming, assessment processes and describing outcomes of intercultural language learning.</p> <p><i>Phase 2:</i> Development of ILTLP professional learning materials and accompanying processes to support the delivery of the ILTLP in each State and Territory. This Phase must run concurrently with Phase 1.</p> <p><i>Phase 3:</i> Delivery of the ILTLP in each State and Territory throughout 2007.</p> <p><i>Phase 4:</i> Revision of the ILTLP Resources and preparation of final Report, including collation of collected ILTLP data.</p>	<p>University of South Australia - Research Centre for Languages and Cultures Education</p>	<p>June 2006 to Jan 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Project Advisory Group meeting has been held.</li> <li>Letters have been sent to State and Territory Government education jurisdictions seeking a nominated Key Contact to facilitate the ILTLP in that State/ Territory.</li> <li>Process to select the teachers involved in Phase 1 has been conducted and a national workshop held on 30-31 August to assist these teachers in getting started on their research.</li> <li>Feedback and support to teachers involved in Phase 1 provided on an ongoing basis from September – December 2006.</li> <li>Research project officer positions have been finalised.</li> <li>The formative evaluation for the Project is underway. This process will assist in the development of issues papers throughout the project.</li> <li>Initial planning for Phase 2 in progress.</li> </ul>
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