

By promoting the benefits of learning a language, enhancing the quality of teaching in Community Languages Schools and introducing incentives for students to continue learning a community language, *Communities United Through Language* will contribute to the sustainability of the schools into the future.

Consistent with the aims of the *Communities United Through Language*, the Community Languages Schools Board will advise the Minister on how these new funds will be used to meet the needs of the Community Languages Schools programs.

Provide advice on incentives for community languages students

As part of this reform, there will be new initiatives that provide incentives to encourage students to learn a community language:

a. Formal recognition of learning a language in Community Languages Schools will be incorporated into the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards Record of School Achievement (RoSA) for graduating students.

Students will be recognised for their participation in the Community Languages Schools Program through the RoSA. This recognition will encourage students to continue to learn a community language and will enable students to retain a formal record of their study of a community language during their years of secondary education.

b. Certificates of participation will be awarded to primary school students who successfully complete 12 month's participation in a community languages schools program.

These certificates will contribute to the recognition of student participation in extra curricula activities during their primary school years. Consistent with other awards, students will have the opportunity to be presented with recognition awards and certificates in their home schools. This will encourage students to continue to learn a community language during their primary school years.

c. A Community Language Ambassador's Program will be introduced.

This program will acknowledge the achievements of outstanding community representatives across a range of community languages, promoting the benefits of studying a community language and how it contributes to achieving personal goals.

Ambassadors will be community role models, chosen by local communities because of their achievements and experiences in learning and studying a community language.

The Community Languages Schools Board will oversee the program and encourage Ambassadors to support local Community Languages Schools across a range of languages. Ambassadors will participate in the activities of school events and give advice to students and parents on the benefits of learning a community language.

Each year, new Ambassadors will be announced at the NSW Community Languages Schools Program Annual Minister's Awards and their achievements detailed in communication to parents and students.

d. Smaller language groups will be eligible to apply for the Community Languages Schools Grant.

Guidelines for the Community Languages Schools Grant will be amended to reduce the minimum number of students required from 30 to 20. This will allow organisations more flexibility to deliver community language classes to meet local demand, providing greater access to community language learning.

e. An updated website will provide information about the Community Languages Schools Program for parents, students and teachers.

This website will provide information for parents about Community Languages Schools initiatives and activities. It will provide material to assist Community Languages Schools to promote the benefits of learning a language in their community.

Access to professional learning and teaching resources for volunteer teachers will also be provided to assist in the delivery of quality lessons.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Community Languages Schools Program and associated initiatives will be consistent with the *NSW Department of Education and Communities Evaluation Framework (2014)* and the *NSW Governments Good Practice Guide to Grants Administration (2010)*.



COMMUNITIES UNITED THROUGH LANGUAGE

Communities United Through Language

Message from the Minister



I am pleased to announce that the NSW Government has committed an additional \$400,000 per year to Community Language Schools increasing the grant to \$6.08 million to enable the *Communities United Through Language* reform which will:

- Enhance the quality of teaching and professional development opportunities; and
- Improve participation and engagement of students, schools and community.

For over 30 years the NSW Community Languages Schools Program has made a significant contribution to the strength of our state's education system and multi-lingual workforce. It receives annual government funding to deliver out-of-school classes that support school-aged students to learn a foreign language, and for many students this enables them to build proficiency in the mother tongue of their ancestry.

Each week approximately 2,000 volunteer teachers give their time to present and prepare lessons at Community Languages Schools so that young people can retain the language of their ancestry.

Being of Italian heritage, I understand the value that migrant families place on having their children read and speak the language of their heritage. Language learning is critical in shaping one's identity and it is for this reason that we are committed to building strong communities by connecting our young people to their language, heritage and culture.

Community Languages Schools enhance the learning of language in our schools. It is important to remember that Community Languages Schools are reliant upon the goodwill, hard work and commitment of volunteer teachers.

Community Languages Schools have become an institution in our multicultural communities and the NSW Government values the significant role these schools play in promoting linguistic diversity within NSW.

While our state continues to evolve as one of the most linguistically diverse societies, there is more we can do to build on the capacity of community organisations. In doing so, we seek to more successfully teach, learn and value language.

This reform will enhance the quality of teaching and the experience of students who learn a language through a Community Languages School.

I thank the thousands of volunteers who give their time, week in and week out to make our Community Languages Schools great. I also thank the Community Languages Schools Board for their ongoing commitment to language learning and I look forward to working with them on this exciting reform.

Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs,
Minister for Veterans Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education

Communities United Through Language



What are Community Languages Schools?

Community Languages Schools recognise the importance of children retaining the language of their ancestry. The work of the schools has a profound impact on a student's broader educational experience. They also contribute significantly to the multicultural assets of NSW and promote the importance of language in the broader context of education within our communities.

Community Languages Schools are established and managed by incorporated not-for-profit organisations that are able to demonstrate close links with a community whose first language is a language other than English. To be recognised as a Community Languages School, organisations must deliver two hours of face-to-face lessons for at least 35 weeks a year.

A Community Languages Schools Board provides strategic advice to the NSW Government on the delivery of community language for students in local communities.

How does the NSW Government support Community Languages Schools?

The NSW Government, through the Community Languages Schools Grant which is administered by the Department of Education and Communities provides financial assistance to eligible not-for-profit community organisations who deliver out of school hour's community language classes.

Through the Grant, community organisations are able to deliver their classes in a way that best meets the needs of local communities.

Today, there are more than 32,000 government and non-government students studying at 466 Community Languages School locations; delivered by 253 organisations in 55 different languages.

What is Communities United Through Language?

The NSW Government has committed an additional \$400,000 to Community Languages Schools per year increasing the current grant to \$6.08 million to enhance opportunities for long term language learning in local communities.

Communities United Through Language complements the current Community Languages Schools Program by further promoting and encouraging students to learn and continue learning a community language.

It will provide more opportunities for young people to connect to their community through language and aims to:

- Enhance the quality of teaching and professional development opportunities; and
- Improve participation and engagement of students, schools and community.