



Australian Federation of Modern
Language Teachers Associations Inc.
PO Box 758
Belconnen. ACT 2616

NEWS IN BRIEF

February 2010

Volume 10, Number 1

Corrected Version

From the President-Elect

Dear Colleagues,

Each year it seems earlier and earlier when I say "I can't believe it's ... already". And for 2010, I can't believe it's March! I believe this year, as languages education professionals, we will need to be aware of what is going on both in terms of languages and in the broader educational community. And we need to be prepared to ensure our voice is heard.

Already, many of us have been asked to respond to consultation drafts for curricula; to draft national plans; to languages strategies. I am sure this level of activity at the national level is likely to have some replication for each of you in your own state or territory. I know in my state, Queensland, there has been a "kerfuffle", as one media outlet described, about the numbers of schools opting out of languages. MLTAQ needed to respond (which was done) and needs to continue the pressure and be proactively continuing the dialogue.

So, from the number of consultations and projects and activities of significance, such as the National Curriculum Symposium occurring at the present time, it looks like 2010 will be an important year for languages education in Australia.

Regards

Sherryl Saunders

presidenelect@afmlta.asn.au

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM IN LANGUAGES

As you are probably aware Associate Professor Angela Scarino, Director of the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures within the University of South Australia has been appointed as the writer of the Shaping Paper for Languages in the Australian Curriculum.

At this point in time, ACARA personnel, with the help of state curriculum authorities are in the process of gathering responses to the consultation drafts for the K-10 Curriculum. These consultation processes are usually whole day processes that seek feedback on a number of broad questions including, but not limited to:

- Do the content descriptors and achievement standards represent what should be learned?
- Are content descriptors and achievement standards clear in what should be taught and learned?

In terms of on-going development in the Languages component of the Australian Curriculum, as noted previously, Angela Scarino is leading the development of the Shaping Paper. A Languages curriculum writer is yet to be announced.

All MLTA members are encouraged to regularly visit the ACARA website. Members can subscribe to the ACARA email alerts for up to date information about curriculum development by visiting: http://www.acara.edu.au/news_media/subscribe.html

More detailed information about the curriculum development process and opportunities to be involved in the process can be found in the Curriculum Development Process Paper located on the ACARA website publications page: <http://www.acara.edu.au/default.asp>

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PROJECT

Professional Standards Project (PSP) – Phase Two (Stream C) is a learning program specifically focused on high quality, rigorous practices associated with assessment in languages. It is an extension of PSP Streams A and B and addresses the need for the alignment of teaching and learning and assessment.

Trainers convened in Adelaide in November 2009 to participate in the professional learning program. Currently trainers are in the middle of their own investigations. During Term 2 2010, teachers who have undertaken Stream A will be able to register their interest in participating in Stream C. By the end of March, information will be available from State and Territory Key Contacts about when and how the Stream C professional learning program will be facilitated in each state and territory.

Look to the appropriate Key Contact for further information...

ACT: meri_d@webone.com.au

NSW: sana.zreika@det.nsw.edu.au

NT: melissa.kosciuk@ntschoools.net

QLD: saunders.sherryl@gmail.com

SA: Jacqueline.VonWersch@sa.gov.au

TAS: vicki.fischmann@education.tas.gov.au

VIC: kyliefiona@gmail.com

WA: Wendy.Hewitt@det.wa.edu.au

NATIONAL STATEMENT AND PLAN FOR LANGUAGES

The Research Centre for Languages and Cultures has been tasked with developing the re-development of the "Plan" components for 2009-2012 quadrennium of the National Statement and Plan for Languages Education in Australian Schools.

An initial consultation processes are underway for the redeveloped Plan.

Associate Prof Angela Scarino, Prof Tony Liddicoat and Dr Tim Curnow are facilitating these consultation processes.

NALSSP ~ STRATEGIC COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

The Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund is a funded program under NALSSP. Funding is available to organisations, including universities, higher education providers, businesses and Asian communities for projects that attend to NASSLP priorities.

The next round of applications for funding are due to open in March 2010. It is likely that the application process will be open for about 4 weeks. If interested in submitting a project for consideration, it will be important to monitor the NASSLP website... Please visit the website at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NALSSP/Pages/default.aspx>

NZALT CONFERENCE 2010

New Zealand Association of Language Teachers (NZALT) is hosting their biennial conference in Queenstown on 4 - 8 July 2010. Remember AFMLTA has reciprocal members' registration rates with NZALT. Earlybird rates close at the end of April. Information is available at <http://www.nzalt.org.nz/conference/>.

AFMLTA CONFERENCE 2011

Have you visited LTANT's website recently for find out about the 18th Biennial AFMLTA Conference? Darwin is the host the next Conference from 6th – 9th July 2011.

Maisy Latif and her team have preparations are well in-hand, with an initial call for papers and expressions of interest being available on LTANT's website:

<http://www.ltant.org.au/index.php/ltant/conference/>