



AFMLTA

Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations

31 Hayman Rd
Boondall QLD 4034
www.afmlta.asn.au

The Honourable Alan Tudge MP
Minister for Education and Youth
House of Representatives

16 March 2021

Via email: minister@education.gov.au

Dear Minister

The Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA) represents teachers of languages in the pre-school, primary, secondary, tertiary and community school sectors. We have a membership of over 3500 teachers across the nation, as the umbrella association (federation) for languages teacher associations in all eight Australian states and territories.

We have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, working with Ministers Tehan, Pyne and Birmingham in the more recent years. We have advised on languages education including development of the Australian Curriculum: Languages since 2010, Year 12 retention strategies, facilitating language teaching and learning with an emphasis on engagement with the world and celebration of the diversity of cultures and languages in line with the *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration*, using professional standards for accomplished teaching of languages, fostering leadership in languages education, developing programs for pre-schools (most notably in the Early Learning Languages Australia [ELLA] apps program), and providing a commissioned report with Education Services Australia for the Department around expanding ELLA into the early years of primary school.

We have been the recipients of a number of national project grants for several million dollars from the Federal Government over the last several decades, to improve languages teaching and learning, and to promote the importance of intercultural understanding and skills for all young learners in Australia. We have been able to achieve a great deal over these decades, collaboratively, to position languages teaching and learning at world standard in Australia, and to include in our community leading researchers in the field.

The current project your Department has engaged us in is working towards developing a *National Languages Plan and Strategy* for languages education in Australia and, through our rigorous data collection processes on the uptake and provision of languages nationally, will inform evidence-based future policy design at a national level for a sustainable approach to planning and implementing languages education. This supports the Australian Government effort to increase the uptake of language learning in schools.

The AFMLTA Executive includes leading tertiary, secondary and primary researchers, teachers and languages consultants from across the states and territories, who are nationally and internationally renowned for their contributions to the field, and who have influence in all education jurisdictions across Australia, including government, Catholic and independent schools, and senior secondary boards of studies. We continue to hold advisory roles with state and territory, and national education authorities including AITSL and ACARA.



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We have also worked closely with Education Services Australia (ESA) in developing digital and material resources including those of the Language Learning Space and the ELLA resources.

We would be keen to meet with you to further convey our work and understand your vision for languages education in Australia.

Should you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@afmlta.asn.au.

We look forward to a favourable response and to meeting with you in the near future.

Nathan Harvey
AFMLTA President