



AFMLTA

Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations

www.afmlta.asn.au

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

20 August 2022

Dear Prime Minister Albanese

The Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA) represents teachers of languages in the pre-school, primary, secondary, community and tertiary sectors, for the maintenance and learning of home, community, First Nations, and additional languages, for all Australians. We represent over 3500 teachers across the nation, as the umbrella association for languages teacher associations in the eight Australian states and territories. We work closely with First Languages Australia and Community Languages Australia, and the Languages and Cultures Network of Australian Universities.

AFMLTA provides vision, leadership, representation, advocacy, and support for quality teaching and learning of languages. We envision an Australia that embraces its plurilingual context and values the languages and cultures of all Australians and their entitlement to further languages education and the benefits this brings to our world.

We believe that the development of multilingual capabilities for all Australians, commensurate with high performing nations in our neighbourhood and beyond, is critical. Without this development, Australia risks isolation and reduced opportunities in a world in which plurilingual, pluriliteracy and pluricultural skills are core requirements for everyday engagement and successful futures.

The AFMLTA has a long history of collaborative research projects with the Australian Government, to support quality languages education, professional learning for teachers of languages, and advancement of government policy on languages and literacy education and the education goals for young people as outlined in the *Mparntwe* (Alice Springs) education declaration. Most recently, the AFMLTA has undertaken a project for the Australian Government to develop a proposal for a national plan and strategy for languages education, the reports and recommendations from which are now with the Australian Department of Education for Ministerial consideration. This plan is consistent with your government's demonstrated positive engagement with languages and cultures, and its support of multilingual contexts both within Australia and overseas. Part of our mission is to promote the power of language to foster goodwill and advance prospects for young Australians. We believe that our mission and vision will resonate with you and your government.

We are keen to meet with you to further convey our work and understand your government's vision for languages education in Australia.

We sincerely hope to hear a favourable response from you soon.

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

Gillian Cordy
President AFMLTA