



Australian Government
Department of Education

Our Ref MC22-004746

Mrs Gillian Cordy
President
Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations
president@afmlta.asn.au

Dear Mrs Cordy

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2022 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, regarding the work of the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA). As the issues raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, your letter was referred to his office for reply. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of the study of languages and the contribution it makes to the general education of all students. Learning to communicate in two or more languages is a rich and challenging means for engaging with, and participating in, the linguistic and cultural diversity of an increasingly interconnected world.

The Department is working on measures to support the Government's commitment to the learning of languages in Australia. As you would be aware, this includes the election commitment to a \$14 million plan to teach First Nations languages in primary schools around the nation. The plan, which will foster local First Nations community and school partnerships to enable the placement of First Nations Educators in 60 primary schools across Australia, will help lift the uptake of First Nations language learning by our young people and keep First Nations languages alive.

I note the research and stakeholder engagement the AFMLTA completed to inform the development of a national plan and strategy for languages education in Australia. The Government will consider the outcomes of this work alongside those of other key projects currently being undertaken by First Languages Australia and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. Once all projects are finalised, the findings will be taken into account collectively to help take forward the development of languages policy.

I appreciate your organisation's commitment to languages education in Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Samuelson'.

Shane Samuelson
Assistant Secretary
Unique Student Identifier Branch
30 September 2022