

NEWS IN BRIEF



AFMLTA: the national voice for teachers of languages
Providing vision, leadership, representation, advocacy and support for quality teaching and learning of language

December 2022



From the President

As we approach the holiday season AFMLTA extends thanks to all member associations for their tireless work throughout the year offering professional learning for teachers, providing opportunities for students to showcase their language skills, and recognising teachers' and learners' achievements with awards. It has been especially pleasing to see the collaborative spirit that has developed as associations have welcomed members from other states and territories to participate in events.

AFMLTA has been privileged to be invited to attend and present at successful conferences organised by state and territory associations in 2022, and to represent our members at affiliate events both nationally and internationally. We warmly congratulate MLTAV who recently celebrated their 75th anniversary!

We look forward to welcoming many of you to our 24th AFMLTA International Languages Conference to be held in Perth on 7-9 July 2023. Registrations are now open! Come along and be stimulated by inspiring invited speakers and session presenters and socialise with your language teaching colleagues. All information about the conference is posted as it becomes available on the Conference page on our website. A call for papers will open in late January. We welcome for consideration proposals for presentations on topics relevant to teachers of languages at all levels, so please consider how you may be able to contribute at this event.



[Register now!](#)

[24th AFMLTA International Languages Conference 2023](#)

Date: 7-9 July 2023

Venue: Edith Cowan University, Perth, WA

Registrations: Open now! Follow the link below

Call for papers: Opens late January 2023

Program: [Draft program](#) available now

Partnerships: Visit our [conference website](#) for information

[Register](#)

[Why Language Learning Matters: Language Background Other Than English \(LBOTE\) Infographic](#)

We are pleased to announce that a **Why Language Learning Matters** infographic has been produced which links the benefits of knowledge of additional language/s and the development of skills in literacy and numeracy. The infographic, which is available on the AFMLTA [website](#), demonstrates how students with a language background other than English (LBOTE) outperform their peers in all measures and across all levels on NAPLAN tests. We hope you will find this infographic useful as you continue to advocate for the entitlement of all learners to enjoy the many benefits of learning an additional language.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY: Why Language Learning Matters

In NAPLAN, Language Background Other than English (LBOTE) students outperform their peers in every measure across every year level

Why this matters for all learners

Research clearly points to the learning and active use of two or more languages providing literacy benefits for all languages and in all learning areas.

Learning an additional language has the potential to improve the literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students.

Better literacy and numeracy outcomes in the early years provides a strong foundation for all learning in later years.

In NAPLAN 35 points is roughly one year of progress, indicating LBOTE students may be as much as 2 years ahead of their peers.

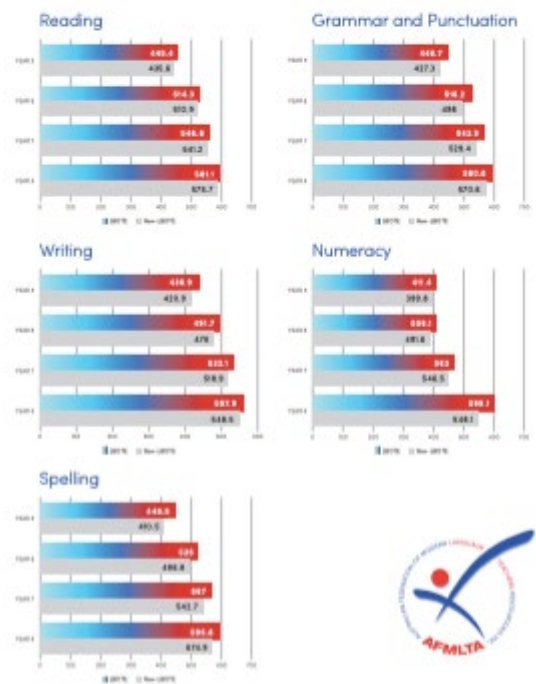
Learning additional languages (as well as English) also has benefits for LBOTE students.

It is critical to also support all students in the learning of English, appropriate to their needs, as learners of English as a first or additional language or dialect.

*The full NAPLAN report is available [here](#).

We acknowledge the complexity and diversity of students and their learning needs that NAPLAN data alone does not address.

2021 NAPLAN data: National level mean scale scores*



AFMLTA welcomes the opportunity to discuss these data further. Contact us: president@afmlta.asn.au

[Read more](#)

Representation

AFMLTA's recent representation at member events allowed the Executive to draw together some consistent themes from speakers and delegates about Languages education in Australian schools and tertiary institutions. This will inform our advocacy efforts as we move into a new year. There is a need to continue to advocate for reimagining a future for languages education in Australia:

- AFMLTA's material on Towards a National Languages Plan and Strategy offered insight into the context of languages learning in Australia and a vision of what it could be.
- The material that draws from the NAPLAN data and is presented on the AFMLTA website as [Why Learning Languages Matter](#) was of great interest.

For the AFMLTA, it was heartening to hear the affirmation from educators who support the outcomes of the AFMLTA work, saying that the research undertaken for the Australian Government is illuminating. Teachers welcomed the vision of a national languages plan.

AFMLTA's *Babel* journal

We invite submissions to our signature journal *Babel*, the AFMLTA's professionally refereed journal. Each volume includes three issues. Featuring general and research articles, reviews, and reports about the teaching and learning of languages, and language policy at primary, secondary, and tertiary level, *Babel* is the only scholarly journal for languages education in Australia. *Babel* is provided to the members of all Modern Language Teachers Associations across Australia.

For article requirements, information about subscriptions and advertising, follow the link below for more information.



[Find out more](#)

Professional learning

FIPLV World Congress of Modern Languages

Date: 6-9 July 2024.

Location: Auckland, New Zealand (organised in collaboration with the New Zealand Association of Language Teachers [NZALT])

Further information to follow on the FIPLV [website](#)

AFMLTA



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