



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF MODERN **LANGUAGE TEACHERS** ASSOCIATIONS

AFMLTA News in Brief, February 2020

The AFMLTA provides vision, leadership, representation, advocacy, professional learning and support for quality teaching and learning of languages.

AFMLTA National Languages Plan & Strategy Project Announcement

The AFMLTA is pleased to advise that it has successfully completed negotiations with the Australian Government for the development of a national plan and strategy to support languages education in Australia. The AFMLTA acknowledges the Australian Government's commitment of \$500,000 in funding towards a national languages plan and strategy.

It is timely recognition by the Australian Government of the need to develop a national languages plan and strategy.

The development of a national plan and strategy will involve wide consultation with key stakeholders, including Modern Language Teacher Associations (MLTAs) across the country, and will be based on national and international research on languages education.

The AFMLTA is ideally placed to develop this work as the peak body for languages education and with a long history of engagement with key stakeholders, research and professional learning for teachers of languages within schools and beyond.

The AFMLTA commends the Australian Government for recognising the importance of Australia's first languages, community languages, and additional languages learning.

Given the rich linguistic and cultural diversity in Australian schools, the study of a home or additional language should be a guaranteed part of the curriculum provision for all students in primary and secondary schools.

For further information contact:

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NATIONAL Languages PLAN & STRATEGY

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment has engaged the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA) to undertake the project in consultation with key stakeholders, nationally.

A Project Advisory Group, with representation from across the languages education field, will advise the project team. The project will run from 2019 to 2022.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to develop a National Languages Plan and Strategy for languages education in Australia.

The plan will inform future policy design at the national level, for a sustainable approach to planning and implementing languages education.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to support the Australian Government effort to increase the uptake of languages learning in schools.



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Australian Government
**Department of Education,
Skills and Employment**



KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

Research Projects

Two inter-related research projects will inform development of the plan and strategy.

RESEARCH PROJECT 1:

The state of languages education in Australia: Participation and provision

The project will:

- collect languages education provision and participation data nationally, including languages taught (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Community languages), participation rates, program types, time allocations, teacher availability and experience, and university teacher education programs
- develop an indicative profile of the current state of languages teaching and learning in Australia
- inform recommendations on how to improve and use nationally consistent data as part of the National Plan and Strategy for languages education.

RESEARCH PROJECT 2:

Towards a National Plan and Strategy

The project will:

- review state, territory and national languages education policies and recent developments and achievements in languages education, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, community, first/heritage and additional languages
- utilise data from both research projects and stakeholder input to develop a National Plan and Strategy for Languages education in Australia and provide recommendations and strategies for increasing participation in languages learning in Australian schools.

Green Paper

A Green Paper summarising the findings and recommendations from the research projects will inform national consultation processes and generate discussion across the states and territories and with key stakeholders.

National Summit

Over 50 key stakeholders from across the domains of the project will meet in early 2021 to review emerging issues and recommendations from the Green Paper, and to provide feedback towards the National Plan.

Focus Groups

Focus group discussions will be held in each state and territory to explore and provide feedback on the main themes arising from the National Summit, to inform the National Plan.

National Plan & Strategy

The National Plan and Strategy for languages education will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment in 2022.

AFMLTA Project Team

Project Director: Sherryl Saunders

Project Manager: Kylie Farmer

Lead Researchers: Andrew Scrimgeour and Anne-Marie Morgan

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AFMLTA: The National Voice for Teachers of Languages

The Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA Inc.) is the national professional body representing teachers of all languages in Australia.

We provide vision, leadership, representation, advocacy, professional learning and support for quality teaching and learning of languages.
Ensure you are a member of the MLTA in your state or territory to enjoy the benefits of membership.



AFMLTA Membership

To enjoy the benefits of AFMLTA membership, join the MLTA in your state or territory.

AFMLTA Communication

Website: afmlta.asn.au

Twitter: [@afmlta](https://twitter.com/afmlta)

Facebook: facebook.com/afmlta

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AFMLTA Executive 2019 - 2020

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President Elect: Nathan Harvey

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