



AFMLTA Updates: September 2026

Message from the President

The beautiful spring weather has been treating us kindly here in Sydney, and I hope you are enjoying some sunshine wherever you are across Australia.

There has been plenty of exciting news to keep us busy as we continue to advocate for the importance and value of languages education. At the same time, we have also heard some concerning news about reductions in the time allocated to languages in some schools. We are continuing to advocate for languages education and support our members by engaging with Ministers and relevant stakeholders across the states and territories.

Miyako Matsui

AFMLTA President



2026/2027 Executive Committee

President: Miyako Matsui

Vice-President: Anne-Marie Morgan

Immediate Past Present: Gillian Cordy

Treasurer: Kylie Farmer

Secretary: Eleonor Palacio

Information Officer: Gary Bonar

Promotions Officer: Janet Schneider



Babel Vol 60, Issues 1-2 is out now, featuring articles on:

- CLIL and the Health and Physical Education curriculum
- making sense and meaning in languages learning- a call for better classroom research
- teachers as co-learners
- experiences of language maintenance in heritage families
- professional learning insights from the 2025 AFLMTA international conference.

Current members of all state and territory Languages Teachers Associations will receive a copy of Babel in the mail. A read-only copy is also accessible via the [AFMLTA website](#).

It's time: Languages improve literacy in English: Responding to NAPLAN data 2026

AFMLTA has pre-published an article which will appear in the next issue of Babel. Written by Gillian Cordy and Anne-Marie Morgan, the article draws on the 2025 NAPLAN data to provide an update on their 2022 article. The authors made the case that students with a language background other than English (LBOTE), in every year

tests were conducted, outperformed those without a background language (monolingual children and students) in every domain of the tests. That is, those with facility in another language were doing better in English literacy and numeracy testing than those without an additional language. [Read the full article here.](#)



Nathan Harvey Legacy Scholarship

We congratulate Colleen Barclay on being the recipient of the 2026 Nathan Harvey Legacy Scholarship.

The Nathan Harvey Legacy Scholarship, sponsored and administered by the AFMLTA, is offered biennially to support involvement in Languages Education professional learning. You can read more about the scholarship [here](#).

Colleen will use the scholarship funds to undertake an eight-week professional learning program in Italy involving an intensive Italian language course and a professional learning and observation program at a sister school, Istituto Comprensivo "G. Borsi" in Castagneto Carducci, Tuscany.



Australian Professional Standards for Teachers

AFMLTA contributed to AITSL's national review of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers through participation in the consultation process and a formal submission representing the perspectives of the languages education profession. The submission highlights the importance of disciplinary professional knowledge, discipline-specific professional learning, professional associations and networks, mentoring, and disciplinary leadership.

Read AFMLTA's submission [here](#).

Asia capability and languages education

AFMLTA has continued its engagement with the Australian Government following the release of Security and Prosperity in Asia: Building Asia Capability in Australia through the Education System and Beyond. AFMLTA representatives met with Chair of Standing Committee on Education, Tim Watts MP to discuss the report's recommendations and priorities for strengthening languages education and Australia's long-term Asia capability.

Australian Curriculum monitoring

AFMLTA participated in an Australian Alliance of Associations in Education (AAAE) briefing with ACARA on its new framework for monitoring and evaluating the F–10 Australian Curriculum. The framework provides opportunities for professional associations, including AFMLTA, to contribute to the ongoing national curriculum monitoring process.

Curriculum provision and time allocation for Languages in the Northern Territory

AFMLTA wrote a letter to Hon. Jo-Anne (Jo) Hersey, Minister for Education and Training, Northern Territory Government to express support of the Language Teachers Association of the Northern Territory (LTANT) with regards to curriculum provision and time allocation for Languages. You can read the letter [here](#).

Languages provision at Deakin University

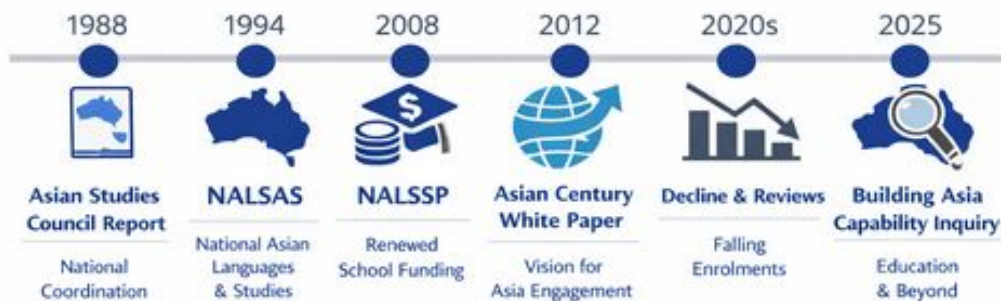
AFMLTA wrote a letter to Prof. Matthew Clarke, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Deakin University, with regards to recent changes to their Languages provision, which sees the phasing out of languages in major degrees and the Diploma of Languages. You can read the letter [here](#).



Participate in the AFMLTA member survey on the Asia Capability report

The AFMLTA welcomes the recent release of the House Standing Committee on Education and Employment's report, Security and Prosperity in Asia: Building Asia Capability in Australia through the Education System and Beyond. The report identifies Asian language education as central to Australia's future security, prosperity and regional engagement. The report highlights fragmented language provision, declining participation, teacher shortages and limited professional support. It recommends sustained investment in teacher development, stronger national coordination and partnerships across education sectors. The report recognises the valuable role of professional associations in supporting teachers and strengthening language education. The AFMLTA informed the inquiry through its submission, contributing expertise on language policy, teacher capability and the systemic reforms needed to build Australia's long-term Asia capability.

Australian Investigations into Asian languages, studies and capabilities (1980s-2025)



The AFMLTA seeks feedback from members via a short survey on the profession's top priority recommendations.

Responses to the survey will inform AFMLTA's ongoing collaboration with the Australian Government towards implementing recommendations, and having our collective voices heard.

Complete the [AFMLTA Member Survey Asia Capability Report](#).

Help map Australia's rich multilingualism!

Researchers from languages, linguistics and demography at the Australian National University are conducting a short survey to better capture the languages spoken and signed across Australia.

If you live in Australia and use a language other than English, please consider completing the survey. Please also share it with your networks.

<https://languagesinaustralia.com/>

Shared on behalf of Professor Catherine Travis FAHA, School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, ANU.



AFMLTA webinar series

Watch past webinars on demand:

- Expert fireside chat with Professor Kathleen Heugh, 2025 FIPLV Award winner in conversation with AFMLTA's Prof Anne-Marie Morgan [HERE](#)
- Languages learning supports Literacy and Numeracy skill development. [HERE](#)
- Using ELLA (Early Language Learning Australia) in Primary Languages Programs (F-2) [HERE](#)
- AFMLTA Support for quality teaching and learning of Languages [HERE](#)

AFMLTA Conference 2027



AFMLTA International
Languages Conference
Sydney, 9-11 July 2027

afmlta.asn.au

26th AFMLTA International Languages Conference, Sydney, July 9-11 2027

Save the date!

Upcoming LTA Conferences & Conferences of Interest

Victoria LTV Conference

Monday 30 November. More info on [website](#)

LCNAU National Colloquium 2026

The Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities (LCNAU) National Colloquium will be held at the Australian National University in Canberra from 23–25 November 2026. With the theme Languages at the Crossroads: Imagining Futures, Bridging Divides, the colloquium brings together educators, researchers, policymakers and community practitioners to explore current and future directions in language and culture education. Link [here](#)

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