



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

August 2021

LOCAL NEWS

1. Community languages in the spotlight in the ACT Legislative Assembly

A motion put to the Assembly by Andrew Braddock, Greens spokesperson for Multicultural Affairs, on 4 August led to a cross-party show of support for ACT community language schools and recognition of the crucial role of linguistic diversity in the development of personal, social and cultural identity. ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Tara Cheyne, noted that a strong foundation and familiarity in a child's mother tongue allows for a deeper understanding of themselves and their community and an increased sense of wellbeing and confidence.

Ms Cheyne also confirmed that the Independent Review of ACT Community Language Schools completed in 2020, together with its recommendations and a government response, would be publicly tabled by 31 October 2021. Since the review touches on several areas of government responsibility, multiple Ministers and Directorates are working together on a cross portfolio response.

The government response will also consider the points Mr Braddock included in section 3a of his motion (For a copy see: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/notice-of-motion.pdf>)

To see and hear the full debate on the motion, which includes an amendment presented by Guilia Jones, ACT Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, see 'Assembly on Demand' at <http://aod.parliament.act.gov.au/> (start at 4.04pm Wednesday 4 August).

UPCOMING EVENTS

2. At the Australian National University (ANU)

a) Open Day - Saturday 14 August from 9am to 4pm

Find out about the wide variety of languages and linguistics courses you can study at ANU at the ANU Open Day.

- Information booths about studies in languages and linguistics will be in the Marie Reay building.
- Registration is essential for in-person attendance, but you can also watch specific information sessions via online live-streaming and on-demand videos.
- More information: <https://openday.anu.edu.au/>

For a list of language programs available at the ANU, many of which are not available at any other university in Australia, see: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options/languages>

b) Diploma of Languages

The Diploma of Languages is a great way to obtain an additional qualification in your chosen language or languages. You can choose to study a wide selection of languages.

- You can apply for the Diploma to commence in semester 1, 2022 through UAC: <https://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/anu/130015.shtml>
- Find out more at the Open Day or email Ashok.Collins@anu.edu.au.

3. Organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA)

a) Raising children in more than one language

- Saturday 14 August, 2pm-4pm
- Auditorium, RSSS Building ANU, Ellery Crescent or online via Zoom
- Bookings essential via [Eventbrite](#)

A free seminar for families, early childhood educators, teachers and others with an interest in bilingual education. Discussion will be led by a panel of parents, young adults who have grown up bilingually, and educators and academics involved in bilingual education. Comments/questions from the audience are encouraged and there are opportunities for informal networking for those attending in person.

More details at <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html>

b) Sharing Languages and Cultures

A free video competition for students in the Canberra Region from preschool to Year 12. Students produce a video of a conversation (maximum length 2 minutes) about a language other than English. This could be a language spoken at home or being learned at school. Cash prizes for three categories: Preschool - Year 2, Years 3 - 6, and Years 7-12.

Closing date: Monday 6 September 2021

More details at <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/news.html>

c) Celebration of languages

- Saturday 16 October 10.30am - 3.45pm
- Gungahlin Library

The day aims to promote awareness of, and interest in, some of the many languages being spoken and learned in Canberra. It will be officially opened by ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs Tara Cheyne and include a series of 30 minute presentations and discussions led by panels sharing expertise and experience in various language-related areas.

Program still in preparation, but mark the date in your diaries and keep an eye on the ACTBEA Facebook page (@ACTBEA) or 'Events' on <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/>

NOTE: These ACTBEA activities all received support from Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc and ACT Government Participation (Multicultural) Grants

4. Organised by the Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of other Languages (ATESOL) ACT

Functional Grammar - Making language come alive for English language learners

- Presented by Libby Baker, Literacy Consultant ACT
- Saturday 28 August 2021, 1.15pm to 4.30pm
- UC SSC Lake Ginninderra College, Belconnen
- Cost: \$20 for ATESOL ACT members, \$40 for non-members

Have you ever wondered how to help your English language learners understand the way English works according to its grammar, but wanted to make this structure come alive for your students?

Libby is a passionate literacy educator and will present a functional perspective on the grammatical structure of English, demonstrating these components in authentic literature and strategies to support students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Bookings and Prepayment ESSENTIAL by COB Tuesday 24 August 2021 through <https://www.atesolact.org.au/events/#Libby>

5. ACT Community Language Schools Association (ACTCLSA)

a) Annual dinner

The ACTCLSA will hold its annual dinner on Saturday 11 September 2021. This significant event promotes communication and cooperation with member schools and shows appreciation of the support of the ACT Government through its policies and commitment to funding of language teaching. There will be performances from member schools and guest speakers. MLAs from all sides of politics will be in attendance.

b) Regular News Updates

From July 2021, ACTCLSA will publish monthly or bi-monthly news updates to ensure timely communication with member schools, playgroups and associate members.

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

6. National Languages Plan and Strategy for Languages Education in Australia.

Have your say in the development of the draft goals to be included in the Plan and Strategy for Languages Education in Australia. Register for one of a series of 1-hour focus groups being held online during August and September.

You can register an Expression of Interest (EOI) via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/national-languages-plan-and-strategy-focus-groups-tickets-161043689009>.

NOTE: the sessions seem only be aimed at teachers, but the website makes it clear that other stakeholders with an interest in languages education in Australia can also submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in a Focus Group.

For more information about this project, which is being managed by the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA) for the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, see <https://nlps.afmlta.asn.au/>

7. Let's imagine 2030. Life is changing, so are libraries.

As part of this project, Libraries ACT wants to hear from Canberrans from culturally and linguistically diverse communities to help our libraries provide resources and services that meet the current and emerging interests and needs of the ACT community.

If you speak another language at home or have parents born outside Australia, please complete the survey at: <https://www.yoursaypanel.act.gov.au/c/a/6cko7jrllimAnA9V1bNPVS>

For more information about the broader project see: www.yoursay.act.gov.au/imagine2030

8. Volunteer tutors needed to help new arrivals with English

The Volunteer Tutor Scheme is part of the Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP), which is funded by the Department of Home Affairs. The Scheme offers support for AMEP students who are unable to attend class. Students are matched with a volunteer tutor who assists them with English language as well as settlement support. Tutors then teach the students for 1 to 2 hours per week at times to suit both parties. It is very flexible. Free training is available for tutors.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, please contact Marcella, the Volunteer Tutor Coordinator, at Marcella.Aguilar@ne.navitas.com or 02 9707 0264

9. The value of languages in a multicultural world

An online international conference organised by the Multilingualism Research Centre at Macquarie University.

- Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 December 2021

In a culturally and linguistically diverse world in which languages are as mobile as people, goods and information, how multicultural societies understand and respond to the value of languages is a key question. The aim of this conference is to address this question at multiple levels of policy and practice.

Call for abstracts for individual presentations and symposia that address issues of multiculturalism and multilingualism now open. Deadline for abstracts: 27 August.

More details at <https://www.multilingualsydney.org/conference-2021>.

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at
<https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>