

# **Growing Up Bilingual in Australia: An Investment Bilingualism Conference**

Thursday, 14 June 2012, 8.30am-4.00pm

The University of Sydney, Eastern Avenue Auditorium

## **Conference Program**

**8.30am-9.00am** - Arrival, Registration Tea/Coffee

**9.00am-9.30am**

- Welcome to Country - Matthew Doyle
- MC Welcome and Housekeeping - Anthony Semann
- Conference Opening - The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP, Member For Marrickville, Shadow Minister for Education and Training
- Opening Remarks - Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis and Carolyn McGuinness

**9.30am-10.30am** - Keynote Address

- *Dr Criss Jones Diaz, Senior Lecturer, Diversity Studies and Language Education, School of Education, University of Western Sydney*

**10.30am-10.45am** - Morning Tea, Exhibitions, Information Stalls, Bilingual Resources/Books

**10.45am-12.15pm** - Panel Discussion

- *Bilingualism, Issues of Concern, Implications for Policy, Practice and Pedagogy* (see below for details of panel members)

**12.15pm-12.30pm** - Launch of Bilingualism and Languages Learning DVD

**12.30pm-1.15pm** - Lunch, Exhibitions, Information Stalls, Bilingual Resources/Books

**1.15pm-2.15pm** - Stakeholders Panel Discussion

- *Bilingualism in Practice* (see below for details)

**2.15pm-3.00pm** - Workshops (see below for details)

**3.00pm-3.15pm** - Afternoon Tea

**3.15pm-3.45pm** - Motivational Speaker, Anthony Semann

**3.45pm-4.00pm** - Closing Remarks and Thanks

## **FURTHER DETAILS**

### **Panel Discussion 10.45am-12.15pm**

Bilingualism - Issues of Concern, Implications for Policy, Practice and Pedagogy

Facilitator: Dr Criss Jones Diaz

*On the panel:*

- Dr Liz Ellis, Senior Lecturer Linguistics, UNE
- Sandra Prouse, Chief Executive Officer, FKA Children's Services
- Deb Mann, Director, SDN, Ngara Nanga, Aboriginal Unit, SDN Child & Family Services
- Nisrine El Choueifati, Speech Pathologist, TICL Program, Bankstown Community Resource Group
- Bharat Rai, Co-ordinator, Inner West Multicultural Access Program, ECCFCSC
- Leanne Gibbs, CEO, Community Child Care/Children's Services Central

- Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis, Executive Director, Ethnic Child Care, Family and Community Services Co-operative

### **Stakeholders Panel Discussion 1.15pm-2.15pm Bilingualism in Practice**

Facilitator: Dr Miriam Guigni

*On the panel:*

- Robert Ruggeri, Principal, Italian Bilingual School
- Samantha Damoulakis, Director, Greek Orthodox Community Child Care Centre
- Lúcia Johns, Association for Brazilian Bilingual Children's Development Inc.
- Vivienne Martin, Connect, Marrickville
- Albert Vella, President, NSW Federation of Community Language Schools
- Oriana Blanco, Bilingual Supported Playgroups Program Bilingualism in Practice

### **Workshops 2.15pm-3.00pm**

#### Languages of Here and There: Growing Up Bilingual in a Post-Colonial Multicultural Society

Presenter: Dr Miriam Guigni

There are a number of complexities about 'being bi/multilingual' in this place that we have come to know as Australia. Bi/multilingualism was a significant part of Australia well before the time of invasion. For this reason, it's useful to think through what being bi/multilingual means in terms of how Australian identities are shaped. By taking a serious interest in the lives of Indigenous peoples on whose land we now live, and the sophisticated complexities of how societies are formed in Indigenous communities, the shaping of Australian identities as bi/multilingual has potential for a different set of politics in terms of language and power.

#### 'Let's Get Practical' - Cultural Inclusion in Practice!

Presenters: Kelera Mar and Lisa Maybury

What is Cultural Inclusion? Is Cultural Inclusion something we do? Do we need to have CALD children and families in our service to be Culturally Inclusive? How do we actively promote the importance of 'bilingualism' and retaining the 'home language' as a key component of Cultural Inclusion? How do we explore achievements and challenges and what are some of the benefits to providing and promoting Cultural Inclusion in our setting? What is the connection between the Learning Frameworks, EYLF and MTOP and Cultural Inclusion?

This session aims to challenge participants to reflect on current practice, identify gaps and barriers and work through practical tools to promote Cultural Inclusion.

#### Negotiating Bilingual Identity for parents, Children and Early Childhood Educators

Presenter: Dr Criss Jones Diaz

This workshop aims to explore the relationship between identity, bilingualism and the use of languages and literacies across various social and cultural contexts. Issues and implications for parents and early childhood educators will be examined.

#### Sing Language - Aboriginal Bilingualism Perspectives

Presenter: Matthew Doyle

A practical workshop where participants will learn a song in a local language and experience how language is used as a tool in Aboriginal culture. This workshop will use an Indigenous language to help participants experience and understand how important language is, and how it is an essential part of Aboriginal culture, in maintaining our connection to our land and stories.

#### Unpacking Cultural Competence - Understanding Our Values

Presenter: Sandra Prouse

This session will explore the skills, knowledge and attitudes that childhood educators demonstrate to support the development of cultural competency in early childhood environments with an emphasis on home language maintenance and bilingualism.