

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update November 2012

1. AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: LANGUAGES

The draft curriculum for F-10 Italian and F-10 Chinese is scheduled to be released for public consultation from December 2012 through April 2013. ACARA encourages participation. It will be the key opportunity for stakeholders in all languages to provide feedback on overarching issues of curriculum design.

The languages for which F-10 Australian Curriculum will be developed by the end of 2013 are:

- *A Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages*
- Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese.

For the majority of languages, one curriculum pathway will be developed to cater for the dominant cohort of learners for that language. For Chinese, pathways are being developed for three learner groups - first language, background, and second language learners. For Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages, a framework is being developed that caters for different learner pathways that also take account of the state of the particular language involved.

To find out more see http://www.acara.edu.au/acara_update_06112012.html

2. PROPOSED INTERPRETERS' ASSOCIATION IN CANBERRA

Interpreters and those interested in training as a community interpreter are invited to a meeting to discuss the need for an **Interpreters Association** in Canberra.

The main purpose of the Interpreters Association would be to

- encourage the provision of interpreter training in the ACT
- encourage the provision of ongoing professional development for interpreters in the ACT
- provide advice and support to community interpreters and a way for them to network.

A preliminary meeting will be held on **Monday 12 November 2012 at 5.30pm** in the Function Room, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre.

Further information: Ailsa Turrell ailsat@netspeed.com

3. POLICIES, PRACTICES AND RESEARCH IN UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

Call for papers, posters and workshop topics for the second colloquium of the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities (LCNAU) to be held at the ANU 3-5 July, 2013.

Deadline for submission Thursday 15 November 2012

Papers on the following topics welcome:

- Contemporary research: language and culture
- Technology Enhanced Language Learning and Digital Humanities
- Culture in the language classroom: defining, using, teaching
- Linguistics in the language classroom: defining, using, teaching
- Innovative practices in the classroom
- Less commonly taught languages at the university (indigenous languages, classical languages, etc.)
- Collaboration across languages: translation, comparative studies and beyond
- Pathways in language learning: transition and retention
- Language policies in practice
- Teacher education
- National curriculum development

There is no registration fee for the colloquium, lunch and refreshments provided, proceedings will be published, papers may be delivered bilingually, Auslan interpreters may be provided by prior arrangement, award for the best paper submitted by a student.

For more details see <http://lcnu2013.cap.anu.edu.au/> or contact lcnu13@anu.edu.au

4. INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATION PRACTICE FOR LANGUAGE STUDENTS – Is this a model the ACT could build on?

A cross-disciplinary research team from Monash University has developed an innovative languages education model by connecting language students with older native speakers.

Such interactions foster community partnerships, embrace cultural diversity and strengthen solidarity between generations across our shared language and culture. The interactions increase students' exposure time to authentic language use, enhance their language proficiency and intercultural understanding. At the same time this model promotes active and positive ageing for an increasing number of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

For more information see <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/intergenerational/> or – if you happen to be in Melbourne on Monday, 26 November - join a workshop from 2.30pm to 5pm, at the Immigration Museum. Contact Ramona Baumgartner on 03 9905 0902 or Ramona.Baumgartner@monash.edu for more details.

5. LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN THE AUSTRALIA IN THE ASIAN CENTURY WHITE PAPER

Among the 25 national objectives for 2025 in the recently released White Paper are:

10. Every Australian student will have significant exposure to studies of Asia across the curriculum to increase their cultural knowledge and skills and enable them to be active in the region.
 - All schools will engage with at least one school in Asia to support the teaching of a priority Asian language, including through increased use of the National Broadband Network.
11. All Australian students will have the opportunity, and be encouraged, to undertake a continuous course of study in an Asian language throughout their years of schooling.
 - All students will have access to at least one priority Asian language; these will be Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Indonesian and Japanese.

For more information see:

<http://asiancentury.dpmc.gov.au/white-paper/executive-summary/25-national-objectives>

There has been much criticism of the lack of funding for many of the White Paper's goals. One area for which new funding has been allocated is the AsiaBound Program which will offer Australian tertiary students grants of between \$2000 and \$5000 to study in Asia, and \$1000 for preparatory Asian language study. For more information see:

<http://minister.innovation.gov.au/chrisevans/MediaReleases/Pages/Morethan10000AustralianstudentsAsiaBound.aspx>

6. THE END OF LINGUA FRANCA ON ABC RADIO NATIONAL

Those of us who have enjoyed the eclectic mix of discussions of language and languages each week in the Radio National program Lingua Franca will be saddened to hear that the program faces the axe in 2013. The theme of language and words will apparently be explored in future on Books and Arts Daily and Weekend Arts.

This is one of a number of programs the ABC is cutting, largely as a result of reduced government funding. For more information see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-09-25/radio-national-plans-program-cuts-to-save-money/4279846>

To voice your opinion on these cuts, visit <http://www.abc.net.au/contact/complain.htm> or email Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, on senator.conroy@aph.gov.au

7. LANGUAGES PROMOTION AT THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) is organising a Languages stall at the National Multicultural Festival on Sunday 10 February 2013. This is a great way to publicise the benefits of language learning and provide information about where skills in various languages, including English, can be learned and developed in the ACT.

If you have any information you would like displayed, or would like to volunteer on the stall for a while to talk to people about language learning, please contact canberrabilingual@gmail.com

Other activities ACTBEA will be coordinating in 2013, with the help of an ACT Government Multicultural Grant include:

- Multilingual games and fun activities as part of the Children's Sanctuary at the National Multicultural Festival, Saturday 9 February 2013
- A Seminar for families raising children in more than one language in February or March 2013. This will provide expert and practical advice and support for parents, grandparents and carers as well as teachers and early childhood professionals who are involved in developing children's skills in more than one language.

For more details about the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance see <http://actbilingual.weebly.com>

8. MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION IN ACT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED

- Katy Gallagher: Minister for Higher Education
- Joy Burch: Minister for Education and Training
- Shane Rattenbury is the new Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

9. UPDATE ON THE MULTILINGUAL INTERACTIVE ARTWORK FOR CIVIC SQUARE

Funded by Canberra Multicultural Community Forum, the artistic team behind *Lingua franca Canberra* has now submitted a design development report.

The next steps for the project include ensuring that the proposed artwork complies with the Civic Square Conservation Plan currently being developed and that there are no hidden problems beneath the proposed site. The team can then finalise the design and we can start raising necessary funds for constructing, installing and maintaining the artwork.

For more information see <http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com.au/>

FEEDBACK ON THESE UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME.

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