

# Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

## March 2013

### 1. RAISING CHILDREN IN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE

**Saturday 23 March, 2pm-5pm, University of Canberra**

A discussion and information session for families, teachers, early childhood educators and others interested in bilingualism and developing children's skills in more than one language.

The seminar includes a discussion led by a panel of parents who are currently raising their children bilingually, older children and young adults who have grown up with more than one language, and professional educators speaking about the role of bilingual programs in formal education and the benefits of mother tongue maintenance.

The seminar is free of charge but bookings are essential. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information see <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html> To book, email [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com)

### 2. LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE ONLINE IN 2013!

You can now access Mango Languages online teaching resources free via the Libraries ACT website at <http://www.library.act.gov.au/eresources/mangolanguages>. All you need is your library membership number and pin number.

Mango Languages teaches practical grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and cultural skills of many languages, including Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dari, Dutch, Farsi, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Pashto, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Tagalog, Tamil, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese.

There are also a series of English Language modules for native speakers of Brazilian, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Spanish, Russian and Turkish.

### 3. IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS IN MANDARIN CHINESE

The Mandarin Community Tutoring Project is a free service coordinated by the Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia Inc. (ALMA), a local non-profit community group. People registered with the project are put in touch with fluent speakers of Mandarin living in Canberra. You then make your own arrangements to meet to practice Mandarin.

The volunteer tutors may be looking for help with English in exchange, or just want to make more friends in Canberra. Many are international students, though others have lived and worked in Australia for some years.

For more information see <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/>

### 4. LANGUAGE ENROLMENTS UP AT ANU IN 2013

Enrolment numbers are good for languages at the Australian National University in 2013. This includes Sanskrit, which has a record 23 students in first year, mostly off-campus, including students from the US and Singapore, and a first ever fifth year group!

For details of the ANU's new Diploma of Languages see <http://students.anu.edu.au/think/dip-lang.php>

## **5. ABS REVIEW OF CENSUS QUESTIONS**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is reviewing eight questions in its five-yearly national census. These include questions on ancestry, Australian citizenship, and country of birth of parents.

The ABS is seeking user input to help it determine which questions to retain and which to exclude from the 2016 Census.

If you use data relating to one or more of these questions, please consider making a submission to the ABS showing:

- how this data is used by you or your organisation
- how this data supports the work of your organisation in responding to a culturally diverse community
- whether there are other data sources for this information.

Submissions are due to the Australian Bureau of Statistics by 31 May 2013. For more details see <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2007.0main+features12016>.

## **6. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT ON LANGUAGE LEARNING AREA IN DRAFT AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - 12 APRIL 2013**

ACARA is encouraging all stakeholders with an interest in languages to provide feedback on the overall Languages Learning Area material. Those with a particular interest in Chinese and Italian are also encouraged to provide feedback on the language-specific content.

See <http://consultation.australiancurriculum.edu.au/> for more details.

Consultation on the draft curricula for the Stage 2 languages (Arabic, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish, Vietnamese) and the draft *Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages* will occur during May-July 2013.

**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>