

Canberra Languages Network

Terms of Reference

Vision: To review emerging issues in languages education on an ongoing basis and establish a consensus among members, as key stakeholders, about recommendations for policy and strategic directions; and to communicate these recommendations to government and the community.

Background: The Community Language meetings were started at the behest of Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) in 2009. They were established so that various groups involved in promoting language maintenance and learning could meet on a regular basis, to share information and encourage and facilitate cooperation across sectors.

The group now meets as the Canberra Languages Network (CLN).

1. Role/Purpose

The role of the Canberra Languages Network is to provide the opportunity for discussion about the current state of language learning across school-based programs, home language learning and external formal and informal language programs.

By exploring links and commonalities in language learning across ACT schools and community, members will be better able to:

- fit ideas about language learning into the wider picture about education in the ACT;
- capitalise on the different strengths of the member organisations;
- strengthen engagement between schools and community;
- promote and support multilingualism and language learning, language maintenance and revival in all contexts, and;
- advocate for the inclusion, incorporation and revival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, including ACT Aboriginal languages such as the Ngunnawal language.

By gathering for regular meetings, group members will be able to work in partnership towards common goals.

2. Term

This Terms of Reference document is effective from 1st January 2020 and will be ongoing until terminated by agreement between all member parties.

3. Membership

The Canberra Languages Network will comprise representatives from the following umbrella organisations:

- ❖ ACT Education Directorate – Universal School Support/Service Design Delivery
- ❖ ACTBEA (ACT Bilingual Education Alliance)
- ❖ CLSA (Community Language Schools Association) Incorporated ACT
- ❖ MLTA (Modern Language Teachers' Association) Incorporated ACT
- ❖ An Indigenous languages organisation
- ❖ Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) Incorporated
- ❖ CMCF (Canberra Multicultural Communities Forum) Incorporated
- ❖ CReLF (Canberra Region Languages Forum)
- ❖ University of Canberra – TESOL and Foreign Language Teaching
- ❖ Australian National University
 - School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific
 - School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, College of Arts and Social Sciences

Member organisations will be solely responsible for nominating their representative to the Canberra Languages Network and for determining the duration of their appointment.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The CLN will allow group members to work in partnership to promote the learning of languages and, in so doing, towards common goals, including:

- improving literacy
- supporting equity and inclusion
- supporting enterprise skills and employability
- improving intercultural awareness and cultural literacy
- supporting interpersonal skills and adaptability

The CLN membership will commit to:

- attending all scheduled Canberra Languages Network meetings and if necessary nominate a proxy.
- championing the network within the context of member organisations.
- maintaining confidentiality of CLN meetings to within member organisations and contexts.
- sharing non-confidential communications and information across all CLN members
- making timely decisions and taking action so as to not hold up projects/initiatives
- notifying members of the CLN, as soon as practical, if any matter arises which may be deemed to affect the development of the Network

Members of the CLN will expect:

- that each member will be provided with complete, accurate and meaningful information in a timely manner
- to be given reasonable time to make key decisions
- to be alerted to potential risks and issues that could impact projects/initiatives, as they arise
- open and honest discussions, without resort to any misleading assertions
- ongoing 'health checks' to verify the overall status and 'health' of the network.

There is the potential to set up a sub-committee to work closely with interrelationships to improve outcomes for languages education in the ACT

5. Meetings

All meetings will be chaired by the ACT Education Directorate representative. Decisions will be made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice). Where this cannot be achieved, the CLN chairperson makes final decision.

Secretariat will be provided by the ACT Education Directorate.

Meetings will be held quarterly for approximately 90 minutes at an agreed venue in the ACT. If required, subgroup meetings will be arranged outside of these times at a time convenient to subgroup members.

6. Amendment, Modification or Variation

This Terms of Reference document may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation with the Canberra Languages Network members.