

Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

May 2014

1. HELP PROTECT COMMUNITY BROADCASTING

One of proposals of the Prime Ministers National Commission of Audit will reduce funding for Community radio, which in the ACT includes 2XX, CMS, Artsound and 1RPH.

Ethnic and multicultural broadcasters on community radio play a major role in Australia by linking new migrants and established communities with each other, their cultures, and the nation, as well as providing information about government services and events. Broadcasts in other languages can also be used to encourage the maintenance and learning of languages and hence the development of Australia's language resources.

Community broadcasting acts as a 'third sector' media and is extremely cost effective. Reduced financial support from the federal government would have disastrous effects. To show your support for community radio you can:

- sign the petition on the website of Gai Brodtmann MP, member for Canberra, at http://www.gaibrodtmann.com.au/protect_community_broadcasting
- visit the community broadcasting's hub for the campaign on this issue at <http://committocommunityradio.org.au> and send an email to Mr Hockey via the link provided.
- pass on this message to your colleagues and networks

2. COMMUNITY INTERPRETER TRAINING

Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) is working with CIT Solutions and AUSIT ACT to run a second course to train community interpreters and prepare them for the NAATI paraprofessional test. We are seeking support from the ACT government from the four years of funding for interpreter training and accreditation mentioned in the ACT's 2013 Budget.

To assist in applying for funding, it would be useful to have some indication of demand – both for the training and for the need for interpreting services in the community. If you are

- interested in taking part in the training and/or
- would like to comment on the need for paraprofessional interpreters in the community

please contact languagesact@gmail.com

3. LANGUAGES POTLUCK

When? Sunday 18 May, 11am – 1pm

Where? Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, North Building, Civic

A fun get-together for families raising children in more than one language and people interested in bilingual education.

- Bring along your favourite foods and recipes to share
- Free activities for children, including storybook reading and songs in Chinese, Japanese and French.
- If you would like to lead a children's activity in another language, please let the organisers know

This activity is being organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, who gratefully acknowledge the support of the ACT government's 2013-14 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program. For more information, see <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/> or email canberrabilingual@gmail.com

4. TALKS TO PARENT GROUPS ABOUT LANGUAGES

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) is planning to offer short talks to parent groups - at both community language schools and mainstream schools – to help promote language learning and support home languages. The overall aim is reinforce understanding of the many benefits to children’s personal, social and cognitive development of knowing another language and to suggest practical ways for parents to assist their children’s learning and to sustain interest in the language.

If you know of a school or a parent group that ACTBEA could contact about hosting a presentation, or would like to help planning these talks, please contact ACTBEA at canberrabilingual@gmail.com

5. PARTICIPATION (MULTICULTURAL) GRANTS PROGRAM 2014

Applications are now open for these grants, which aim to enhance the ACT community through innovative projects that contribute to sustainable communities by highlighting and promoting cultural diversity and social harmony. Locally based community organisations and groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

There are three categories:

- 2015 National Multicultural Festival
- Community Radio Stations and Multicultural Community Broadcasters
- Multicultural Community Participation and Social Harmony

Closing date 11 July 2014. For guidelines and more information, see

http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/services/grants/participation_multicultural_grants_program.

6. OTHER ITEMS FROM THE MAY ACT BILINGUAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE UPDATE

See http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/actbea_update_may_2014.pdf for details

- Vacancies in Tuesday after-school Mandarin class in Belconnen with the Mandarin for Fun group
- Filipino Language School Fun Day (Sunday 18 May, 2 - 4pm)
- Using community radio to support and encourage bilingualism in the ACT region
- Friday night 2XX Mandarin language program, children’s stories and songs and a chance for kids to hear themselves singing or speaking Mandarin on air
- News from bilingual programs in the ACT
 - Mawson Primary School (Mandarin)
 - Yarralumla Primary School (Italian)
 - St Nicholas Greek-Australia preschool and childcare centre (Greek)

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>