



Languages Unit Fact sheet

Curriculum Support and Professional Learning for Languages teachers in NSW

The main focus of the Languages Unit is to support government schools across the State in implementing the Board of Studies NSW Languages K–10 and Stage 6 syllabuses.

Curriculum advice

Our experts can offer quick and informal advice to regions, teachers and parents through phone or email about:

- current languages curriculum issues and research
- practical strategies in curriculum implementation, planning, programming and assessing
- materials and resources for teachers
- professional learning events
- tertiary institutions and universities.

Ongoing support

We can help set up and support curriculum networks by:

- developing and delivering needs-based workshops and presentations
- reviewing resources and professional learning programs
- developing curriculum support materials
- mentoring teachers and establishing teacher networks.

The Languages Unit supports teachers of all languages in NSW schools, including community languages, languages for second language learners, and Aboriginal languages. We support bilingual programs that operate in schools, work with communities to establish languages programs dependent on needs, and work on innovative modes of delivery including online and distance delivery of languages K–12. The Languages Unit incorporates the Saturday School of Community Languages and the Community Languages Program K–6.

We provide advice to and collaborate with other Directorates, State and Federal government agencies, foreign governments, consulates and associated agencies and professional associations, to support teachers of languages in NSW.

2007 achievements

Professional learning workshops: 19 workshops; 637 teachers – focus areas: Stage 6 Languages Beginners Syllabuses, Aboriginal Languages, Quality Teaching, Connected Outcomes Groups (COGs) in K–6, Using Technology in Languages, immersion days and conferences, Vocational learning in languages

Community Languages Induction Program K–6: 12 school principals and 16 community languages teachers

Grants for Insertion classes for 10 375 students in 42 primary schools

Saturday School of Community Languages: 2007 HSC - first place in 19 courses; winner of the International Students Drama Festival in Crete, Greece

Production of training film, *My Language, My Country: teaching Aboriginal Languages in NSW*

Japanese Language (Tanken) Centre: 1230 students learning Japanese through immersion in one day workshops

Exchange programs for 26 students: China and Japan

Overseas Study Awards and Scholarships for 9 teachers

HSC Study days for 1310 languages students

Online learning resources: HSC languages courses and distance education materials for Chinese Stage 5

Teaching Assistants Program: 15 teaching assistants from China, France, Germany, Greece and Indonesia supporting

programs in ten NSW schools

Regional projects: *China Strategy* in Western Sydney Region, *Expanding our Horizons with Asia* in Sydney Region

National project: *Intercultural Language Teaching and Learning in Practice*, with 90 teacher participants from NSW

2008 focus areas include

New prescriptions for HSC Extension and Background Speakers courses

The first HSC in 2008 for eight Stage 6 Beginners courses

The revised Stage 6 Arabic Beginners Syllabus

Regional languages initiatives

Using interactive whiteboards and video-conferencing in the languages classroom

Aboriginal languages resource development.

Contact details

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Websites

Languages K–6
<<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/primary/languages/index.htm>>

Languages 7–12
<<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/languages/index.htm>>