



Where language and culture come together

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

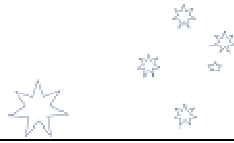
Where language and culture come together

150 Palmerston Street Carlton, Victoria 3053

Telephone (03) 9349 2400 Fax: (03) 9347 7063

Email: afesa@netsol.net.au

ABN 77 674 760 578



MEDIA RELEASE

24 February, 2016

SPEAK MY LANGUAGE – COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS UNITE TO PROMOTE HARMONY AND LANGUGES EDUCATION

Victoria's community languages schools will join together tonight in launching the *Speak My Language* Campaign to reinforce the importance of languages education, cultural maintenance and social harmony.

Over 40 communities will come together at Parliament House at the event organised by Community Languages Australia as part of the UN International Mother Tongue program. The program encourages communities to reinforce the importance of language learning by encouraging students, parents and the community to focus on the importance of learning a language.

The Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Finance, The Hon Robin Scott and Minister for Education the Hon James Merlino will participate and reinforce the Andrew's Government support for languages education and cultural maintenance. The State Government through the Department of Education and Training provides strong support for the community languages school program in Victoria and is a leader nationally.

The State Opposition Multicultural Affairs spokesperson Inga Peulich will attend and reinforce bipartisan support to languages education in Victoria.

"Language is skill that has a range of uses in social, business, diplomatic and community facets of life.

The challenges lie before us today are to encourage young families to take on learning a language with their children, though the Speak My Language program we hope to send a strong message.

The community languages school program is wonderful example of how social harmony works in this State and nationally," Stefan Romaniw Executive Director of Community Languages Australia said

A number of new language ambassadors will also be introduced at the event. The Love of Language website- www.loveoflanguage.com.au, hosts numerous high profile language ambassadors. It is a powerful tool for teachers, schools, parents and communities to use in encouraging languages education.

The *Speak My Language* project builds on the successful *2015 Speak Greek in March* campaign introduced by the Greek community in Victoria,

Details

Speak My Language Launch

Federation Room Parliament House Melbourne

Time 6.00pm

Media contact Stefan Romaniw 0419531255