




## Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Mr Sam Wong  
Chair  
Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc  
PO Box 796  
WODEN ACT 2606

Dear Mr Wong 

Thank you for your letter of 28 January 2008 about language learning in the ACT, and your acknowledgment of my Government's commitment to language education.

My Government recognises that having the ability to speak more than one language is an asset for the ACT, and continues to provide support through the ACT Multicultural Community Language Grants Program.

As you mentioned in your letter, the Government has provided an additional \$300 000 to support the teaching of languages in public schools. This new initiative will provide support to principals and teachers in mainstream primary and high schools, to enable them to deliver a quality languages program. All public schools will be required to offer a languages program to all students from year 3 to year 8 by 2010. This will be in addition to any languages programs already on offer in the early years and in years 9-10. Schools will be required to offer languages for a minimum of 60 minutes per week in years 3-6 and for a minimum of 150 minutes per week in years 7-8.

The Department of Education and Training is nearing the completion of a languages support plan, which will include professional learning for teachers and staffing strategies to build the capacity of schools to offer high quality, sustained languages education from primary to high school. Should you require further information about the education initiatives, please contact Mrs Elizabeth Courtois, Languages Curriculum Executive Officer on 6205 7164 or [Elizabeth.courtois@act.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.courtois@act.gov.au).

Later this year, Minister Hargreaves will be hosting a Multicultural Summit at which a session will be devoted to planning the key directions for community languages in the ACT, and the summit would greatly benefit from the ideas and support of your organisation. I hope you are able to attend.

Thank you for your continued commitment to languages education in the ACT.

Yours sincerely



Jon Stanhope MLA  
Chief Minister

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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