



Mr Robert Randall
General Manager Curriculum
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)
Level 10
255 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

29 April 2011

Dear Mr Randall

The Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA) is pleased to offer feedback to you on the draft Languages Shape Paper for the Australian Curriculum. We strongly endorse the detailed submissions made by the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia (ALAA) and ATESOL NT.

Although not directly a part of ACTA's remit, our councillors and members have read the draft Languages Shaping Paper with interest and have made substantial contributions to these and other submissions and local consultations. We possess significant expertise in the field of languages education and recognise the importance of this curriculum area for many of our immediate stakeholders.

ACTA remains firmly committed to the position that the capabilities and needs of learners of English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) must be acknowledged and addressed in every learning area within the Australian Curriculum. In view of this, ACTA makes the following recommendations with regard to the F-10 Languages Curriculum:

- Learner pathways should be more clearly defined and inclusive of the full range of students in Australian schools and their language backgrounds, particularly those who speak two or more languages (including creoles) or dialects other than Standard Australian English (SAE).
- More consistent recognition should be given throughout the whole document to the fact that many students in Languages classrooms in Australian schools

are learners of English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) and thus are not monolingual English speakers. These students already have both capabilities and needs in relation to languages other than SAE.

- Provision for the teaching of so-called “small” languages should be allowed where appropriate local or community resources are apparent.

We would welcome the opportunity to consult further with ACARA and to collaborate in the ongoing development and implementation of the F-10 Languages Curriculum.

Yours Sincerely

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ACTA President

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