

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT AND COLLABORATION

THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION
AND THE ETHNIC SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



This statement represents a joint commitment between the Department for Education and The Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia. A commitment to maintaining and developing the linguistic and cultural rights of children and young people in South Australia. This was declared at the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

The Ethnic and Community Languages School (ECLS) program is a longstanding and valuable part of languages education in South Australia, and plays an important role in the maintenance and development of languages in the community. The Department for Education and The Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia mutually respect the history of commitment each other has given to this program.

The state government makes available annual funding to support The Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia and the ECLS program to provide languages and cultures learning to South Australian pre-school and school-aged students outside of school hours.

The Hon John Gardner MP
Minister for Education
November 2019

Commitment Statement

The Department for Education and The Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia:

- Value the learning of community languages both educationally and socially to enhance and develop young people's bilingual/multilingual literacies, intercultural capabilities and identities.
- Recognise that languages and cultures shape how people from all backgrounds learn about and interact in the world, and come to understand themselves and each other.
- Recognise the diverse nature of learners in the ECLS program and their differing language learning, educational, social and cultural needs.
- Acknowledge the dynamic and diverse nature of the ECLS program and recognise the different levels of support required in the management, curriculum and resource development of the program, and the professional development of its teachers, instructors and leaders.
- Work collaboratively with openness and respect, to share knowledge, expertise and resources, enable access to mainstream classrooms and ICT infrastructure, and to administer funding for the ECLS program in accordance with government policies and procedures.

Mr Rick Persse
Chief Executive,
Department for Education
November 2019

Areas of Collaboration

The Department for Education and The Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia will work collaboratively to:

- Increase ECLS program provision and participation – including at SACE level.
- Enhance the quality of the ECLS program by supporting curriculum and program development that strengthens effective student participation and learning.
- Build teacher and leader capabilities through access to professional learning programs and initiatives and the sharing of expertise.
- Strengthen the value and recognition of the ECLS program within mainstream schools, language-specific communities and the wider community.
- Strengthen management and administrative procedures to support the ECLS program.

Mr Binh Quang Nguyen
Chairperson, The Ethnic Schools
Association of South Australia Inc.
November 2019

