

Media Release: LCNAU's Third Biennial National Languages Colloquium

30 November 2015

The [Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities \(LCNAU\)](#) conducted its third National Colloquium at Macquarie University in Sydney from 25-27 November. The event was a great success – with academics and researchers from around Australia coming together to share research findings and to foster cohesion and collaboration. Plenary speakers included Prof Anne Pauwels (SOAS, London) who gave the Triebel Lecture (supported by the Australian Academy of the Humanities) on European languages in Britain's higher education sector and Prof David Nunan (Hong Kong University) who focussed on language learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Amongst the many achievements of the colloquium were:

- The official launch of the [University Languages Portal Australia](#) (ULPA) website: ulpa.edu.au. High school and university students and others are now able to access information about language study across Australian universities in a one-stop website.
- The conferral of the first **Patji-Dawes Award** for outstanding achievement in language teaching. Established by the [ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Languages](#) (COEDL) and proudly co-sponsored by LCNAU.

Participants at the colloquium also reiterated their strong support for strong languages education and research at all levels of education in Australia. It was also agreed that LCNAU and the [Australian Federation of Modern Language Teacher Associations](#) (AFMLTA), which had a strong presence at the colloquium, should issue a joint statement about what they consider to be important issues for national discussion and support.

LCNAU and AFMLTA Post-Colloquium Statement

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The [Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities \(LCNAU\)](#) and the [Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations \(AFMLTA\)](#) share the common goal of promoting languages and cultures education across all education levels, and of supporting languages and cultures educators and administrators, as well as students studying and considering languages and cultures education. Many languages educators across the nation are members of both associations.

Shared understandings of the pre-, primary and secondary school, and tertiary languages and cultures teaching contexts is critical to the interests of members of both associations, and to learners at all levels. LCNAU colloquia, AFMLTA conferences and other activities of both associations provide opportunities for collaboration, data and information sharing, and research and teaching strategies to enhance the teaching and learning of languages and cultures in Australia.

Key issues concerning both associations, canvassed at the November LCNAU colloquium, include:

- Improving access to languages offerings at universities and schools;
- Supporting and facilitating the promotion of [University Languages Portal Australia \(ULPA\)](#), which provides students with easy access to information about languages study at Australian universities;
- Seeking enhanced data collection about languages study, which is needed for schools, across jurisdictions in states and territories;
- Understanding better patterns of enrolment in languages courses;
- Promoting the design, the range of languages included and the implementation of the *Australian Curriculum: Languages* in schools, and implications for tertiary study;
- Encouraging government to establish clear and sustainable targets and agendas for languages teaching and learning at all levels;
- Supporting pedagogical shifts in teaching and learning languages from pre-school to tertiary contexts;
- Supporting the place of technology in languages teaching and learning, including distance education;

If Australia is to significantly improve national outcomes in languages education at all levels, then long-term coordinated effort by governments and all other stakeholders, such as LCNAU and AFMLTA, is essential.

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