

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND LANGUAGES COMMITTEE

Role and Functions

The Multicultural Education and Languages Committee (“the Committee”) provides advice to the South Australian Minister for Education and Child Development (“the Minister”) on languages and multicultural education.

The Committee is constituted as a non-statutory committee under section 10 of the *South Australian Education Act (1972)*.

The Committee is responsible for:

- Promoting the teaching of languages in South Australian early childhood services and schools from early childhood through to the completion of Year 12 schooling, with a view to engaging all South Australian children and young people with languages other than English;
- Supporting the preservation of languages and cultures, as expressed in the South Australian ethnic schools system and in other community activities that promote the preservation of languages and cultural diversity;
- Encouraging the internationalisation of teaching and learning in South Australia, by:
 - setting out an international context and vision for South Australian early childhood services and schools
 - encouraging the growth of international perspectives in government and non-government education and early childhood systems, and
 - building stronger relationships with other countries through cultural and student exchanges.

In undertaking this work the Committee will form partnerships with educators, education systems and authorities, early childhood services, schools, tertiary institutions and non-government organisations in South Australia, nationally and internationally. It will engage with students, families and the wider South Australian community.

The Committee will:

- Develop plans, strategies, statements and materials that will promote languages, multicultural education and internationalisation at all levels of the South Australian education and early childhood system;
- Increase awareness and understanding of languages and multicultural education and work to position South Australia as an internationally-focussed education and early childhood system;
- Make recommendations to the Minister on the allocation of funds that may be provided to the Committee for the purposes described above;
- Respond to specific references that the Minister might make to the Committee from time to time; and
- Meet with the Minister at appropriate intervals to report directly on its work and to receive advice from her on its work program.

The Committee’s work will be guided by the SA government’s *Better Together Principles of Community Engagement*.

At the end of each calendar year the Committee shall submit a report to the Minister that outlines its activities and achievements in the preceding calendar year.

Membership

The Committee shall be constituted for an initial period of five years from the date of appointment. The Minister may extend the term of the Committee subject to the findings of a review of the Committee's performance. This review must be finalised before the end of the Committee's five year term.

The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed for an initial term of three years with an option to extend for a further period, subject to Ministerial approval.

Excluding the Chair, membership of the Committee shall be balanced equally between male and female members. Committee members will be appointed for an initial period of two years with an option to extend for a further one or two-year term.

In addition to the above, The Minister may also add an additional co-opted Ministerial Nominee for a set term.

Institutional representation

- A nominee from the Department for Education and Child Development
- A nominee from Catholic Education South Australia
- A nominee from the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia
- A nominee from the University Vice Chancellors' Committee
- A nominee from the SA Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

Minister's nominees

- An independent Chairperson who is able to provide leadership in this dynamic area
- A Deputy Chairperson
- A leading educator with extensive current classroom experience and curriculum expertise
- An educational leader (Principal, Director) with extensive relevant experience and a proven track record in this field
- Two students with relevant experience in mainstream and ethnic schools, at least one of which comes from a government school
- An Early Childhood/Preschool Director
- A parent
- An Aboriginal person with relevant professional and personal experience
- A Community representative from one of the more recently arrived migrant groups who is strongly connected with the ethnic schools network
- Co-opted Ministerial Nominee (at the Minister's discretion).

Meetings and Procedures

The committee shall meet at least six times a year.

The Committee may form subcommittees or working parties that will meet between formal meetings of the full Committee.

The Chair may pursue decisions from members between formal meetings through appropriate out of session protocols.

All meetings must be conducted by the Chair in accordance with appropriate standards for boards and committees meetings.

In the event that the Chair is absent from a Meeting, the Deputy Chair will undertake the role in the Chair's absence.

Formal minutes will be taken at each meeting. These minutes must be authorised by the Chair and referred to the Minister for her information once they are finalised.

A quorum shall be comprised of a majority of Committee members – that is when no fewer than eight members (including the Chair) are present.