# Teaching and Learning Languages

## A Guide

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## Disclaimer

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# Foreword

The Australian Government is committed to languages education in Australian schools and recognises the important role it plays in equipping young Australians with the knowledge, skills and capabilities to communicate and work with our international neighbours.

The Government is making a substantial investment in Australia's schools. The new National Education Agreement will provide $18 billion to the states and territories over the period 2009 to 2012, offering flexibility to target resources towards key areas such as languages education.

The development of *Teaching and Learning Languages: A Guide* represents a key part of the Government's commitment to support teachers in delivering quality language education programs for all young Australians.

Learning a language should involve understanding how languages and cultures are a fundamental part of people's lives. Teaching languages from an intercultural perspective improves the engagement and learning outcomes of students of languages in Australian schools.

This Guide is a multi-modal package that is accompanied by a series of web-based materials which provide online practical examples of how the principles for developing intercultural language learning outlined in this Guide can be incorporated in language education. The online examples are drawn from the work of experienced language teachers who are working to implement new ways of teaching and learning in their classrooms.

This Guide is a significant new resource for teachers, schools and communities, which can be used to create inspiring language learning environments.

It will give students the opportunity to come to understand their own place in the world through their language learning, and will help them to use their learning to develop Australia's economic, social and cultural relations in an increasingly globalised world.

I commend this Guide and hope teachers will find it useful in their language teaching endeavours.

*Julia Gillard*

Julia Gillard
Minister for Education

# Acknowledgments

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