

(新聞稿)

## 就當局徵詢各界對語文教育看法 華人服務社提呈建議書建言建力

不久前，新州教育廳對州的語文教育政策開展評述工作，就此誠邀公眾人士以建議書的形式，參與這項評述工作。作為一家管理了 20 多年週末社區語言學校的社區機構，華人服務社也呈交了一份建議書，為此次評述工作做出貢獻。

在其建議書中，服務社表示：原則上支持州教育廳所提出有關語文教育評述討論稿中的六點意見；但是同時認為這些意見過於一般化、缺乏細節。雖然早些時候聯邦政府發佈了“亞洲世紀下的澳洲”白皮書，卻很少有證據證明政府在外語教育政策上有投入什麼資源，無論是聯邦政府還是州政府都是如此。

服務社呼籲主管部門增加對外語教育的投資，以實現我們這個國家未來所需要的、可持續長久的發展目標。服務社建議建立超黨派有共識的外語教育戰略，以便在聯邦和州議會裡，政府都能得到執政黨和反對黨的共同支持；同時，應該促使工商業界意識到聘用具有雙語能力職員的好處、優勢和重要性，並糾正海外在認識澳洲事的一個偏差，就是澳洲的員工所擁有的亞洲知識和語言能力，都是很低的。

在此建議書裡，服務社引述可靠來源所提供的數據，指出在未來的 30 年裡，澳洲人口的 50%將需要能熟練地掌握一種亞洲語言，不然將面臨落後於其他國家的危險。在上世紀 50 年代，亞洲國家只貢獻了全球 GDP 的 20%；到 2013 年這個比例已增加到 40%；到 2050 年將至少增加到 50%。其中大部分的增長來自中國、印度、韓國和日本。對於澳洲來說，機會是無限的，只要能夠集中力量，發展其亞洲語言能力和人與人之間的交流溝通網絡和技能，借助文化和歷史上所有的承接性。

根據不久前的一項審計，僅僅在新州目前就缺少了 2,500 名亞洲語言教師；主管部門需要即刻在多方面作努力，才能迎頭趕上解決問題。因此，服務社呼籲教育廳提供語言學習的動力、調整選課分類體系，鼓勵更多的學生選擇亞洲語言課程。一個有效的、對政府的額外支出又會很少的政策，就是州政府可以宣佈，一位學生在週末去社區語言學校學習一種外語，可以算作為參加了受認可的課外活動，將為報讀精英中學的參考條件之一。

華人服務社在其建議書中對加強外語教育的政策，還提出了許多其它的意見和建議。有興趣獲得更多詳情的人士，請致電服務社秘書彭廣明先生，0412 512 027；或致電義務執行董事潘南弘先生，0424 822 628，以便索取服務社建議書影本或者進一步討論此事。服務社正在安排將其建議書放置在其管理的啟思中文學校的網頁上 ([www.casschineseschool.org.au](http://www.casschineseschool.org.au))，以方便公眾人士下載。

(News Release)

## CASS Lodged Submission Contributing Suggestions For The Inquiry To Review Language Education Provision In NSW

Recently, the NSW Board of Studies has invited the public to take part via submission in its review of the provision of language education in the State. As a community organisation with more than 20 years of experience in the provision of weekend community language classes, CASS has made a submission to contribute to the Review.

In its submission, CASS supported in principle the six proposals referred in the Board of Studies' Discussion Paper on Languages Review, however, it said that these proposals were too broad and lacking in details. Even though there was the White Paper on "Australia in the Asian Century" released by the Federal Government earlier, there has been little evidence of investment in language education by Governments in Australia, States and Federal alike.

CASS calls on the authorities to increase investment in language education to achieve a viable long term objective required for the future of this country. It suggested that there should be a common language strategy and bipartisan approach both at Federal and State level, as well as sensitising the general business sector to grasp the advantage and importance of employing bilingual staff, correcting the overseas perception that Australia workforce has low level of knowledge of Asia and its languages.

Quoting from respected source, CASS cited that Australia needed 50% of its population to be fluent in an Asian language within 30 years or risked falling behind other countries as in 1950s Asia contributed one fifth of world GDP only, and by 2013, two fifth, and by 2050, it is expected to be half of the global GDP. Most of the growth will come from China, India, Korea and Japan. There are enormous potential opportunities for Australia if it focuses on and develops its Asian language capabilities with our people to people communication networks and skills, encompassing the cultural and historical links.

A recent audited result, it shows that there is a shortage of 2,500 Asian language teachers in NSW at present, and there is a lot of "catch up" to do by the Authorities. Hence, CASS calls on the Board of Studies to provide incentives for language study and adjust its rating system to encourage more students to take the language subjects. An effective strategy involving very little costs to the Governments but which would enable a quick response in stimulating language study is for the State Government

to announce that studying of a language at a weekend community language schools to be an extra-curricular activity taken into account when students are applying for places in Selective high Schools.

There are many other suggestions made by CASS in its submission in enhancing language education. For those people interested to know the details, they can call the Secretary of CASS, Mr. Tony Pang, on 0412 512 027, or its Honorary Executive Director, Mr. Henry Pan, on 0413 100 900 to ask for a copy of the CASS Submission or to discuss the matter further.