



NSW FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS
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TERM 3

24 JULY 2013

Dear Members

Welcome back to a new school term and hopefully you all enjoyed your school holidays. We had a very exciting end to Term 3 and Term 4 should also be just as important with the annual State Conference being planned for the next school holidays.

2013 Annual Dinner

I would like to thank the Hon. Marie Ficarra MLC for organising the Certificates of Commendation for Community Language Schools. At our Annual Dinner on Saturday 15 June we had the pleasure to distribute 72 of these certificates to personally acknowledge the work of the community language schools.

The Annual Dinner was a huge success with 440 people attending this very important event. I must say it was a very positive evening with everyone enjoying the entertainment, speeches and presentations. We had 35 language groups attend. It is functions such as this that allow our community language schools to raise their profile.

The Federation is truly appreciative of your support and we are making gains for all our schools.

Community Language Schools - Per Capita Grant funding

I have made some enquiries on behalf of the Federations membership about the Per Capita Grant for community language schools and I like to inform you that it will be increased again this year. The C.P.I increase will be based on 2.8% of the \$61.80 - this component is part of the NSW Government's contribution to the Per Capita Grant funding. The funding is increasing to ensure we can provide better resources for our students.

2013 Community Language Schools Annual State Conference

On Saturday 5 October, the Federation is organising the 2013 Annual State Conference for Community Language Schools. We encourage teachers and management committees to attend this conference to ensure your language and community have a voice.

The aim of the conference is to highlight community language school education, to provide attendees, management committees and teachers with professional development training and, just as important, to network with other schools and communities.

Internet and Electronic "Smartboard" Access

The Federation is lobbying the Minister of Education and the Minister for Communities and Citizenship to grant community language schools access to these very important teaching facilities.

We need your community language school to meet or write to your mainstream host school to request access to the internet and electronic "smartboards".

The Federation will organise training for your teachers on how to use the electronic "smartboards" if you are granted access. Please explain that your teachers will be trained and given certificates to show that they are competent, capable, and confident to use this new technology which is now a fundamental teaching resource in language education.

If the principal of the mainstream school has any enquiries about the training, they may wish to contact the Federation's Education Officer Alex Di Prinzio.

Student supervision and safety

Your school should have in place policies and procedures dealing with student supervision and safety.

A very important part of running a school is student welfare and it is vital that students are supervised before, during and after school.

Some important points to remember and ask

* What time your school officially opens and what time students start to arrive. Are they supervised?

* During morning tea, lunch or recess are they supervised by trained staff?

* Are the students in a safe area within the school?

* When students go to the toilet during class are they supervised or escorted by a qualified person?

* When your school finishes, where are students dismissed from e.g. classroom or playground?

* Who is picking up the children?

* Is your school secure to prevent strangers getting access?

* What happens in an emergency?
Do you have?

a) An emergency action plan to lock the school?

b) A list of contact phone numbers and where can emergency services like police or ambulance can access your school after hours?

We hope that you never have to use these emergency plans but over the years, there have been times when student and staff have been injured, so please be prepared and aware!

Community Language Schools Program requirements

We have had some discussions with the officers from the Community Language Schools Program and part of the funding requirements is to have the correct documentation submitted to the Community Language Schools Program to ensure the funding for your school is processed on time.

Please check the following list to ensure your school has handed all the updated documents requested by the CLS Program.

- Insurance (Public Liability Insurance Certificate)

- Teacher Profile forms (updated) especially when teachers have done training and your school has new teachers

- Copy of relevant teaching teachers qualifications

- Banking details - name of Bank, BSB number, name and number of account

- If there are changes in management committee members, please notify the Community Languages Schools Program

You can contact the Community Language Schools Program to update any relevant information as soon as possible.

Working with Children Checks

Most of you will know that the new Working with Children Check started its phasing in this year. Seminars were organised by us both at the Annual Conference last October as well as in local sessions throughout the city.

These Working with Children Check changes are important and are likely to affect many of our schools (depending on the employment status of your teachers) so I urge you to visit the web site

<http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/Working-with-children/New-Working-with-Children-Check> to find out exactly where your organisation stands in relation to their status.

The registration procedure has also changed so please ensure you visit the web site for clarification.

Schoolkids Bonus -

July payments have started

The Federation has been asked to contact our member schools and ask you to inform your student's parents or carers about the current Schoolkids Bonus Scheme. Please inform the families in your school and remind them to check if they are entitled to these payments.

The second instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus is currently being

paid to eligible families to help lighten the load of mid-year school expenses. The payment, of up to \$205 for each child in primary school and up to \$410 for each child in secondary school, will be a welcome relief to parents who need to top up their children's school supplies before returning to school for Term Three.

It is being paid automatically into eligible families' bank accounts, so they have the money on hand when they need it.

As the Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund in 2013, parents can no longer claim education expenses through their 2012-13 Income Tax Return.

Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A as well as young people in schools receiving Youth Allowance and others receiving certain income support or veterans' payments are eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus.

Any families who haven't received the payment by 18 July, but think they are eligible, should contact Centrelink.

To check whether you are eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus or to find out more, please visit:

www.australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

With kind regards



Albert Vella
President - NSWFLS