



Newsletter December 2023



As we approach the end of another successful year, we would like to extend our warmest holiday wishes to each and every one of you. It's the season of joy, reflection, and gratitude, and we wanted to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your unwavering support and dedication to the cause of promoting language education in our diverse communities.

President's message



1 - Lúcia Johns, President

Dear Member Schools and Community Language School Organisations,

As the holiday season approaches, we hope you find time to relax and cherish moments with your loved ones. May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and renewed energy for the year ahead.

I also wish to extend my special thanks to all the mainstream schools principals and deputy principals for their longstanding support in hosting community language schools, some for over five decades.

Special gratitude goes to Mr. Murat Dizdar, NSW Secretary for Education, his support, guidance, and assistance have been invaluable over the years.

The NSW Federation of Community Language Schools is a non-profit organization with a mission to unite communities through language promotion and accessibility.

Our focus is on children, embracing their family heritage, language, and culture.

Throughout the year, we offer workshops, courses, and training, including governance and First-Aid courses, with over 5000 individuals trained in the past three years.

We aim to support community language schools, foster collaboration among diverse communities, and improve communication between mainstream and community schools.

It's important to note that community language schools must meet specific curriculum and teaching hour requirements to be part of the Community Language School Program. We're committed to help fulfill these requirements.

We encourage schools to involve community language schools in their events, as they are integral to the broader school community. Our volunteers and teachers are dedicated professionals, passionate about preserving their community's language and culture. By working together, we can achieve mutual understanding and create better outcomes for all involved.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Lúcia Johns

President on behalf of NSWFLS management team.

You can count on the Federation as a channel of communication, we are here to assist you to work with your community language school and to enjoy the mutual benefits that come from the relationship.

From CEO's desk



Much **has been** achieved in these 6 months.

I would like to thank all member schools, who without their active involvement the Federation could not be the vibrant organisation that it is today. Only by working together, we can achieve more for community language schools in NSW.

As valued members of the Federation, your school enjoys a range of significant benefits:

1. **Discounted and Free Access to Leading-edge Events:** Federation members receive substantial discounts, and in some cases, free access to our top conferences, seminars, and workshops.
2. **Advocacy and Collaborations:** We actively collaborate with both State and Federal Governments, as well as departments and agencies like Multicultural NSW. Our successes include advocating for an increase in the State Per Capita Grant from \$133 to \$200 per student per year, which was announced and finally received this year. We secured \$10.9 million from the State Government to upskill teachers and other essential initiatives. In 2019, our successful efforts led to the allocation of \$10 million nationally for community language schools. The latest success is through the Federal Government that there will be \$15 million nationally to all community language schools, announced at our conference.
3. **Access to World Experts:** The Federation provides teachers with a unique opportunity to learn from renowned experts in language teaching and learning. These experts include Professors Stephen Krashen from the US, Terry Lamb from the UK, Beniko Mason from Japan, Joseph Lo Bianco from Australia, and many others.
4. **Community Events:** Each year, the Federation organizes major community events for members, such as the Annual Gala Dinner, attended by over 1000 people from various language communities in NSW. Member schools can showcase their students' talents at our events.
5. Our latest edition is community languages schools spectacular which started this year and it will continue as a major event were all our schools could showcase their students talents.
6. We continue with the free access to our learning management system ADDITIO.
7. Our members have enjoyed two consecutive years free public liability insurance.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the NSW Government for the support given to our Federation through Multicultural NSW and the NSW Department of Education and Training – Community Language Schools Program.

On behalf of the New South Wales Federation of Community Language Schools Incorporated, I encourage you to continue your language learning journey in the coming year.

Mr Murat Dizdar, Secretary of the Department of Education with Lúcia Johns, our President.



The Principals Forum/ Dinner was held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Petersham RSL. It was a successful event with the Secretary of the Department of Education, Mr Murat Dizdar, and specifically for those schools that host an out of school-hours community language schools funded through the Community Language Schools Program. Principals and vice principals from main

stream schools who host community language schools were invited and recognized for their invaluable support.







Community Languages Teachers Conference and Professional Development Training Day opportunities by our Education Officer, Alex Di Prinzio



Special thanks to the students of our community language schools, congratulating them on their language learning journey. Learning a language can provide advantages both in academics and future career prospects.

Essential part of this edition, community language schools showcasing their fantastic work.













2024 MAJOR EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES

1. PREMIER'S HARMONY DINNER MARCH 2024

2. *Community Languages TEACHERS CONFERENCE and Professional Development Training Day, Saturday 20 April 2024*
 3. *Community Language Schools SPECTACULAR, Sunday 2 June 2024*
 4. *Principals' and Management conference on Governance, Saturday 8 June 2024*
 5. *Community Languages Specific Conference in Chinese, Saturday 12 October 2024*
 6. *Federation's Annual GALA DINNER, Saturday 23 November 2024*
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Workshops and Network get-together opportunities...



First Aid and CPR training opportunities



February 25, 2024

March 24, 2024

April 28, 2024

May 26, 2024

June 23, 2024

August 25, 2024

September 29, 2024

November 3, 2024

We look forward to continuing our journey together in 2024 and beyond. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication.



*Happy
Holidays!*

As we conclude another year, NSWFCLS extends warm wishes to all members, teachers, students, and their families. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, we hope you have a joyful festive season and a Happy New Year. May the coming year bring prosperity, growth, and continued success in promoting language and culture within our communities.

Please note that the office will be closed from Friday 15 December 2023 and will reopen Monday 29 January 2024.