

FORUM: Mandarin Education in the ACT: Pathways to Proficiency
Saturday 10 August
Australian National University, Canberra

DRAFT PROGRAM

MORNING SESSION (by invitation only)

0830 – 0900 Tea coffee, Registration

0900 – 0930 Welcome, outline of program, introductions,
Keynote Address: *Andrew Leigh MP, Federal Member for Fraser*

0930 – 1015 Session 1: Overview of current situation

(Dr Jane Orton, University of Melbourne for national picture; Dr Mandy Scott, ALMA, for local picture; Dr Carol Hayes, ANU, Japanese language education)

1. What is the current state of Mandarin education in ACT (public, private and community schools – pre-primary to tertiary level)?
2. How does this compare with the national situation for Mandarin?
3. How does this compare with the situation of Japanese in schools?

1015 – 10.45 Discussion

What have we learnt from the current situation of Mandarin and Japanese how will this inform our way forward?

10.45 – 11.15 MORNING TEA

11.15 – 11.30 Introduction to the working groups: To demonstrate and build on the quality and proficiency outcomes of Mandarin programs in the ACT

11.30 – 12.45 Working Groups

1. Language policy and resources

(Panel: Dr Felicia Zhang, UC, Dr Jane Orton, University of Melbourne, Monica Scully, Principal Huntingdale Primary Bilingual School (Japanese), Melbourne; Amanda Andrews, Principal Mawson Primary School; community language school representatives).

- Teacher training and quality: how to train teachers of Chinese to primary and secondary students?
- How can curricula be coordinated to allow progression between schools?
- What are the main features of successful immersion/bilingual programs?
- What is the contribution of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning)?
- What is the contribution of community language schools, after school or other programs, and how can the various sectors support each other?

2. Curriculum and content development

(Panel: Chad Birks and Gesar Temur, both Mandarin teachers in mainstream schools in the ACT; Carol Jones as a parent; Dawna Leung, Mandarin Stars, Sydney; Grazia Scottelaro, Educational Technology Advisor, ANU; community language school reps)

- How to develop teaching materials that are relevant and consistent with each other?
- ICT: how to use technology effectively to support teachers?
- How can proficiency be measured?
- What is the contribution of community language schools, after school or other programs, and how can the various sectors support each other?

12.45 – 1.45 LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION 1.30-3.30pm

(Open to parents, community language school teachers who teach Saturday mornings, Mandarin language students, and anyone else with an interest in Mandarin teaching and learning)

1.30-1.45 Registration for afternoon session

1.45 – 2.15 Highlights of morning discussions and outcomes

- Reports from working groups on actions to be taken, commitments and time frames

2.15 –3.15 Open forum

- Examination of how to increase interest in learning and continuing to learn Mandarin at both regular and community language schools
- Discussion of how to encourage language maintenance amongst heritage speakers of Chinese

3.15-3.30 Close: Summing up, thanks, acknowledgments

For more information and to register your interest in attending, contact:
Mandy Scott on 0408 089 235 or email canberraalma@gmail.com
by Monday 5 August