



# National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program

## Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund **INFORMATION PACK—ROUND ONE 2009**

### **1 Overview**

The purpose of this document is to assist eligible organisations to apply for a grant under the Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund (the Partnership Fund).

Through the Partnership Fund, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is seeking expressions of interest from suitable organisations to undertake high quality, strategic projects that seek to encourage the teaching and learning of Chinese (Mandarin), Indonesian, Japanese and Korean and studies of these cultures in Australian schools.

This document should be read in conjunction with the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program Guidelines (Program Guidelines).

### **2 Background**

The Australian Government has committed funding of \$62.4 million over 2008–09 to 2010–11 for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP). The NALSSP commenced on 1 January 2009.

The objective of the NALSSP is to significantly increase the number of Australian students becoming proficient at learning the languages and understanding the cultures of our Asian neighbours—China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea. It also aims to increase the number of Asian language classes offered in schools, increase the number of qualified Asian language teachers and develop a specialist curriculum for advanced language students.

The aspirational target for the NALSSP is that, by 2020, at least 12 per cent of students will exit Year 12 with a fluency in one of the target Asian languages sufficient for engaging in trade and commerce in Asia and/or university study.

### 3 Key Challenges

A number of key challenges have been identified to meet the objectives and the 2020 aspirational target of the NALSSP. These challenges include:

- a shortage of qualified language teachers
- decline in student, school, parental and community value for language learning
- insufficient time allocated to languages learning in schools
- lack of ability to study languages continuously and sequentially
- bias of students against studying a language because of the fear in competing against native speakers and the perceived negative impact of language study on tertiary entrance scores
- lack of requirement to include studies of Asia across the curriculum in any jurisdiction
- need for teachers of studies of society and environment, English and the arts to develop knowledge, skills and understanding about Asia.

### 4 Key Result Areas

To achieve success in the NALSSP, three key result areas have been identified (as outlined in Part 1.5 of the Program Guidelines):

1. *Flexible delivery and pathways*

Ensuring primary and secondary schools are equipped with enabling infrastructure and resources that support the quality teaching and learning of Asian languages and studies of Asia, and strengthening strategic partnerships and networks between schools, universities, higher education providers, businesses and Asian communities to support and add real world experiences to the teaching and learning of Asian languages.

2. *Increasing teacher supply and support*

Ensuring there is an increased and maintained supply of quality teachers of Asian languages and studies of Asia.

3. *Stimulating student demand*

Ensuring that students are aware of the benefits of studying Asian languages and studies of Asia.

### 5 Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund

The Partnership Fund is a key element of the NALSSP. It offers organisations, including universities, higher education providers, businesses and Asian communities with an opportunity to bid for funding to undertake activities that will promote the advantages of studying one of the four identified Asian languages and Asian culture.

The Government will make a total of \$9.36 million available over three years for the Partnership Fund, to be delivered through annual competitive funding rounds.

The application process for Round One will be conducted in two stages, comprising a call for expressions of interest (Stage One) followed by successful organisations being invited to submit a full application (Stage Two). It is anticipated that funding agreements with funding recipients will be entered into during July–August 2009.

## 5.1 Key priorities

The key priority areas for Round One of the Partnership Fund are:

- i. Projects that involve strategic partnerships and delivery coalitions between organisations in the teaching and learning of the four Asian languages and studies of Asia. For example, this could involve partnerships in developing centres of excellence, courses of study for students, or teacher training courses in Asian languages or studies of Asia.
- ii. Projects that identify strategies to increase language teacher supply and support, including recruitment and pre-service training of teachers.
- iii. Projects that stimulate student demand and create incentives for students to study one of the four identified Asian languages, particularly at the senior secondary level.
- iv. Projects that use technological infrastructure or applications in the teaching and learning of the four Asian languages and studies of Asia.

## 5.2 Collaboration and partnerships

Organisations applying for a grant under the Partnership Fund are encouraged to work collaboratively to maximise the impact of NALSSP activities. For example, this could involve a partnership between a university and the business sector seeking to establish a program to promote increased employment opportunities for students studying an Asian language, a consortium of universities both in Australia and in Asia, a partnership between a university and a cluster of schools, or a partnership between a local Asian community organisation and a vocational education and training provider.

# 6 Applying for Funding

## 6.1 Eligibility

Organisations, including universities and other higher education providers<sup>1</sup>, vocational education and training providers<sup>2</sup>, businesses and Asian communities may apply for a grant under the Partnership Fund.

In order to be eligible to receive a grant under the Partnership Fund, an organisation must be capable of entering into a funding agreement with the Australian Government. Funding applicants must be a body corporate and must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) which is registered for GST.

Individual schools or clusters of schools are not eligible for funding under the Partnership Fund. However, schools are not precluded from partnering with other organisations applying for a grant. Direct support for schools is provided through the *Becoming Asia Literate: Grants to Schools* component of the NALSSP. Further information regarding the Grants to Schools is available on the NALSSP website at [www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NALSSP](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NALSSP).

## 6.2 Consortia

DEEWR will accept applications from consortia. DEEWR requires that consortia appoint a lead member who is authorised to deal on behalf of all members of the consortia. For the purposes of the expressions of interest, all consortia members must clearly be identified and the identity of the lead member must be clear.

<sup>1</sup> Institutions listed in Table A and Table B of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and self-accrediting and non self-accrediting higher education providers registered on the Australian Quality Framework Register.

<sup>2</sup> Technical and further education institutions or other registered training organisations that provides vocational education and training.

### 6.3 Demonstrated need

There is no single model for projects that may be funded under the Partnership Fund. However, organisations seeking a grant under the Partnership Fund must:

- clearly demonstrate a need for the project
- explain how the proposed project supports the objectives of the NALSSP
- demonstrate that it aligns with one or more of the three key results areas—(1) flexible delivery and pathways; (2) increasing teacher supply and support; and (3) stimulating student demand.

Projects that will be invited to proceed to Stage Two will:

- be consistent with the objectives of the NALSSP and the key result areas
- be developmental, pilot or introductory in nature
- show potential to produce findings that have wider applicability and scalability to achieve systematic impact
- be capable of being sustained beyond the project's period of funding.

### 6.4 Funding range

Grant allocations will vary in accordance with the scope and nature of specific projects.

Projects with a total estimated budget of **up to \$500,000** (GST exclusive) will be considered. Applicants should be mindful that the degree to which the proposal represents value for money forms part of the assessment criteria. The level of funding approved will be subject to the assessment of the grant proposal by DEEWR.

Applications for recurrent funding will not be considered under the Partnership Fund.

### 6.5 Project duration

Projects must be completed within 24 months of the commencement date. This includes the presentation of the final report to DEEWR.

If an application for a grant under the Partnership Fund is successful, the Government will expect work to commence within a reasonable time.

### 6.6 Non-approved use of grant funding

Grants are not available for the following purposes:

- Capital expenditure in real property and projects which have a primary focus on major building works (including the purchase and construction of premises).
- Purchase of assets with a value over \$5000 (GST inclusive) unless specifically agreed to by DEEWR in approving the grant.
- Proposals from organisations seeking to commercialise or promote particular products for profit.
- Projects in which the NALSSP component is incidental to the broader aim of the proposed project.
- Funding of completed projects or recurrent funding of projects.
- Travel which is not directly related to achieving the outcome of the project.

## 7 Selection Process

### 7.1 Stage One: Expression of Interest

- a. Expressions of interest must be submitted on the appropriate application form available on the NALSSP website.
- b. One paper copy signed by the authorised person from the organisation and one electronic copy (in Word, pdf or rtf) are required.
- c. The closing date for expressions of interest is no later than **5.00pm** Australian Eastern Standard Time on or before the closing date of **Friday, 17 April 2009**.

Expressions of interest must be submitted electronically (in Word, pdf or rtf) to [nalssp@deewr.gov.au](mailto:nalssp@deewr.gov.au) and by post to the Program Coordinator (see address below). It is acceptable to submit an electronic version of your signed application form by 5.00pm on the due date, if the original is express posted on the same day.

**Late applications will not be accepted.**

- d. Expressions of interest will be assessed against the following assessment criteria as outlined in Part 3.5 of the Program Guidelines:
  - i. the extent to which the proposal relates or will achieve the NALSSP objectives
  - ii. alignment with the three key result areas and the key priorities as identified at section 3.2 of the Guidelines and on the NALSSP website, and
  - iii. the feasibility of the proposal, the resources applied and the degree to which the proposal represents value for money.

Please note that in assessing your Expression of Interest, the information may be shared with other Commonwealth, state and/or local government agencies, organisations and individuals, including those you identify in the Expression of Interest, to substantiate any claims or statements that you make, to verify the capacity of your organisation to manage Commonwealth funds and for general comments on the viability of your proposed project.

- e. Proposed projects that meet the Partnership Fund's key priorities and assessment criteria to a high degree and warrant further consideration will be invited by the Department's delegate to submit a full application (Stage Two) for a grant under the Partnership Fund.

Only organisations that are invited to submit a full application will be considered. Full applications must be based on the project that is proposed in the Expression of Interest.

## 8 Further Information

For further information, please refer to the Program Guidelines.

Contact details for the Program Coordinator are:

Program Coordinator, Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund  
Languages and Asian Studies Section  
National Curriculum Branch, Loc 141  
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
GPO Box 9880, Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6240 7982

Email: [nalssp@deewr.gov.au](mailto:nalssp@deewr.gov.au)

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