Why Learning a Second Language Is Important

The Victorian Government is developing a new Languages Strategy for release in 2010, a key commitment of the *Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development 2008*. The *Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development 2008* is a comprehensive five year plan that brings together the Department's new vision and mission, along with a number of challenging goals and strategies to help improve outcomes for all young Victorians. Areas of focus include expanding the resources and opportunities for improving outcomes in languages amongst other subjects.

Global integration, international mobility and technological advancements have heightened the need to develop active and informed citizens. More than ever before our young people need to have the skills to relate and engage within and across cultures at local, regional and global levels.

Why learning languages is important?

Learning a language:

- develops an understanding of how languages work which leads to improved literacy skills, including English literacy
- helps students develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills
- teaches students about other peoples, their ideas and ways of thinking
- inspires interest in and respect for other cultures
- enhances employment and career prospects
- contributes to social cohesiveness through better communication and understanding
- contributes to economic, diplomatic and strategic development.