

media Q and A

Re Changes to the NT School of Languages

DEET Web Site Information

December 2006

STUDENTS QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Will students currently enrolled in the NTSOL have access to language classes?

After hours classes will still be subsidised but there will be a small increase in fees to assist in delivery costs. The fee structure will be determined in January 2007.

What will happen to senior students currently enrolled at the NTSOL?

Senior classes will continue to be delivered as part of the Darwin Languages Centre, in collaboration with the senior colleges and Northern Territory Open Education Centre.

What about Year 10 students?

Year 10 students should be contacting their Senior College to see what languages will be offered. However, there is the opportunity in 2007 for Continuer Stage 1 students to join with Stage 2 Continuer courses for 2007. There is no guarantee that Stage 2 Continuers courses will be available through the Darwin Language Centre in 2008.

Will my child be able to study the language to stage 2 (Year 12)?

Yes. The language chosen by the local area schools will have a continuous pathway to the Senior Years.

Will year 10 students going to senior colleges next year have access to languages courses?

Yes. Year 10s will have access to the languages offered at the senior colleges. In 2007, there will be the opportunity for Year 10 students to access Stage 2 courses run by the Darwin Languages Centre in 2007 as Stage 1 students.

What happens if my child is not able to learn the language they want to learn at their school?

After school classes will be available at the Darwin Languages Centre on a fee-paying basis for students to study other languages. The Centre may also investigate alternative delivery modes for your child, such as distance education and Open Education Online.

What will happen if there are only a few students interested in learning the after hours language that my child wants to study?

This will depend on the numbers of students wanting to study the language.

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SCHOOLS

Will schools be made to teach languages?

Middle Schools that have been allocated an outside formula languages allocation will have to offer a Languages program for their Middle Years students.

Will the new Darwin Languages Centre have a school council?

No. The Darwin Language Centre will operate as a service and not a school. It is proposed that the Northern Territory School of Languages School Council will be replaced by an advisory body, consisting of key stakeholders in place of the NTSOL Council.

What languages will schools teach and who makes that decision?

In order to link Middle Years language programs in a local area, these schools will need to negotiate which language will be given priority to provide pathways and links.

How will the model benefit primary schools language programs?

The Primary schools will be involved in negotiating the language choice in the local area. Current programs in primary schools will be supported through allocated funding.

What happens if there are very small numbers of students wanting to learn the designated local area language in a Middle Years school?

One of the benefits of this model is that classes will be run regardless of the number of students.

Will after-hours classes still be available?

Yes. The Darwin Languages Centre will continue to provide some after-hours languages in line with the wider community needs.

Will students in Palmerston still have access to after school languages classes?

Yes, on the same basis as the after-hours classes in the Darwin area.

Why was this change necessary?

The change has been necessary to increase improved access to languages programs for more students in NT government schools.

Why isn't Alice Springs changing?

The Review into Languages Education Report 2003 recommended that Alice Springs Languages Centre continue to deliver their current programs. Further community consultation reinforced this view.

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NEW LANGUAGES MODEL

Who made the decisions?

A Languages Working Group, representative of stakeholders, including schools, and a Steering Committee, presented the recommendations to DEET Executive who endorsed the model for submission to Cabinet for final approval.

Who was involved in the consultation?

The Dellit report consulted widely including all stakeholder groups eg. parents, school councils and the AEU. The Manager, Languages Project continued the consultation.

Where can the Dellit report be obtained from?

The report can be requested from the Darwin Languages Centre Manager, by telephoning 8901 1376.

When will the new model be implemented?

The new model will commence in Semester 1 of the 2007 school year.

Will the Government provide additional funding for languages in schools?

No. The restructuring is reallocating existing funding to provide increased access to languages learning to a greater number of students in NT DEET schools.

What about the rest of the NT?

This model is the initial phase of the model. Flexible delivery modes will be further developed to increase access and delivery of languages to all Territory students.

TEACHERS QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Will languages teachers be part of the school staff?

Yes. Languages teachers will be part of the staff at Middle Years schools.

Will there still be work for Part Time Instructors under the new system?

Yes. Part-Time Instructors will still be needed to deliver after hours classes that will continue to run. However, there will be some increases in the course fees.

Will languages teachers be supported with Professional Learning for student well being?

Yes. They will be supported with Professional Learning to address student well being, as is the case for all other teaching staff. All teachers allocated under this model will receive further Professional Learning and support through the establishment of the Languages Learning Community.



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Who will languages teachers report to?

Teachers allocated under this model will be line managed by the Principal. However, Professional Learning and supervision of teaching programs (in consultation with the principal) will be the responsibility of the Languages Centre Manager.

Will the languages teacher have to do yard duty and attend Middle Years staff meetings?

If the languages teacher is solely based at a Middle Years school and does not travel between schools then their duties will be the same as other staff members including yard duties. However, if the Languages teachers are required to travel between schools, then Principals will be required to allocate duties in a fair and equitable manner.