



Submission No 3

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with the Republic of Korea; and Developments on the Korean Peninsula

Organisation: Korean Education Centre

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Response to request for submissions to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Foreign Affairs Sub-committee

Australia's relationship with the Republic of Korea and developments on the Korean peninsula

Respondent: Sook Hee McRoberts, Korean Language Consultant, Languages Unit,
Curriculum K-12 Directorate, NSW Department of Education and Training

The following submission is tendered in my capacity as Korean Language Consultant, Languages Unit, Curriculum K-12 Directorate, NSW Department of Education and Training (NSW DET) at the request of Susan Park, Education Director, Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea.

The views formed and information offered are the result of my involvement with the NSW DET Korean language program during the last ten years, my experience as a teacher in the Korean education system and my participation in Korean community affairs.

This submission is confined to educational issues which I submit are either impediments to an enhanced Australia-Korea relationship and education initiatives not extended to meet the escalating need.

Whilst there are many opportunities for improvement within the existing cultural and language programs there are four key areas which require substantial attention. They are:

- 1 Failure to appreciate the growing Korean importance to Australia within the Australian education system**
- 2 Inappropriate NALSAS allocation**
- 3 The Korean exclusion from the Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships**
- 4 NSW DET deletion of the HSC Korean Beginners course**

1 Failure to appreciate the growing Korean importance to Australia within the Australian education system

The value of the Australia-Korea political, strategic, economic, social and cultural relationship is not matched by the Korean language education status in Australian schools.

- ∪ Currently 8 primary, 10 secondary schools including Saturday School of Community Languages centres offer the Korean language program in NSW Government schools.
- ∪ Korea is Australia's fourth largest trading partner.
- ∪ Australia is the fourth largest destination for Korean overseas students. (15,775 students in 2003).
- ∪ A comprehensive support system is urgently required to improve the educational exchange and visiting programs for primary and secondary institutions.
- ∪ Australia has the sixth largest Korean community outside Korea (72,963 in 2004) Most Korean-Australians live in the Sydney area. Korean-Australians represents more than 1 percent of Sydney's population. The need for and enhanced Korean language program in the Australian education system is self-evident. The existing under resourced program does not begin to address the need for a source of appropriately trained Korean speakers within Australian business, tourism, government and scientific communities.

2 Inappropriate NALSAS allocation

National Asian Languages Studies in Australian Schools (NALSAS) funding was not equitably distributed to the detriment of Korean language programs in Australian schools. From 1996 until 2002 NALSAS funding was provided by the Commonwealth Government. During that period four priority languages (Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean) were identified. Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese programs are well established and well resourced. (e.g., Japanese for approximately 100 yrs) By contrast the Korean language program was introduced only very recently. (1994)

It did not benefit from any start up funding or nurturing. It is clearly the case that a relatively insignificant portion of the available NALSAS funding was allocated to the Korean program. This severely limited the development of an appropriate level of resources.

3 The Korean exclusion from the Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships

The Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships initiative has never included Korean in-country study programs by Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

Whilst the aims of the Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships are admirable nominating China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, and Mexico as qualifying countries languages, **Korea is not included.** Given the political, strategic, economic,

social and cultural issues identified as worthy of review by the committee, it is difficult for the Korean government, community and trading partners to understand the absence of the Korean language from the Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships.

4 NSW DET deletion of the HSC Korean Beginners course

NSW DET Office of the Board of Studies (BOS) will delete the HSC Korean Beginners course from the Korean language program in NSW schools curriculum from 2006.

The following languages for the HSC Beginners course are available at the Open High School, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek, and Spanish. **The Korean HSC Beginners course was not and is not available at the Open High School.** There is no protocol or process for recording applications or expressions of interest in Korean within the NSW DET programs. See attached letter from Susan Park to Dr Margaret Silink, Inspector Languages, NSW Office of the Board of Studies.

In 2004, NSW DET and the Korean Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding under which NSW DET and the Korean Government agreed to co-fund the position of a Korean language consultant in NSW DET and to encourage a Korean language studies program in NSW government schools. There is an expectation that the Korean MOU and associated voluntary community funding would contribute to a substantial improvement in the existing Korean language programs. It is a major disappointment and negative impact on the relationship between educators and administrators upon realizing that despite the best efforts of the Korean government and the Korean community in Australia the BOS is to withdraw the HSC Korean Beginners course from the school curriculum.

Please be advised that I am available for additional information at telephone: 02 9886 7173, fax: 9886 7160, email: sookhee.mcroberts@det.nsw.edu.au and that together with Ms Susan Park, Director, Korean Education Centre, Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea. We are available for in person interview at the committee's convenience.

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25 May 2005

Attachments:

- 1 Ms Susan Park's letter to Dr Margaret Silink, NSW BOS
- 2 Ms Suzanne Lofts, teacher, Wollumbin High School, letter to the Open High School and BOS and BOS's response
- 3 Language data 2003

* Student number and population statistics are sourced from Department of Education and Human Resources, Republic of Korea

* Language data 2003 is sourced from NSW DET



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18 May, 2005

To: Dr. Margaret Silink
 Inspector, Languages
 Office of The Board of Studies NSW

Dear Dr. Silink,

On 27th October 2004, the NSW Department of education and Training and the Korean Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding under which DET and the Korean Government agreed to co-fund the position of a Korean language consultant in DET and to encourage Korean language and studies program in NSW government schools.

In keeping with the spirit of the MOU, last December the Korean Government donated A\$19,800 to develop Korean language material for Year 9, HSC Korean online material, and Korean language teachers' in-service program. This year the Korean Government was prepared to donate a similar amount to encourage a Korean language and cultural program in NSW government schools, on top of a Korean community donation of \$8,500 which had been made towards the program.

It was thus disappointing to be informed that, at this time of re-awakened interest and support for the Korean program, the Board of Studies had decided to discontinue the HSC Korean Beginners course. This decision has evoked serious concern within the Korean community and amongst Korean adoptive parents and the Korean Government.

The consensus is that the Korean language program has not received an equitable and just opportunity to be nurtured and developed compared to other long established language programs. In contrast, the Korean program is very recent and comparatively under-resourced.

Given that the joint MOU was only formalized last October and community fund raising by the Korean community recently concluded, the timing of the Board of Studies decision can only be described as disastrous for the program's development and the Department's profile among those affected.

The Board of Studies' contends that the decision was influenced by a perceived lack of demand for the Beginner's course. Our investigation, however, has unearthed a number of enquiries about the Beginner's course at the Open High School, which due to a lack of an established process for recording enquiries we are unable to correctly quantify. In addition, I am aware of several schools that are interested in offering the Korean Beginner's course, however due to the Board of Studies' decision to suspend the course from next year they are reluctant to survey their students on this matter.

A misunderstanding of the real interest in the Beginner's course will clearly negatively impact on the whole Korean language program and undermine the continuing support for the MOU.

Due to the level of concern raised by the Korean Government and Korean community, I would like to meet with you at a time convenient to you to discuss the matter in more detail. The meeting would also be attended by a Korean community leader.

In the meantime, I would like to respectfully convey my request to the Board of Studies that it consider an urgent review of the decision until such time as interested

participants can be properly quantified and informed of the course introduction procedures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Insoon Park
Education Director
Korean Consulate General

CC : Ms. Nina Conomos, Ms. Sookhee McRoberts
Curriculum K-12 Directorate, NSW Department of Education and Training

Dear Lawrie Butterfield and Charles Stivala

I have been concerned for some time that there is no Korean Beginners course available for my students.

We study Korean at Wollumbin High and I have had a number of enquiries regarding the availability of this course. Currently there are no options available for students who take the 100 hour course only in the Korean language. These students are not able to do the Continuers course due to the increased level of difficulty.

We also have a number of adopted Korean students in the area and if they do not attend my high school they have no opportunity at all to study their native language in the senior school. There is no opportunity for them to have contact with Korean native speakers in this area. (Murwillumbah).

I did contact the Open High School in 2003 regarding the availability of the course as I had senior students wishing to avail themselves of the opportunity to study Korean. I was informed, however that no courses were available. I would like the Open High School to seriously consider the implementation of this course.

I would like this enquiry to be recorded.
Thank You

Yours sincerely
Mrs Suzanne Lofts

Wollumbin High School

Regards
Suzanne

Find local movie times and trailers on
<http://au.rd.yahoo.com/mail/tagline/*http://au.movies.yahoo.com>
Yahoo! Movies.

Dear Suzanne

In response to your query, Stage 6 Korean Beginners has been offered as a Board developed course since the implementation of the new HSC in Preliminary 2000. Prior to 2000, the course was called Korean 2 Unit Z, implemented in 1992.

During the current revision of the Stage 6 Languages Beginners Syllabuses, the Board conducted a feasibility study of the Arabic, Chinese and Korean Beginners courses, due to low candidatures.

In September 2004, the Board endorsed recommendations relating to the ongoing provision of these three courses. One of these recommendations was that the Korean Beginners Syllabus not be revised until it is clear that there is ongoing demand for the course and sustainability of candidature. The last HSC for this course will be in 2006.

If you'd like further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Julie Flynn
Senior Curriculum Officer, Languages
Office of the Board of Studies
Phone: (02) 9367 8114

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Primary Students Studying A Language Other Than English

School of Tuition	Course
Campsie Public School	KOREAN
Tyalgum Public School	KOREAN
Carlingford West Public School	KOREAN
Harcourt Public School	KOREAN
Chatswood Public School	KOREAN

No. of students studying a language other than English in Year 7 to Year 9

School of Tuition	Course
Temora High School	KOREAN
Marsden High School	KOREAN
Canobolas Rural Technology High School	KOREAN
Warialda High School	KOREAN
Open High School	KOREAN

Year 10: Enrolment in all language courses in Government schools, 2003

School of Tuition	Course
Saturday School of Comm. Lang. Chatswood High Scho	Korean
Saturday School of Comm. Lang. Dulwich High School	Korean
Saturday School of Comm. Lang. Grantham High Schoo	Korean
Saturday School of Comm. Lang. Strathfield GHS	Korean
Warialda High School	Korean

Year 11: Enrolments in all language courses in Government schools, 2003

School of Tuition	Course
Belmore Boys High School	Korean Background Speakers
Dulwich High School	Korean Background Speakers
Saturday School of Comm. Lang. Chatswood High Scho	Korean Background Speakers
The Open High School	Korean Continuers
Warialda High School	Korean Continuers

HSC: Enrolment in all language courses in Government Schools, 2003

School of Tuition	Course
Saturday School of Comm. Lang. Dulwich High School	Korean Background Speakers
Saturday School of Comm. Lang. Grantham High Schoo	Korean Background Speakers
The Open High School	Korean Continuers