



Education focus for Indigenous languages inquiry

The Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Ms Denise Angelo from the Languages Perspective Group working in Northern Queensland will appear before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs on Thursday 1 March, in relation to the Committee's inquiry into language learning in Indigenous communities.

The Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations is the agency under the National Education Agreement and the School Languages Program tasked to provide support for the teaching and learning of Indigenous languages in schools.

DEEWR provides funding for several programs to support Indigenous languages in early education as well as providing programs to support education outcomes in communities where English is a second language. In addition DEEWR is funding a number of programs for adults aimed at improving language literacy and numeracy as well as a workplace English language program.

Denise Angelo has many years experience working as a teacher and linguist in the Northern Territory and Queensland with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and community members. She is currently working for the Language Perspectives Group (LPG) of the Northern Indigenous School Support Unit, Department of Education in Queensland. Ms Angelo will discuss with the committee the complex Indigenous language situations that exist across Queensland and the need to understand the differences between traditional Indigenous languages and contact languages.

The Chair of the Committee Mr Shayne Neumann MP said "The Committee will benefit from hearing about the policy directions and Indigenous language programs that are being implemented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The delivery of Commonwealth Government Indigenous languages policy, particularly in education, is critical in ensuring that the delivery of Indigenous language policy is effective.

The grassroots experience in teaching and researching Indigenous languages that Ms Angelo will share with the Committee will be extremely valuable evidence for this Indigenous language learning inquiry."

The hearing will be broadcast live from Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra from 11.30am on Thursday 1 March via:

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Information about the inquiry including the program can be found at the inquiry's website: www.aph.gov.au/languages

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair Mr Shayne Neumann on (02) 6277 4755.

For background information, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or atsia.reps@aph.gov.au