



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE PROMOTION AND TEACHING OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, VICTORIA
AND
THE EMBASSY OF ITALY IN AUSTRALIA

**This is a Memorandum of Understanding (“Memorandum”) between the
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Victoria (the
“Department”),**

represented by the Honourable Martin Dixon MP, Minister for Education

and the

Embassy of Italy in Australia

**represented by His Excellency, Dr Pier Francesco Zazo, Ambassador of Italy in
Australia**

RECITALS

1. This memorandum expresses the understandings and intentions of the Minister for Education of Victoria and the Ambassador of Italy in Australia (hereinafter referred to as the “Signatories”) in relation to the promotion of the Italian language and culture in Victoria.
2. The policy context for languages education in Victoria is articulated in the Victorian Government’s Vision for Languages Education and the Victorian Government’s Plan for a Multicultural Victoria, which aim to improve the quality and diversity of languages education programs and services in Victorian schools.
3. The named Signatories wish to formalise their collaborative work and reciprocal commitment to maintaining and expanding the teaching and learning of the Italian language and culture in Victorian schools.
4. The Signatories wish to record the understanding and agreement reached between them with respect to the commitment to work collaboratively and to maintain and continue the promotion and teaching of the Italian language and culture in Victoria.
5. The Signatories agree to inform other Government agencies of the Memorandum of Understanding (“Memorandum”) and to seek their cooperation in its implementation.
6. The Department and the Embassy of Italy in Australia have reached agreement as to the respective support to be provided by each Signatory to ensure the achievement of the objectives outlined in this Memorandum.
7. The Signatories intend to give effect to this Memorandum but acknowledge that it does not create and must not be construed as creating a legally binding and enforceable contract.

INTERPRETATION

In this Memorandum, unless inconsistent with context or subject matter:

"CO.AS.IT" means the organisation that promotes and supports the knowledge of Italian language, provides information about Italy's cultural, social and political life and fosters international cultural cooperation within the Victorian context;

"Victorian Association of Teachers of Italian" (VATI) means a legal entity constituted under the Associations' Incorporation Act 1981, established to promote the teaching and learning of Italian in Victoria;

"Department" means the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development;

"School" means any school in the State of Victoria conducted under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006;

"Community Language School" means any not-for-profit organisation that is accredited by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for funding purposes to provide out-of-school hours languages tuition to school aged children;

"Student" means any student who is enrolled at a Victorian school, including an accredited Community Language School; and

"Teachers" means permanent officers employed in the teaching service to teach in a school in Victoria, and other temporary employees engaged for the same purpose as defined in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006.

THE SIGNATORIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. SUPPORT FROM THE EMBASSY OF ITALY IN AUSTRALIA**
- 1.1 The Embassy of Italy in Australia, through CO.AS.IT, will support the implementation of quality Italian language programs in Victorian schools, with a specific focus on developing language proficiency and cultural knowledge by:**
 - 1.1.1 Providing advice and support to the Department, school leaders, teachers, administrators and school communities in relation to the learning and teaching of the Italian language and culture;
 - 1.1.2 Supporting teachers of Italian in Victorian schools to enhance their linguistic and cultural knowledge and pedagogical skills, and advising on resources, including digital resources suitable for Victorian schools;
 - 1.1.3 Collaborating with the Department on teacher training initiatives and the provision of advisory services to teachers of Italian in Victoria;
 - 1.1.4 Providing opportunities for students in Victorian schools to be immersed in the language and culture of Italy;
 - 1.1.5 Selecting Italian assistant teachers from Italy to be placed annually in Victorian schools to provide native speaker support to students in Italian programs;
 - 1.1.6 Enabling opportunities for schools and education institutions in Italy to host Victorian teachers and educators;
 - 1.1.7 Advising on in-country language and culture courses and other opportunities to meet the needs of Victorian teachers and students of Italian;
 - 1.1.8 Working with the Department to plan and provide a range of professional development opportunities for teachers of Italian in Victorian schools across the stages of schooling;
 - 1.1.9 Maximising access to Italian language learning and teaching materials including digital materials appropriate for Victorian teachers and students of Italian; and
 - 1.1.10 Supporting special projects such as sister school relationships, teacher and student exchange programs and promotional activities.

2. SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, VICTORIA

2.1 The Department will support the maintenance, expansion and implementation of quality Italian language programs in Victorian schools by:

- 2.1.1 Providing opportunities for students in Victorian schools to be immersed in the language and culture of Italy;
- 2.1.2 Supporting Italian assistant teachers placed in Victorian schools by providing an induction program to support their integration into the Victorian school system;
- 2.1.3 Enabling opportunities to host teachers and educators from Italy in Victorian schools and education institutions;
- 2.1.4 Maximising the use of high quality, appropriate Italian language learning and teaching materials, with a particular focus on digital resources for Victorian teachers and students of Italian;
- 2.1.5 Sharing educational expertise with the Embassy of Italy in Australia, through CO.AS.IT;
- 2.1.6 Working with CO.AS.IT to plan and provide a range of professional development opportunities appropriate to the needs of teachers of Italian across all stages of schooling;
- 2.1.7 Providing support to CO.AS.IT and VATI for projects and initiatives that promote and enhance the teaching and learning of Italian;
- 2.1.8 Supporting special projects such as sister school relationships, teacher and student exchange programs and promotional activities.
- 2.1.9 Supporting Saturday and After-Hours Italian Classes through the Department's Community Languages Schools program.

3 GENERAL

- 3.1 Representatives of the Embassy of Italy in Australia and the Department will exchange annual reports outlining the work undertaken to support the teaching and learning of Italian language and culture in Victorian schools, including recommendations for improvement;
- 3.2 Both Signatories (and/or their representatives) agree to participate in an annual meeting to share information and discuss the objectives and priorities for the support and promotion of Italian in Victorian schools;
- 3.3 Both Signatories may review and vary the terms of this Memorandum by mutual agreement at any time during its operation;
- 3.4 Any such variation shall be made in writing and signed by both Signatories. Such variations will be appended to the body of this Memorandum as addenda, and will have the same non-binding nature as the Memorandum;
- 3.5 Either Signatory may terminate this Memorandum by giving six months' notice in writing to the other Signatory;
- 3.6 Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum will be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation between the Signatories;
- 3.7 This Memorandum is executed by the Department and the Embassy of Italy in Australia and is subject to the availability of funding;
- 3.8 This Memorandum will commence on the day it is signed by both Signatories and continue to operate unless terminated in accordance with the provision of clause 3.5; and
- 3.9 This Memorandum is prepared in English and Italian.

Signed in Melbourne, Victoria, on the 20th of June 2014.



Hon Martin Dixon, MP
Minister for Education



H E Pier Francesco Zazo
Ambassador of Italy in Australia