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Forty six languages assistants bring the world to Victorian schools

Wantirna Secondary College and Regency Park Primary School students are among the thousands of Victorian young people who will learn a language alongside native speakers in 2013.

Education Minister Martin Dixon welcomed 22 language assistants from China, 10 from France, seven from Germany, three from Japan, two from Spain and two from Indonesia to Victoria this week.

“The language assistants program literally brings the world to Victorian schools,” Mr Dixon said.

“I am sure that each and every one of our language assistants will do fantastic work in developing the language skills of Victorian students, while providing real world insights into their home countries and cultures.”

Mr Dixon said the year-long language assistants program is a key part of the Victorian Government’s plan to ensure that every Victorian government school student from Prep to Year 10 is learning a language by 2025, starting with Prep in 2015.

Demand for language assistants is growing, with more than 100 schools applying for an assistant in 2013.

Regency Park Primary School and Wantirna Secondary College were among the 68 successful schools and will host a language assistant from Spain in 2013.

Heidi Victoria, Member for Bayswater said she was “delighted that these two schools have been successful in securing this great opportunity for our local students”.

- Language assistants provide hands-on support with pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary to both students and languages teachers.
- Language assistants also bring skills in ICT, dance, drama, music and sport into their school communities.
- Language assistants stand to learn from their experiences in their temporary home.

Language assistants are mostly recent university graduates in their home countries. The Chinese assistants receive a stipend from the Chinese Government and the remaining assistants’ salaries are paid by the Victorian Government.