



# Professional Standards Project

## e – update December 2008

Now that all states and territories have completed both the Stream A and Stream B programs, information from participants' evaluations is being collated. The following is a selection of participants' comments:

Feedback presented here is in relation to:

- the high quality of the materials
- the high quality of the professional development program; and the way that it stimulates in participants self-assessment and self-reflection
- the professional collaboration that the project is engendering, across sectors, across Languages, and across States and Territories.
- inspiration for the future.

### High Quality of Materials

- ⇒ I have access to a set of modules which will help me when ascertaining in which areas and how, I can improve my efficiency/competency as a teacher. *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ Professional Standards are rich and allows for teachers to further extend themselves in areas I had not considered before. *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ The materials provide a very rich basis for an excellent way to become more reflective teachers. *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ The Standards stand out as user-friendly and comprehensive. A state of the art light-house to all the teaching profession. *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ It's a comprehensive package to assist language teachers in every aspect of language learning and advocacy. Most importantly empowering teachers to become better practitioners and engage students to continue with language learning. *(Stream B)*

### The high quality of the professional development program; and the way that it stimulates in participants self-assessment and self-reflection.

- ⇒ How to turn my mindset from “I need to.....” to “How I want ....” as a language teacher is the most striking point for me. *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ It's great to hear of the readiness of teachers to reflect honestly on their work. *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ I started seriously thinking about asking for feedback from my students and investigating my teaching practices. *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ It has provided me with much “food for thought” – giving serious consideration to why I do what I do and how and why I do it in a particular way. *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ It has made me more aware of (and value) the skills and knowledge I didn't realize I possessed, and provided insight into further directions. *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ It has confirmed a desire for further study / research when I get the opportunity. *(Stream B)*

- ⇒ This PD helps me to go to a deeper thinking of my own professional standard which will definitely help me to increase my capacity to apply it to the judgements I make about my own practice and areas for future development. *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ Fantastic journey, has given some real structure to my self reflection. *(Stream B)*



Queensland trainers with Queensland Key Contact Sherryl Saunders and Tony Liddicoat from UniSA

### The professional collaboration that the project is engendering, across sectors, across Languages, and across States and Territories.

- ⇒ A highlight was meeting with teachers and sharing ideas and challenges in our educational settings which are so diverse. *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ It has reminded me of how great it is to work with other people. Most of the time each person approached the questions from a different point of view. In the end we all had a varied response and we learnt from each other. *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ Reinforced my idea of importance of PD and sharing ideas. I thought that I was “too busy” to come down today and it has been inspiring and renewed my enthusiasm to continue! *(Stream A)*
- ⇒ I loved being in company with others that held the same passions. *(Stream B)*

- ⇒ The Stream A and B have both given me the courage and the tools to confidently network with the languages community, school and wider communities to promote languages teaching. I feel empowered!! *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ I would love to do more of this collegial professional learning. When you are “alone” (the only languages teacher) – it can be alienating and difficult to engage in this manner. *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ I have found it easy to make contacts with the people involved. I have learnt how and will start a Wiki to reach other teachers of my target language. *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ The opportunity to share / discuss / vent – get feedback and sympathy from my colleagues is what keeps me in teaching. *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ Motivation to collaborate, share and co-evaluate has been prompted / renewed. *(Stream B)*



Trainers from Western Australia with Key Contact Wendy Hewitt

- ⇒ Listening to others is where depth of knowledge has been able to be improved. There are some amazing teachers involved and I have learnt so much. *(Stream B)*
- ⇒ Great opportunity to “bounce” ideas off other teachers. Great way to disseminate ideas. *(Stream B)*

## Inspiration for the future

- ⇒ The potential of Stream B and the Wiki/Blogs effectively provide a means through which today's experiences can be maintained and developed. May the energy created today synergize!! (Stream A)
- ⇒ The presentation on Program Standards was a very impressive and empowering session and it was fantastic to remind teachers they can be agents for change in their schools. It has inspired me to develop a strategic plan for languages at my school and truly think about where I want languages to go at my school and how I'm going to get there. (Stream A)
- ⇒ I have identified 3 areas to begin from in each section. Ready to move onward and upward! (Stream A)
- ⇒ I hope others charged with the pre-service and in-service education of teachers at tertiary level are willing to participate. They need to! It is so useful and vital to listen to peer practitioners. (Stream A)
- ⇒ I'm encouraged to really ensure the Principals in our District see the ongoing value of languages. (Stream A)
- ⇒ I intend to continue conducting investigations and work my way through each of the standards. (Stream B)
- ⇒ Has greatly inspired me to further develop connections with other language teachers, particularly using Web 2.0 technologies. (Stream B)
- ⇒ Well organized program. It should be financed to ensure all languages teachers have this opportunity to revitalize ideas / skills / around teaching and learning languages. (Stream B)
- ⇒ I would continue to be involved in projects of this calibre as there has been huge value for me in my own reflection and investigation but also hearing from so many other passionate professionals. (Stream B)



Stream B participants taking part in an activity in Darwin

**I am looking forward to where we go from here (Participant Stream A)**