# STATEMENTS IN RELATION TO THE LANGUAGES CURRICULUM

## Phil Irvine, Principal of Campsie Primary School

‘I believe language for every child is very important so it's something that I would personally like to see happen but each school has to make their decision about what they value.’

‘If you value a well-rounded program with a broad curriculum, then I think languages are an essential part of that.’

**Source:**

[Business body Australian Chamber of a Commerce and Industry questions Federal Government foreign language revival plan](https://au.news.yahoo.com/a/24289492/business-body-australian-chamber-of-a-commerce-and-industry-questions-federal-government-foreign-language-revival-plan/)

Rebecca Barrett, *ABC News*, 21 June 2014

## Christopher Pyne, Federal Education Minister

‘Latin is of course the root of the English language and most European languages.’

‘It is perfectly sensible and intelligent for Latin to be on the national curriculum. I did Latin at school. It’s a very, very good thing to do.’

[**Source:** Steven Scott, *The Courier Mail,* 21 June 2014](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/education-minister-christopher-pyne-defends-latin-class-push/story-fnihsrf2-1226961867597)

# COMMENTS ON STORIES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Letters: Michael Affleck, Sunnybank Hills

‘Regarding the reintroduction of Latin and Greek in schools and the attitude expressed that these languages are not relevant today, I should point out that the classical civilisations of Rome and Greece are the foundation of our Western culture, of our law, literature and language, and therefore are not ‘irrelevant’ to our modern way of life.’

‘An understanding of classical civilisation and language gives us a better understanding of our own society.’

‘These are perfectly valid language options to be offered in schools and a valuable addition to the curriculum.’

**Source:**

[Letters: Latin among a wider choice of languages available for schools to teach](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/letters-latin-among-a-wider-choice-of-languages-available-for-schools-to-teach/story-fnihsr9v-1226961761284)

*The Courier Mail*, 21 June 2014

## Comments: Elizabeth

‘Clear and authoritative comment by the head of ACARA, the body responsible for developing the National Curriculum. Mr Randall points out that there is no compulsion with languages, but a choice being offered, and that this list of languages was agreed on in 2011 - not after the last election, as has been mistakenly mentioned by some.

**Source:**

[Letters: Latin among a wider choice of languages available for schools to teach](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/letters-latin-among-a-wider-choice-of-languages-available-for-schools-to-teach/story-fnihsr9v-1226961761284)

*The Courier Mail*, 21 June 2014

## Comments: Real Rick 5ptsFeatured

‘@robyn And I agree Rob, it's all about opportunity and choice, which are vital ingredients in a comprehensive education. The NSW Board of Studies offers 59 Stage 6 courses in 34 languages across four differentiated levels: Beginners, Continuers, Extension and Background Speakers, but we don't have this 'smorgasbord' of languages study being offered in Queensland.’

**Source:**

[Teaching of Latin to be revived in classrooms under Federal Government push](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/teaching-of-latin-to-be-revived-in-classrooms-under-federal-government-push/story-fnihsrf2-1226960586484)

*The Courier Mail*, 20 June 2014

## Comments: Barry

‘In February 2011, after consultation at state and federal level the Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum/ Languages was written. Classic languages were added after criticism that they had not been included.’

‘The current government was not in power at that time, and they had nothing to do with the choice of languages.’

‘They will now be added to the growing list of languages from which schools can choose to teach. The others that are already in schools or are being developed are 'Chinese', Italian, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait, Arabic, Modern Greek, Vietnamese, Spanish plus the Turkish, Hindi and AUSLAN listed above. Every school in Australia will have access to the programs and can choose which they will teach.’

**Source:**

[Steven Scott, *The Courier Mail*, 21 June 2014](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/education-minister-christopher-pyne-defends-latin-class-push/story-fnihsrf2-1226961867597)

## Comments: Alastair Blanshard, Paul Eliadis, Professor of Classics and Ancient History, the University of Queensland

‘I was disappointed to see *The Courier-Mail* taking such a negative attitude to the addition of Latin to the national curriculum (C-M, ­June 20). Contrary to the impression given in the article, Latin is not being made compulsory. Spanish, Mandarin, Chinese and French will still be able to be taught. The only difference is that now schools can choose to add Latin and Greek to their suite of offerings. And that’s a good thing.’

**Source:**

Letters: Carpe diem and enjoy Latin’s return to class thanks to Coalition classicists

[*The Courier Mail*, 23 June 2014](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/letters-carpe-diem-and-enjoy-latins-return-to-class-thanks-to-coalition-classicists/story-fnihsr9v-1226963116041)