



**THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP**  
**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Mr Martin Riordan  
Chief Executive Officer  
TAFE Directors Australia  
National Secretariat  
GPO Box 826  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

19 MAR 2009

*Martin*  
Dear ~~Mr~~ Riordan

I am writing to seek your support to promote across your networks the opportunity to access funding through the Australian Government's National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program's (NALSSP) Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund.

The Government has committed \$62.4 million in funding over 2008–09 to 2010–11 for the NALSSP. Of this, \$9.36 million will be provided for the Partnership Fund.

Eligible organisations, including universities and other higher education providers, businesses and Asian communities are invited to submit expression of interests to undertake high quality, strategic projects that encourage the teaching and learning of the languages and cultures of China (Mandarin), Indonesia, Japan and Korea in Australian schools.

The Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund is a key element of the NALSSP, which seeks to increase the number of young Australians who become skilled in the knowledge and understanding of the languages and cultures of our Asian neighbours.

Round one of the Partnership Fund commenced on 16 March 2009, and expressions of interest will close on 17 April 2009. Competitive funding rounds will also be held in 2010 and 2011.

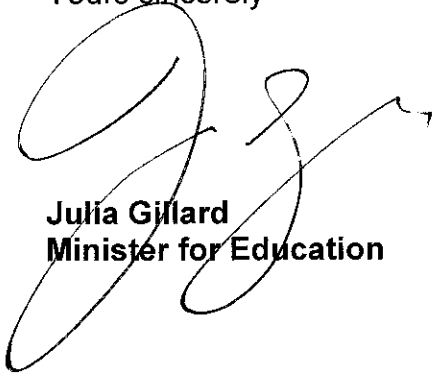
Key priority areas for round one are projects that:

- involve strategic partnerships and delivery coalitions between organisations in the teaching and learning of the four Asian languages and studies of Asia
- identify strategies to increase language teacher supply and support, including recruitment and pre-service training of teachers
- stimulate student demand and create incentives for students to study one of the four identified Asian languages, particularly at the senior secondary level
- use technological infrastructure or applications in the teaching and learning of the four Asian languages and studies of Asia.

Further information on the NALSSP and the Partnership Fund, including the Program Guidelines, is available at [www.deewr.gov.au/schooling/NALSSP](http://www.deewr.gov.au/schooling/NALSSP).

I encourage you to promote this important initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JG', with a large loop at the end.

**Julia Gillard**  
**Minister for Education**