

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$500,000 funding for Asian languages project

A new project at the University of Tasmania to develop Asian language excellence in the State has received a \$500,000 funding boost from the Commonwealth Government.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said today the funding will help strengthen networks between the University, Tasmanian schools, local Asian communities and businesses and partner with universities in Asia.

“This is an exciting project which will enhance the reputation of UTAS and Tasmania in this nationally targeted area for growth,” he said. “It also shows that UTAS is highly competitive in gaining funding for innovative and strategic projects.”

Funding for the project called “New pathways for the teaching and learning of Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese in Tasmania” was one of just seven winners out of 117 applications.

The funding is provided under round one of the Strategic Collaboration and Partnership Fund, a key element of the Australian Government’s National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP).

The “New pathways” project will:

- Increase student participation in Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese language programs, particularly in the senior secondary and tertiary sectors;
- Provide postgraduate programs for Asian language teachers and support the professional development of existing teachers.

Head of the School of Asian Languages and Studies, Associate Professor Pam Allen said the project will be delivered flexibly, incorporating online and in-country learning opportunities with partner schools in Tasmania and universities in Asia.

“The NALSSP funding will make a significant contribution to the education of a future generation of Asia-literate Australians,” Assoc. Prof. Allen said.

“The School of Asian Languages and Studies is proud to be the driver of such a significant project.”

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