

LMERC Final

AK: Hi, my name is Anne Keary, and I will be speaking with Jenny Peck today and Kathryn who is doing some work with VicTESOL. I will introduce Jenny Peck first and, Jenny you might like to tell us a little bit about your role and LMERC.

JP: Thank you Anne and Kathryn. My name is Jenny Peck, and I am manager of the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre. We're a Department of Education and Training library for educators across all sectors and all levels- so zero up to teachers of adults- in the areas of English is an additional language and languages and we cover the Cross Curriculum Priority Areas as well, and take in things like culturally diverse representations and human rights and a couple of different other related areas: values, intercultural capability, etc.

AK: OK so Jenny how do students become members or access the resources?

JP: Students can become members. It's free membership for everyone so whether you're a pre-service teacher or a teacher. You can go onto our library home page and I can show you what that looks like now if you like?

AK: OK that would be great.

JP: This is what our home page looks like and on the top right-hand side you can see a register button here so all they have to do is click on that register button. There is a short online form that they fill in. You get approval really quickly and that means you can start borrowing resources and start using our services as well.

AK: OK thank you. Whereabouts is the library situated.

JP: We're located in Carlton at 189 Faraday St, Carlton really close to Lygon St so the cafes and restaurants are just around the corner & the Nova cinema so we always use that as part

of our advertising or lure to get students to come in and see the library and experience it for them themselves. It's a great way to meet up with friends, have a coffee and come to the library as well.

AK: OK and I know that when I visited you had groups who you've been doing a tour of the library with.

JP: We're really happy to have groups visit and you know you can book in so that I make sure that I allocate time to your group and I'm really happy to give you a tour of the library, show you resources that are really relevant to your needs. Whether it's you going out on a placement or doing an assignment for University we are really happy to spend that time to help tailor some resources to your needs whether that's resources in the library as well as online resources as well.

AK: OK so maybe we start with the online resources and how to find out more about what's available at LMERC?

JP: There's two ways you can go about this finding online resources via LMERC. We put together resource lists - like a libguide where we've got related resources on themes- so things like culturally diverse literature, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander literature, multilingual resources online. I can show you that one now, so I'll just go back to our library homepage. This is our library homepage here- going back to that again- and you can see that we've got a reading list tab along the top here. This is where we curate resources on themes. Things like communicative games, content and language integrated learning, graphic novels, you can see human rights related resources- and one of the lists here, one of the items in the list, is resource lists and this is where we've created curated lists and will put some teacher related resources and resources for learners on there. I've got one that's called finding culturally diverse literature which will give you some online sites and

evaluation checklists. So, what to look for when you're finding culturally diverse representative texts for students in terms of avoiding stereotypes and things that you probably already well aware of. I've got a list there that's high interest low language texts for secondary students and here's the multilingual resources. I've already got that one open so won't download it. Here's a list of multilingual resources for primary and secondary level and I've got them grouped by different areas of the curriculum. There're some maths ones, some science related resources and these typically have somewhere between 10 and 40 languages. Translations of either the text or videos with captions and sometimes audio as well. This one from MIT is called MIT Blossoms. I'll see if I can open this one up just so you can see what that looks like. These are all secondary level science related short video clips. I'll stop sharing and share again so you can see that. Here are ones on static and kinetic friction forces and you can see here the languages that this one's available in. Some of them have got you know 12 to 15 different, this one doesn't have so many you can download the videos and you can also have the transcript in English and other languages. Yeah, so that's that one so that's the sort of thing that I'll be looking for and adding to these lists and then the list are available from our catalogue. I'm also cataloguing these websites as well so if you went into our library catalogue and put in multilingual, some of these things will come up as well, or MIT Blossoms. That's just one example, but there's other really good ones as well.

AK: OK fantastic so the library can be accessed online and also becoming a member what I really value is the newsletter that you send out through the email.

JP: Yeah so, we send the newsletter once a term so it's four times a year. That can be subscribed to just by sending an email to our [LMERC.library@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:LMERC.library@education.vic.gov.au) email address or it's one of the options when you join the library. So, if you did want to become a member of the library you can tick the box saying you'd like to receive the newsletter. In

that I put in information about initiatives, opportunities in this area of EAL languages cross curriculum priority areas as well as professional learning that's happening all across Victoria or online, new resources that we're getting into LMERC and new things that are becoming available online as well.

AK: OK thank you and also what about if students are in regional areas or rural areas?

JP: We provide a LMERC advisory service to anyone wherever they are. Students or teachers in Victoria. Teachers in Victorian government schools outside of the Metro area can receive resources free by post, that means that the school does need to organise the return postage, but they can get a box of resources sent to the school for free. Students that are doing a placement would be in the same position. They can contact us, and request resources be sent to the school if they are outside of the Metro area. Otherwise, we can help them organise a courier or just provide advice about online resources by email or they can.

AK: OK fantastic but I think the most exciting thing is to go into LMERC and explore the resources then hold them and look through them and scan them and browse them. So, what are some of the resources that you have in the library?

JP: We have a really big range. Because we've had those areas of focus, we can go into a lot more depth than some other libraries would, so we've got resources in over 60 languages, probably 70 plus, actually it's hard to keep track of them -and we're adding new ones all the time in newly emerging languages or new communities in Victoria. So in terms of supporting students from backgrounds or languages other than English we will have things like picture dictionaries, thematic dictionaries, some of them -quite a range at the library that will use a digital audio pen- so even if the student doesn't read in their first language we have the audio available with those. And there's picture books as well as well to go with those. We

have a range of picture books written by authors in the languages or countries origins and then we've got a whole range of bilingual picture books that are well known stories such as The Little Red Hen, 3 Billy Goats Gruff, and things like that in lots of different languages. We've got a range of fiction for upper primary or secondary level: things like Wonder, in a couple of languages, reading material, then we've got in terms of culturally diverse literature we've got a lot of literature written from first person perspective or culturally diverse authors. We also have a list that will give you a range of recently published literature. We've got things that are coming out of the *We Need Diverse Books* organization, collections of short stories, we've got a lot of literature by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Things like collections of poetry: we've got around 10 to 15 new releases of poetry from aboriginal authors and a lovely range of picture books. The way that we like to support teachers is to find resources that relate to whatever they're working on so if they're early childhood you might be doing something that families will be finding resources that are representative of the young learners and the families coming into the school or the centres. This one's by Auntie Fay Muir called *Family* - a recent one so we'd be finding texts that support and validate all backgrounds and identities of the students but also provide those diverse perspectives for all students whether they're in a monocultural school or a very diverse school. We also have a wide range of EAL resources as well. We have a number of things that designed for EAL students that will include a lot more images and support in terms of Glossary and around the vocabulary and modified texts.

AK: It's like a bottomless Cup of coffee. It seems to be growing and being enhanced all the time.

JP: We have new resources coming in all the time and we're really happy to take suggestions from students or educators in terms of what they think we should have or what they're

looking for so we can usually buy resources that have been suggested and then that means that they're available to that person to borrow and they will be first in line. We're getting new things all the time. In terms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures is a really beautiful new set of resources with big books and a whole set of text in a box with teacher support. And the *Our Land Our Stories* series and they're designed for upper middle and lower primary, and the upper primary is actually being used by lower secondary teachers as well because it's quite sophisticated. There's a lot of really good themes, there is quite a bit of text.

AK: I remember my first placement in a school, and I think a nice way to build rapport with students is through Story. Whether it's through a hardcopy book or a digital book or through oral storytelling, it's a lovely way to engage students and get to know students and just be with students. In summary I guess LMERC is for all schools and for all preservice teachers to access whether it's working in the area of English as an additional language, whether you're working in the area of languages or working with the curriculum in terms cross curriculum perspectives. Yes, and I think now we all know that the proportion of EAL students in most schools is quite high - 25% of the population - so EAL is important to all educators now. It's a collection that can be accessed for all sorts of different reasons and in a different setting.

AK: What a wonderful resource you are too, Jenny to be there and have discussions.

JP: I learn so much. Every student, every teacher that comes in- it's an exchange. So, it's always a conversation about "what are you looking for, what do you need it for?". I learn more about what they're doing and how they're using it and I start developing the collection and continue to develop the collection with that feedback and that expanded knowledge about changes that are happening in schools all the time.

AK: OK so thanks Jenny we might bring Kathryn in here because Kathryn, Jenny, and I are working on a project with VicTESOL the Victorian Association for TESOL. Kathryn, would you like to tell us a little bit about that?

KG: We are organising webinar with three keynote speakers, and we've set up a website. The website also has some interviews with wonderful people like Jenny, practitioners in the field, or people who work in multilingual areas or contexts. One of the reasons that we are so excited to have an interview with Jenny added to the website is because she is this kind of font of information of multilingual resources and she has an incredible knowledge and depth of field for any educator whether they're early childhood or secondary or even tertiary like me. She is also such a great resource for students. We've got our first keynote on the 17th of February, looking forward to that, and they're all focusing on different aspects of language and multilingualism and culture.

AK: OK thanks Kathryn, we'll pop the the link to the website up on the Moodle site (for Monash students). Thank you all and I hope that we can all meet in Carlton at LMERC and have a great cup of coffee in Lygon St.

KG: Hi everyone I'm here with Jenny Peck from LMERC at Ann and I are conducting this interview so you'll see both of us separately pop up on the screen Jenny can you tell us a little bit about LMERC.

JP: yes Catherine so thank you for inviting me to talk to this area around resourcing early childhood educators. I really love to introduce everyone to LMERC. It is the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre. We're a Department of Education and Training library for educators across all sectors and levels, early childhood to adult, and the early childhood area is relatively new for us so we're really building our collection in this area. That includes languages, as many languages as we can, especially supporting newly

emerging communities in Victoria as well as in more established languages and providing really wide range of culturally diverse and representative literature and resources in general for the early years.

KG: Jenny how many languages do you have resources in?

JP: We say 60 plus but it's probably more like 70 to 80 languages and it's growing all the time. As well as the resources we have in the library, we do quite a bit of work around searching and sourcing for resources online which we share with teachers through our newsletter that goes out quarterly, through our online catalogue, and through resource lists that we create. We put together curated lists for instance, around early childhood resources, multilingual resources I should say, for the early years.

KG: Do you have an example that you'd be able to show us?

JP: Yeah, can I show you that list and then I can show you the sort of resources that are on there?

KG: That would be fantastic.

JP: This is an example of one of the resource lists that we have which is a curated list of resources. In this case, around multilingualism or multilingual resources for early childhood settings. So, the list will typically have some links to online resources for teachers including the background reading resources about supporting culturally and linguistically diverse families, practical strategies for utilising first languages in early childhood settings, some ideas about different approaches and practical activities and then we've got a list of resources available at LMERC. It's not a list of all the resources in the library, because there's 28,000 items here, but just give you an example of the range. So, we you've got some beautiful picture books and big books by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island authors that will incorporate languages in many cases. A range of picture books in many different languages

and you can see here we've got puppets that relate to the picture books, nursery rhymes, stories about culturally diverse families and families of refugee background settling into new community. And then we've got a list of multilingual resource is available online and these are free websites or portals that have hundreds of different readers or picture books in many different languages. Quite a few of these sites also provide templates for families or educators to produce new translation so where there's not the languages of the families in your centre there's these ideas in those places for utilising templates to create new stories. There's quite a number of those sites that also incorporate audio as well so that when you've got families that are not necessarily literate in the first language or are unable to read in their first language, there are a number of different sites that I've got listed there that will provide audio or video clips as well. That's available from our online catalogue and I will also make sure that there's a link from the VicTESOL website to this list on the LMERC catalogue.

KG: OK so we've talked about families in different settings but one of the things that is really important is Indigenous settings do you have any well I know that you have a lot of resources around Indigenous settings but are there any in particular that you might like us to focus on or that might call our attention to that we may not know about?

JP: yeah well there's some beautiful picture books that have been released over the last couple of years and early childhood educators probably already know about these but just in case they don't for instance, we've got this beautiful one in by Auntie Joy Murphy and Andrew Kelly with gorgeous illustrations by Lisa Kennedy it's called Willam; a Birrerung Story. It's all about the Yarra River coming down its journey from mountains down to the sea and it's beautiful in that it's a story that gives you a really rich introduction to aboriginal and Koorie or Kulin nation culture ,but it also introduces some Woy Wurrung words

throughout the text .The Woy Wurrung words are incorporated into the story and there's not translations on the page but there is a Glossary at the back so the story flows and you are taking in those Woy Wurrung words so that they make sense in context of the story but afterwards the teacher can be going back through some of those words. The author does say that Woy Wurrung language does not translate directly into English which was one of the important aspects of creating translations or learning about different languages. That is something that's a really interesting important conversation for all educators with the children as well as when they're creating resources. One of the other things that I've been thinking about is some of the community created translated stories that will incorporate or share traditional knowledge. This one's from the Yorta Yorta people it's called *Living stories of the dungala Kaiela* actually published by the Kaiela arts centre in Shepparton. This is available from them. It's a story that incorporates many Yorta Yorta words and you can see a guide to the pronunciation there. The dungala, or Murray River, flows right across the top of the stage but it's got some traditional stories around the importance of dungala but also some of the things that happen around the River today. So, throughout history and spend some of the uses today. So that's a beautifully created illustrated and told story from the Yorta Yorta community.

KG: LMERC has so many of these community created resources and I think it's a really rare opportunity to be able to access these because otherwise you know we might never have heard of those. I had never heard of the Kaiela resource centre, so this is quite exciting.

Thank you so much for that really appreciate it. But say I'm an early childhood educator and I come to you. What would a consultation look like with you? If I've come down to Carlton and first of all, I've had my coffee and then maybe I've had a sneaky slice of pizza and then

I've come to you, and I say you know I've got this refugee family and I'd really like to get some immediate resources to work with these kids?

JP: First of all, we'd ask about you know what you need the resources for. Are they related to a particular activity so ideally, we are matching resources to the activities that are already doing in early childhood settings? You might be doing something say about water, so we will want to be looking for resources that can support the first language of that family with the theme that you're working on if there's not resources in the library, because we don't have resources in every language that we have requests for, I will go looking for resources on line to support the teachers. So that might be finding translated resources, that might be community created resource is that support families in languages, it might be something that can assist the teacher to incorporate some aspect of the culture or country background and into that work that they are doing with the child. So, it's a real package of services and resources that we're trying to provide for teachers and that's really in conversation with the teachers. So, refining what we're finding and tailoring to the teacher needs and that's through just looking at resources together and it does not necessarily have to happen in the library it can be something that's over the phone or by email, but we would just continue that conversation.

KG: Wonderful, well thank you so much for joining me today. I really appreciate the time that you've taken and there's just such a wealth of resources that at LMERC that I think it's really worth a visit and definitely the newsletter is also just incredibly informative. Thank you so much for that. thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about what LMERC can share that with early childhood educators. We are really looking forward to seeing you come into the library.