



***ACTA calls for national ‘build back better’ reform
of specialist provision for English language learners in schools***

A *National Roadmap for English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) Education in Schools* was launched today by the peak Council for teachers of English to speakers of other languages, the **Australian Council for TESOL Teachers (ACTA)**.

“Today there are over 600,000 Indigenous, migrant and refugee students in Australian schools needing help with English,” said Dr Anne Keary, ACTA President.

“However, Commonwealth devolution of responsibility for EAL/D education to State and Territory governments, and the aggregation of funding through school global budgets, has compromised the targeted provision of funding for EAL/D learner support. The *National Roadmap* is Australia's opportunity to reform and revitalise EAL/D provision in schools for these students.”

The *Roadmap* proposes twelve key Actions that are aligned to the directions and initiatives of the *National Schools Reform Agreement*. They are designed to reverse the following problems:

- inadequate levels and methods of Gonski needs-based English language funding
- lack of transparency and accountability for the allocation and use of Gonski needs-based English language funding
- absence of any national reporting of students’ English language levels, learning or progress
- lack of targeted education and training pathways that include English learning for young people from Indigenous, migrant and refugee backgrounds with incomplete schooling
- failure to leverage bi-lingual/bi-literacy programs to improve Indigenous students’ school engagement and achievement
- failure of teacher regulation authorities and teacher education to ensure all teachers are equipped to teach English language learners in Australian classrooms
- lack of national workforce planning for specialist English language teachers.

“As Australia emerges from the pandemic and reopens to the world, national action is urgently needed to restore our former leading role in teaching English to English language learners,” Dr Keary said.

“ACTA calls on all political parties and Commonwealth and State and Territory Education Ministers to commit to implementing the ACTA *Roadmap* Actions. We need to rebuild effective English language and literacy provision to promote English language learners’ successful participation in education and their contribution to a cohesive and prosperous multicultural society.”

ACTA’s *National Roadmap for English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) Education in Schools* can be viewed [here](#)

For further information:

Dr Michael Michell, ACTA spokesperson on EAL/D education in schools. h: 02 9610 4870; m: 0412 167 054
Email: m.michell@unsw.edu.au

Dr Helen Moore AM, ACTA Vice-President. m: 0410 708 975; h: 02 6193 8722 Email: helenmoore@tpg.com.au