



## Reviving Indigenous languages in Tasmania and Victoria

The revival of Indigenous languages in Tasmania and Victoria will be the subject of a public hearing on Thursday 24 May in relation to a parliamentary inquiry into language learning in Indigenous communities. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will hear from representatives of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), and the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL) about the benefits of giving attention and recognition to Indigenous languages.

The TAC said in their submission that incomplete records existed of the six to twelve original Aboriginal languages of Tasmania, and that extensive effort has gone in to reviving a composite language, palawa kani, from documentary evidence and recordings. This language has been adopted as the Tasmanian Aboriginal language and is now being taught across a range of age groups in Tasmania and on Cape Barren Island.

VACL was established to address the issues of language loss and is the peak body responsible for coordinating community language programs throughout Victoria. The organisation provides support for communities who are reviving their languages through language camps, workshops, school programs and educational material for children, including music and dictionaries.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Shayne Neumann MP, said: “the Committee is interested in hearing about the work being done in the southern states to revive sleeping languages, and what benefits these activities hold for both the Indigenous and wider Australian community.” Mr Neumann added that “following this hearing, the Committee will have collected evidence on Indigenous language learning in all states and territories, and will be working hard on coming up with a report that contains strong recommendations for government action”.

The hearing will be broadcast live from Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra from approximately 12:10pm on Thursday 24 May via:

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Information about the inquiry including the program can be found at the inquiry’s website: [www.aph.gov.au/languages](http://www.aph.gov.au/languages)

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair Mr Shayne Neumann on (07) 3201 5300.

**For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or [atsia.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:atsia.reps@aph.gov.au)