Local school receives funding to promote Asian languages and culture

Camden Haven High School is among a select group of schools to win funding to promote Asian languages and culture within their classrooms and school communities.

As part of the national Becoming Asia Literate: Grants to Schools (BALGS) initiative, Camden Haven High School, will receive a $20 000 Federal Government grant. The funding will go towards improving student engagement with Stage 5 Japanese.

This is part of the $62.4 million National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP) to support Asia literacy. Minister for School Education, the Hon Peter Garrett MP, announced the new funding, managed by the Asia Education Foundation (AEF) on November 10.

Principal of Camden Haven High School, Mrs. Margaret Hutchinson, welcomed the announcement, saying that the grant will extend the learning possibilities across the curriculum.

“We are living in an increasingly globalised world,” Mrs. Hutchinson, said. “It is more and more vital to promote Asian languages and culture in our schools so our students have a better understanding and knowledge of our near neighbours.”

Chair of the NALSSP Reference Group, Mr Sid Myer, congratulated the 191 schools successful in the latest round of BALGS funding.

“These schools have created some very innovative programs to support the achievement of the NALSSP objectives,” Mr Myer said. “Their enthusiasm in helping to prepare Australians for the demands of the future is to be highly commended.”

NALSSP aims to promote understanding among young Australians of the cultures and languages of the target countries: Japan, China, Indonesia and Korea.

Kathe Kirby, Executive Director of the AEF, said the recent announcement demonstrated a growing commitment of government and school communities to Asia literacy, a commitment strongly supported by business.

Further information about this initiative can be obtained by Contacting Mr. Darren Ball, Head Teacher Languages, Camden Haven High School (02) 6556 8100

Further information on the NALSSP and a list of the successful schools can be found at www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NALSSP.