



Teaching Indonesian at Victorian schools

The number of students studying Indonesian in government schools has declined since its peak in 2016.

The Victorian Department of Education and Training has requested that Monash Indonesian Studies conduct a research project to determine why that is the case.

The aim of this project is to answer the following questions, to help determine why there has been a decline in students studying Indonesian in government schools, and make recommendations as to how it can be improved:

1. Where Schools have a thriving Indonesian language program, what are the key elements of this success? What steps do principals and teachers take to maintain interest in the School community, support the teachers and students, and inform parents? What are key challenges faced in these schools?
2. In schools that have abandoned their program, which of these challenges was insurmountable? What changes in environment or circumstances might have helped to retain Indonesian?
3. In Schools that continue to offer Indonesian, but that witness declining student numbers, what steps are taken to support teachers and students in Indonesian, and to inform parents about the importance of second language learning in primary and secondary education?

To answer these questions, a multi-method approach of case studies and surveys will be conducted. The case studies will examine in detail the environment and history of these schools. The studies will also examine the impact of school clusters and the impact of isolation on decision making relating to the teaching of Indonesian. Broader surveys of principals, language teachers and Department of Education and Training staff will supplement this understanding.

The outcomes from the research will provide insight into why some schools have been able to successfully implement a thriving Indonesian program, whilst other schools have abandoned their Indonesian language program altogether. Insights will take into consideration the range of structural, environmental, financial and administrative support or impediments which impact the teaching of Indonesian in Victorian government schools. On that basis the research project will provide a new rationale for the teaching of Indonesian in Victorian schools.

CHIEF INVESTIGATORS

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