

Australia—China relations

The Australian and Chinese trade and investment relationship is significant and has developed well beyond its modest beginnings in the 1970s. According to Australian statistics, reciprocal trade has grown to \$25 billion in 2003–2004. China is currently ranked as Australia's third largest trading partner, and Australia as China's twelfth largest bilateral trading partner. The Trade and Economic Framework signed in 2003 marked a significant milestone in the bilateral economic relationship. Australian exports to China have grown strongly in recent years. Total Chinese investment in Australia amounted to \$2.2 billion in June 2003.

In China, Australian companies are involved in a variety of industries including building and construction, transport and distribution, high-value manufacturing, environmental management, food processing, information technology, telecommunications, advertising and design. In addition, Australia is involved in the very important services sector namely law, banking and insurance, education and tourism. Many of these are small to medium sized companies that have found successful niche markets as China's economy matures.

Teaching of Chinese in Victoria

Chinese, as a Language Other Than English (LOTE), is included as one of the discipline-based learning domains in the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. Languages contribute materially to the universal purposes of schooling and to the development of skills in thinking and reflection. These skills can directly enhance the general intellectual development of young people.

An increasing number of primary and secondary government and non-government schools are providing dynamic Chinese programs, including two Chinese-English bilingual programs. Chinese is also provided by the Victorian School of Languages in 16 centres and by more than thirty community language schools. Chinese is a popular study at Year 12 level with approximately 400 students studying the language annually.

An increasing number of Chinese language courses are offered in universities and TAFE institutes across Victoria.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For assistance in establishing and developing a Chinese language program please contact:

Multicultural Programs Unit
Student Learning Division
Department of Education and Training
Ph: 9637 2041 Fax: 9637 2040
Website: <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/lem>

Chinese Language Teachers' Association of Victoria (CLTAV)
Visit the Chineselinx web-site:

<http://www.users.bigpond.com/chineselinx>

LOTE, ESL &
Multicultural Education Branch



teaching



KONGFU
QIGONG
Samban
yang
YUM CHA
Beijing SHANGHAI

Why learn Chinese?

LOTE, ESL &
Multicultural Education Branch



Knowledge & Skills
Building a Future

Victoria
The Place To Be

China and Chinese Speaking Countries

The People's Republic of China is the second largest country in the world in terms of area, and with a population of more than 1.3 billion, has the largest population of any nation in the world.

China has one of the world's oldest civilizations. With a recorded history dating back more than 5000 years, it has the longest continuous history of any nation in the world. China shares land borders with fifteen countries and the influence of Chinese culture is visible throughout the Asian region.

Chinese is the language spoken by more than one fifth of the world's population. In addition to the People's Republic of China, Chinese is the official language of Taiwan and Singapore. With more than 50 million people of Chinese background living outside China, there are large Chinese speaking communities in many countries throughout the world, including Australia and the United States.

Chinese is also one of the five official languages of the United Nations.

The Chinese Language

Modern Standard Chinese (Mandarin) is the standard form of the Chinese language. Cantonese is one of seven dialects spoken by a large number of Chinese people. Other dialects are Northern, Hakka, Min, Gan, Wu and Xiang.

The Chinese script appeared as a fully developed writing system about 4000 years ago. Because of their pictographic origin, Chinese characters are easy to remember, for example:

mountain 山 sun 日

To help people learn Chinese characters, a Romanised spelling system known as PinYin is used to represent the pronunciation of characters, for example:

bā 八 eight bá 拔 to pull out
bǎ 把 to hold bà 爸 father

Chinese is a tonal language. There are four tones in Mandarin. Tones are placed on syllables to distinguish different meanings.

In Chinese, word order and the use of independent grammatical particles are important in forming sentences.

Why learn Chinese?

The future is bright for young Australians with Chinese language skills and an understanding of Chinese culture.

The size of Chinese markets and other markets accessible through Chinese intermediaries will lead to Chinese becoming a key trade language.

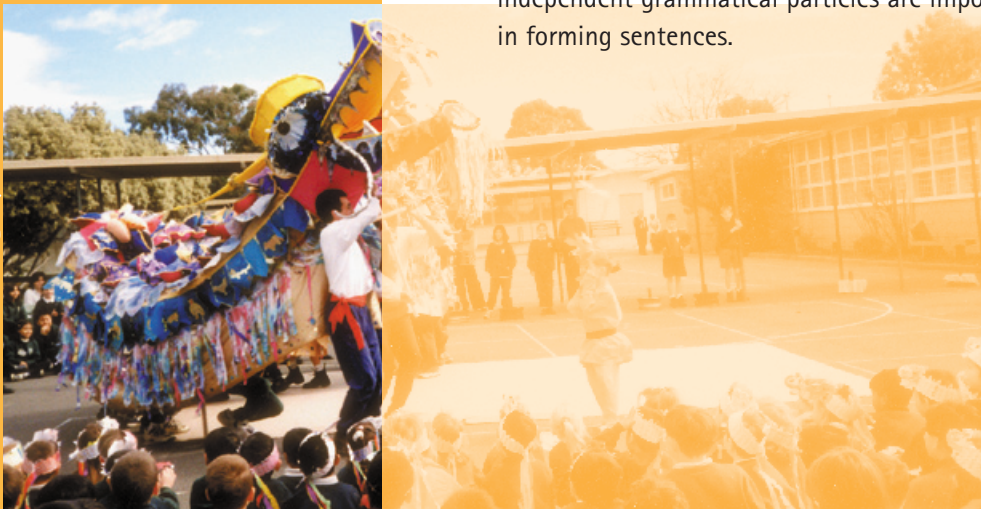
Knowledge of Chinese can open doors to a wide range of employment opportunities in the areas of banking, finance, business, education, hospitality, retail and tourism.

China offers a unique history, geography and culture. Knowledge of the Chinese language will enable better communication with Chinese speaking people and provide a better understanding of Chinese culture.

Victoria's large Chinese speaking community, the abundance of Chinese restaurants, business and social groups all provide students of Chinese with real opportunities to use the language beyond the classroom. Chinese news, current affairs and entertainment through local Chinese newspapers, SBS TV and radio stations provide authentic Chinese resources for learners of Chinese.

culture

knowledge



tai chi

yumcha

Macao

Changchun

Sichuan

Yangtze