



# EAL NEWS

October 2026

Issue 02

Term 4



## Welcome!

I can't believe it is term 4 already! The year is flying by.

This newsletter will provide updates, resources and professional learning opportunities to support your work with EAL learners.

Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome this year. I have appreciated your kindness and support.

Natasha

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for Term 4  
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# Reporting

The time is approaching to write end of year reports. I have a couple of reminders as we enter the reporting period:

- Please report on the current EAL curriculum. Version 2.0 is to be reported on in 2027
- If a student is being assessed on the EAL curriculum, please do not also assess them on the mainstream curriculum for English. All subjects other than English will be assessed against the mainstream curriculum.

The reporting resource tool is available to assist you with the reporting process. This is not mandatory, you are welcome to use the scope and sequence.

Pathway A:

<https://arc.educationapps.vic.gov.au/learning/resource/80920/pathway-a-reporting-resource>

Pathway B:

<https://arc.educationapps.vic.gov.au/learning/resource/80921/pathway-b-reporting-resource>

Pathway C:

<https://arc.educationapps.vic.gov.au/learning/resource/80922/pathway-c-reporting-resource>

Curriculum: <https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/english/english-as-an-additional-language-eal/introduction/scope-and-sequence>

If you require support with the reporting process, please feel free to contact me.



# Professional Learning Opportunities for Term 4

| Provider         | PL                                                                                                                                 | Date  | Cost  | Website                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Critical Agendas | <p>Writing in EAL: From Struggle to Success with Beginning and Intermediate EAL Students</p> <p>Webinar.</p> <p>9.30am-3.00pm</p>  | 29/10 | \$294 | <a href="https://www.criticalagendas.com.au/events/writing-in-eal-from-struggle-to-success-with-beginning-and-intermediate-eal-students/">https://www.criticalagendas.com.au/events/writing-in-eal-from-struggle-to-success-with-beginning-and-intermediate-eal-students/</a> |
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| Foundation House | <p>Skills for Trauma-Informed information gathering (refugee experiences)</p>                                                      | 19/11 | \$220 | <a href="https://foundationhouse.org.au/event-template/?eventtemplate=471-skills-for-traumainformed-information-gathering&amp;event=1677">https://foundationhouse.org.au/event-template/?eventtemplate=471-skills-for-traumainformed-information-gathering&amp;event=1677</a> |
| Foundation House | <p>Partnering with interpreters</p> <p>Webinar</p> <p>9.30am-12.30pm</p>                                                           | 26/11 | \$220 | <a href="https://foundationhouse.org.au/event-template/?eventtemplate=470-partnering-with-interpreters&amp;event=1676">https://foundationhouse.org.au/event-template/?eventtemplate=470-partnering-with-interpreters&amp;event=1676</a>                                       |

# Professional Learning Opportunities for Term 4

| Provider | PL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Date    | Cost                                 | Website                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ARC      | A large amount of EAL PL has been delivered and recorded this year focusing on moderation, curriculum, reporting and more. Past events have been recorded and uploaded to watch in your own time.                                                     | ongoing | free                                 | <a href="https://arc.educationapps.vic.gov.au/providers/EAL">https://arc.educationapps.vic.gov.au/providers/EAL</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| VCAA     | Past PL on curriculum, assessment and plurilingualism has been recorded and uploaded on the VCAA website.                                                                                                                                             | ongoing | free                                 | <a href="https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/foundation-10/curriculum-area-resources/english-additional-language/eal-past-professional-learning-webinars">https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/foundation-10/curriculum-area-resources/english-additional-language/eal-past-professional-learning-webinars</a> |
| VicTESOL | VicTESOL is a professional association committed to promoting excellence in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and supporting cultural and linguistic diversity through high quality multicultural education. PL offerings vary. | ongoing | \$15-\$40                            | <a href="https://victesol.vic.edu.au/professional-learning/">https://victesol.vic.edu.au/professional-learning/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| PETAA    | PETAA are a national, not-for-profit professional association supporting primary school educators in the teaching and learning of English and literacies across the curriculum. A wide variety of PL is available                                     | ongoing | varying depending on membership type | <a href="https://petaa.edu.au/w/Professional_Learning/Professional_Learning.aspx">https://petaa.edu.au/w/Professional_Learning/Professional_Learning.aspx</a>                                                                                                                                                       |

# **VicTESOL Symposium 2026**

**From research to the classroom: Putting theory into practice**

Friday 30 October 2026

University of Melbourne

Join us for the 2026 VicTESOL Symposium, bringing together EAL educators, researchers and practitioners from across Victoria for a day of professional learning, discussion and connection.

This year's theme, *From research to the classroom: Putting theory into practice*, explores the vital relationship between research and the everyday work of EAL educators. How can research inform what happens in our classrooms? How can the experience and expertise of teachers shape research? And, most importantly, what does meaningful research-informed practice actually look like across Victoria's diverse EAL settings?

The program brings together perspectives from across the EAL sector, with keynote presentations from Professor Emeritus David Nunan and Prudence Meggitt, alongside a diverse program of practical and research-informed sessions presented by educators and researchers working across the field.

Whether you work in early childhood, schools, adult education, TAFE, community settings, higher education or another part of the EAL sector, the Symposium is an opportunity to step away from the day-to-day, explore new ideas, hear about current research and practice, and connect with colleagues from across the VicTESOL community.

Explore the full program in detail and find out more about our presenters and their sessions here:

<https://victesol.vic.edu.au/professional-learning/victesol-symposium-2026/>

Tickets provide access to the full day of Symposium sessions, including keynote presentations, concurrent sessions, food and drink and opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the EAL sector.

VicTESOL members: \$150.00

Non-members: \$180.00

Presenters: \$140.00

University of Melbourne Staff and Students: \$140.00

2026 VicTESOL Membership and Symposium Ticket Package:  
\$210.00

# Bilingual/First Language Books

## Australian Bookstores:

- <https://lengua.com.au/>
- <https://letoboggan.com.au/>
- <https://shop.thebookgarden.com.au/c/bilingual-books> ('The American Bookstore' is written at the top of the page but they are in QLD)
- <https://www.abbeys.com.au/abbeys/home.do>

## Websites:

- <https://storyweaver.org.in/en> (Free, 72,000 stories in 398 languages)
- <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/> (Free, well-presented eBooks. Written in English, and narrated in multiple languages)
- <https://librosforlanguage.org/>
- Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication (MLB Uni):  
<https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/research-unit-for-multilingualism-and-cross-cultural-communication#resources> (Short stories in multiple languages)
- <https://worldstories.org.uk/> (Free, books in 36 languages)
- <https://www.thefablecottage.com/> (Free online stories. Audio and written content available in English, French, Spanish, Italian and German).

## Online Libraries:

- <https://bilinguator.com/en/> (Free bilingual eBooks/PDFs)
- LMERC: <https://lmerc.softlinkhosting.com.au/oliver/home/news> (Multicultural/multilingual library service located in Carlton and available online. Free service, postage to be paid by schools)
- <https://bloomlibrary.org/> (Free, 26,000 books in over 1000 languages)

# Culturally Significant Dates for October

| Date             | Event                                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd              | Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti                       | This day commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. It is marked with a prayer for peace, ceremonies and events throughout India. The United Nations has further declared this day the International Day of Non-Violence in honour of Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence (Ahimsa).                                                                                                                           |
| 4th              | Simchat Torah                                | Simchat Torah is a celebratory Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle. Simchat Torah means 'Rejoicing in the Law' in Hebrew. Special attention is given to children who join the celebrations with flags and singing.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11th             | White Sunday                                 | White Sunday is a day when childhood is celebrated in Samoan, American Samoan, Tuvaluan and Tokelauan Christian communities worldwide.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 11th-20th        | Dashain                                      | Dashain is the most important festival for Nepalis. It is a celebration of good prevailing over evil.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 17th-21st        | Durga Puja                                   | Durga Puja is a Hindu festival that reveres and pays homage to the Hindu goddess Durga. It is popular and traditionally celebrated in the Indian states of West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Tripura. It is also observed in Bangladesh and in the Mithilanchal regions of Bihar and Nepal. It is marked with worship rituals, performance arts, gift giving, family visits, feasting and public processions. |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Vijay Dashami                                | Vijay Dashami or Dussehra marks the triumph of good over evil. The celebration of Dussehra concludes the festival of Navaratri, which extends over several days.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Gurgaddi (Inauguration) of Guru Granth Sahib | This day commemorates the inauguration of the Sikh holy scripture. It is called the Guru Granth Sahib or Adi Sri Granth Sahib Ji, at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Sikhs regard and respect the Holy Scripture as their living Guru.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | United Nations Day                           | This date celebrates the entry into force of the United Nations Charter in 1945. The Charter highlights the promotion of peace, human rights and social and economic development globally.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 27/10- 4/11      | Kathina                                      | Marks the end of the retreat practiced by Theravada Buddhist monks during the South East Asian rainy season. Lay Buddhists express their gratitude to monks by giving donations to temples and providing monks with new clothes. Dates vary based on local tradition.                                                                                                                                      |
| 28/10            | Oxi Day                                      | Oxi Day commemorates the rejection by then Greek Prime Minister of the ultimatum made by Axis forces to occupy Greek territory in 1940. The day represents bravery, solidarity and heroism for millions of Greeks all around the world.                                                                                                                                                                    |

# Culturally Significant Dates for November

| Date             | Event                                               | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st              | All Saints' Day                                     | This Christian day honours saints, known and unknown. Saints are men and women recognised for lives of holiness and devotion to God or who were martyred for their faith.                                                                                                                                  |
| 2nd              | All Soul's Day                                      | This day is a time for all Christians to remember and pray for the souls of the departed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2nd              | Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)                | Día de los Muertos combines the ancient Aztec custom of celebrating ancestors with All Souls' Day. This Day is a holiday that Spanish invaders brought to Mexico starting in the early 1500s.                                                                                                              |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Deepavali                                           | Deepavali is also known as Diwali, Tihar and the Festival of Lights. It celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.                                                                                                                                        |
| 8th              | Bandi Chhor Divas (The Celebration of Freedom)      | Sikhs celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas to mark the release from prison of the sixth guru Sri Guru Hargobind Ji, who also rescued 52 Hindu kings held captive with him. They were held by Mughal Emperor Jehangir in the Gwalior Fort in 1619. Celebrations include lighting oil lamps, candles and fireworks.   |
| 10th             | Bestu Varas (Gujarati New Year)                     | This date is celebrated with enthusiasm across the state of Gujarat. It marks the beginning of the new year for Gujarati people.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10th             | Bhai Tika                                           | Bhai Tika is also known as Bhai Dooj, Bhaubej or Bhai Phonta. It marks the final day of Deepavali or Tihar and is a time to celebrate family relationships.                                                                                                                                                |
| 10-11th          | Birth of the Báb and Birth of Bahá'u'lláh           | Two successive holy days that celebrate the births of two central figures in the Bahá'í faith. Each day's worth of celebration starts and ends with the setting of the sun.                                                                                                                                |
| 11th             | Remembrance Day                                     | Remembrance Day is known in some countries as Armistice Day or Veterans Day. This date marks the end of fighting in the First World War, and is a day is generally marked as a day to remember all those who died or suffered in wars and armed conflicts.                                                 |
| 16th             | International Day for Tolerance The United Nations' | International Day for Tolerance fosters mutual understanding among cultures and peoples.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 24th             | Shahidi (Martyrdom) of Guru Tegh Bahadur            | On this day in 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru, sacrificed his life to defend the religious freedom of another faith. This was a significant event in Sikh history that profoundly impacted the future direction of Sikhism.                                                                       |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Guru Nanak Gurpurab                                 | This day commemorates the birth of Guru Nanak Sahib, the founder of Sikhism and the first Sikh Guru.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 25th             | Loy Krathong                                        | Loy Krathong takes place on the night of the full moon of the 12th month of the Thai lunar calendar. During the festival, many Thai communities float small lantern boats of offerings as tokens of gratitude toward the Goddess of Water and to seek her forgiveness.                                     |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | The Ascension of Abdul' Baha                        | The Ascension of Abdul' Baha commemorates the passing of Abdul'-Bahá on 28 November 1921. He was the eldest son of Bahá'u'lláh (the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í faith). As the date is set according to the Bahai calendar, it is commemorated on 27 November in some years.                             |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | First Sunday of Advent                              | Christians celebrate Advent by lighting advent candles, displaying wreaths and hosting special ceremonies. For Christians, Advent anticipates the celebration of the arrival of Jesus during Christmas, while also anticipating his return.                                                                |
| 30th             | St Andrew's Day                                     | St Andrew's Day is celebrated annually in Scotland on 30 November to commemorate St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland since 1320. He is also the patron saint of Romania, Greece, Russia, Ukraine and Poland. The day is usually celebrated with traditional recitations, cuisine, dancing and singing. |

# Culturally Significant Dates for December

| Date               | Event                      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4-12 <sup>th</sup> | Chanukah                   | Chanukah or Hanukkah commemorates the recapture and rededication by the Jewish people of the Jerusalem Temple. The festival lasts eight days and nights. An additional candle is lit each night to symbolise the miracle of the cruse of oil that lasted eight days.                                                                                                                        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>    | Saint Nicholas Day         | Saint Nicholas Day is a Christian festival celebrated on December 6 (or December 19 in Eastern churches) that honors Saint Nicholas of Myra, a 4th-century bishop famous for his secret gift-giving and kindness to children.                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>    | Bodhi Day                  | Bodhi Day commemorates the day Buddha attained enlightenment under a Bodhi tree. It generally falls on the eighth day of the twelfth month of the lunisolar calendar. Mahayana Buddhists in China, Korea and Vietnam celebrate Lunar Bodhi Day on the eighth day of the twelfth lunar month. In Japan, Bodhi Day follows the Gregorian calendar and is celebrated on 8 December every year. |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>   | International Migrants Day | International Migrants Day is a United Nations observance and calls us to remember and honour the contribution of all migrants, their stories and cultures, to our multicultural nation.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>   | Christmas Day              | Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus. Many in Australia celebrate Christmas regardless of their religious affiliation. Christmas lights and trees are displayed, carols are sung, and individuals come together to exchange gifts and spend time with family and friends.                                                                                           |
| 31 <sup>st</sup>   | New Year's Eve             | This date commemorates the arrival of a new year following the Gregorian calendar. New Year's Eve is a time for communities, families and friends to celebrate the year past and the year to come.                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## Resources

The Cultural Atlas is an educational resource providing comprehensive information on the cultural background of Australia's migrant populations. The aim is to improve social cohesion and promote inclusion in an increasingly culturally diverse society.

<https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/>

Language Loop works with certified interpreters and translators to deliver professional language services that support access, equity and understanding. Language Loop representatives are available to attend meetings via video conferencing, translate school reports, and participate in phone calls. It is free to sign up for a school account, however services incur a fee.

<https://languageloop.com.au/>

Engaging with families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds:

<https://www.edresearch.edu.au/sites/default/files/2022-08/AERO-family-engagement-CALD-families-guide-for-schools-aa.pdf>

## EAL Network Meeting

The next EAL network meeting will take place on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November from 9.30am-11am. Please contact me to register your attendance and receive a Teams link.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any stage if you have any questions or require support.



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Working days: Monday and Tuesday