

International Mother Language Movement (IMLM)

MEDIA RELEASE

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CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

- What:** Language Walk (1.8 km) and Community Celebrations
- When:** Saturday 21 February 2015, 10.30 am – 1.30 pm.
- Where:** Walk starts at the International Flags Display behind Questacon carpark and end near Regatta Point

Ms Yvette Berry, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Multicultural Affairs will inaugurate the walk.

- The walk will cross Commonwealth Bridge and end near Regatta Point where there will be multicultural entertainment and free fun activities for children.
- This is the second year that the Canberra-based International Mother Language Movement (IMLM) has organised this event. Over 300 people attended in 2014.
- This event brings together people from different communities to raise awareness of the value of all languages, especially endangered languages, in a multilingual and multicultural context.
- 21 February was proclaimed as International Mother Language Day by UNESCO in November 1999 in recognition of the date in 1952 when students in the then Pakistan lost their lives when demonstrating for recognition of their language, Bangla, as a national language.
- The aim of International Mother Language Day is to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. Language is immutably linked with culture and cultural identity.
- Supporting heritage and mother languages not only helps preserve cultural pluralism but encourages Australians to develop the communication skills and cultural understandings which facilitate trust and mutual respect across all communities.