"It’s a great experience! Everything is totally different. You get out of the airport and people are speaking a different language. You’ve just got to quickly jump in and get ready for this great big experience and especially six weeks with a different language, it’s just insane. I’ve never been on a plane before so going on a plane was a big experience and speaking in a different language .... it’s just a great experience."

"Learning a different language is fun – it’s hard work but it's fun in the long run because ...." 

"Learning languages helps with your English as well and gives you an understanding of not just the language but a culture and a way of life and thinking that's different to your own."

"I'm learning German and Indonesian. When you study two different languages you get two completely different world views. There's the Asian view and the European view. It's just a way of thinking and interacting and it really enriches your life."

"It's a lot different from other subjects"

These are just some of the comments students have made about their language learning experience on this DVD which has been produced primarily for use by teachers in promoting the learning of languages. It contains interviews with students learning languages at school and university, plus comments from people reflecting on the impact knowing another language has had on their career and their life.

This session will provide an opportunity to preview the DVD and to explore ways in which the material can be used to promote languages learning in your school.

Making a World of Difference
Languages at school & at university

- What did students say about learning a language?
  Use ✓ or X to indicate true or false

☐ It gives you lots of opportunities to communicate with people from other cultures
☐ It's a lot of fun
☐ It's too hard
☐ It doesn't help you to get a job
☐ People think you're intelligent
☐ You get to meet a lot of different people
☐ You become sensitive to cultural differences and it makes you more aware of how other people live
☐ It makes travel a more meaningful experience
☐ You get to understand not just another language but also a culture and a way of thinking that's different from your own.
☐ It's not important. People around the world are learning English and I speak English
☐ You get to understand different ways of seeing the world
☐ It really enriches your life
☐ I'm not going to leave Australia so I don't need another language
☐ You get bonus points for your university entrance

- Make notes about other comments you found interesting

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"The limits of my language are the limits of my world"
Ludwig Wittgenstein

Marlene Dingle - LOTE Project Officer Loddon Mallee Region DoE
Making a World of Difference
Languages at school and the exchange experience
What did they say?
Making a World of Difference
Languages at university
What did they say?

Marlene Dingle LOTE Project Officer LODDON MALLEE REGION
Making a World of Difference
Languages in the work place
What did they say?
Adam works in the theatre and as a translator. He said the following.

"Knowing a language allows one to meet and be introduced to people you wouldn’t normally meet. It opens up people. If you speak their language they appreciate your efforts to learn about their culture, who they are and their identity. If you speak your own language and expect them to speak your language you appreciate what the other person is doing to try to understand you but it’s travelling one way. Whereas if you give and take and travel both ways then you enrich your own experience and you are also seen as giving something to their culture. They appreciate that and …" 

"We speak English in Australia but we’re also made up of many cultures and to understand Australia you have to try to understand how much difference exists within our society. Learning a different language is one way to do it."

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**In what ways are these comments relevant for Australians in the future?**

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**What things has Adam been able to do because he spoke another language?**

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**What does he say about fluency in the language?**

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"The limits of my language are the limits of my world"

Ludwig Wittgenstein