

No. 24045

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**AUSTRALIA**  
**and**  
**FRANCE**

**Agreement concerning the establishment of a French-Australian school in Canberra. Signed at Canberra on 4 July 1983**

*Authentic texts: English and French.*

*Registered by Australia on 24 April 1986.*

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**AUSTRALIE**  
**et**  
**FRANCE**

**Accord concernant l'établissement d'une école franco-australienne à Canberra. Signé à Canberra le 4 juillet 1983**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et français.*

*Enregistré par l'Australie le 24 avril 1986.*

## AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRENCH-AUSTRA- LIAN SCHOOL IN CANBERRA

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The Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic;

Within the framework of Article 10 of the Cultural Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic done at Paris on 27 June 1977;<sup>2</sup>

Have agreed as follows:

### *Article 1*

The Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic shall establish a bi-national French-Australian School at Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory which shall open at the beginning of the 1984 school year. The School shall be administered within the framework of the Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority schools system in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

### *Article 2*

The objectives of the School shall be as follows:

- (a) To provide bilingual education in the English and French languages from the kindergarten to year Ten level for students aged from five years to at least the end of compulsory schooling;
- (b) To promote progressive bilingualism in its educational program and to enhance access by students to quality bilingual education;
- (c) To foster respect for other cultures;
- (d) To provide a normal Australian education at secondary level, as a neighbourhood school; and
- (e) To contribute to French-Australian educational and cultural relations and in particular to support the achievement of the aims of the Cultural Agreement.

### *Article 3*

The Government of Australia shall provide the School, through the Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority, with the same staffing and other resources as are available under the normal entitlements for schools of the said Authority. The personnel shall be members of the Commonwealth Teaching Service. Recognizing the special character of the School in providing bi-national education in the English and French languages, the Government of Australia shall also provide four additional teachers, also members of the Commonwealth Teaching Service for the duration of this Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 4 July 1983 by signature, in accordance with article 15.

<sup>2</sup> Should read "20 June 1977". See United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1158, p. 49.

#### *Article 4*

The Government of the French Republic shall provide initially four teachers to the School although it may increase its level of support, depending on the levels of enrolment at the School and subject to the relevant French procedures. These teachers, in carrying out their duties, shall be placed under the administrative control of the School Principal. Teaching personnel placed at the School's disposal and detached from the French administration shall retain their status in accordance with the provisions of the regulations of the French civil service, in particular those which relate to recruitment, salary, promotion, disciplinary action, assessment and working conditions.

#### *Article 5*

The Principal of the School shall be a member of the Commonwealth Teaching Service and shall be selected and appointed in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Chief Education Officer of the Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority. The Principal shall be responsible for the administration of the School, subject to the general direction of the Board, and shall have the same powers in this regard as are prescribed by the Chief Education Officer of the Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority for other schools.

#### *Article 6*

The Government of the French Republic shall supply an officer as an Assistant Principal of the School with responsibility for the French part of the curriculum.

#### *Article 7*

Teaching staff of the School shall not be employed except in accordance with Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this Agreement. However, existing staff other than those employed in accordance with Articles 3 to 6 may be retained or replaced until 31 December 1983.

#### *Article 8*

The levels of staffing specified in this Agreement shall be provided for a period of four years from the 1983 school year including the interim period referred to in Article 11. If the Parties decide to terminate this Agreement, however, existing levels of staffing and other resources shall be maintained for the two-year period prior to termination.

#### *Article 9*

The French-Australian curriculum for the School shall be submitted for approval by the appropriate Australian and French education authorities. For this purpose the Australian education authority shall be the Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority.

#### *Article 10*

Matters relating to the review and revision of the approved curriculum may be referred to a Review Committee which shall normally meet once a year during the third school term. The Australian Minister for Education and the French Ambassador in Australia shall each nominate two members of the Review Committee. This Committee shall supervise the implementation of this Agreement.

### Article 11

During 1983 interim arrangements shall apply. They shall be instituted by the Ambassador of France in Australia and the Australian authorities, on the basis of existing French-Australian programs at Red Hill Primary School and Telopea Park High School, and shall include continued support for the French-Australian pre-school and Narrabundah College.

### Article 12

The School shall have a Board constituted as follows:

- (a) Principal (*ex-officio*);
- (b) Two teachers;
- (c) Three parents or other citizens;
- (d) Two secondary students;
- (e) A nominee of the ACT Schools Authority;
- (f) Up to three co-opted members;
- (g) Two nominees of the French Government; and
- (h) One nominee of the Australian Minister for Education.

Teachers, parents or citizens, and students elected to the School Board and co-opted members shall be chosen in accordance with the Regulations made under the Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority Ordinance. The representatives of the French Government shall be nominated by the French Ambassador to Australia.

### Article 13

The establishment, powers and functions of the Board shall be as set out in the provisions of Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority Ordinance, having regard to the objectives defined by Article 2, except to the extent that these powers are qualified by the terms of this Agreement.

### Article 14

The operation of the School shall be reviewed by the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic at meetings of the Mixed Commission convened under Article 12 of the Cultural Agreement. The first review shall be held in 1984, and reviews shall be held at four-yearly intervals thereafter unless the two Governments decide to terminate this Agreement. In preparation for these reviews, a report on the work of the School shall be prepared in advance of each meeting.

### Article 15

This Agreement shall enter into force upon the date of signature and shall remain in force until 31 December 1986. Thereafter it shall remain in force for subsequent periods of two years. This Agreement shall terminate upon the date of expiry of the current period if either Party gives notice of termination to the other Party at least two years before the date of expiry of that period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned acting with due authority have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Canberra this 4 July 1983 in duplicate in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of Australia:

[Signed]

SUSAN RYAN  
Minister for Education

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

JEAN-BERNARD MÉRIMÉE  
Ambassador of France  
to Australia