

BEN PADDICK

Biodata

Previously Head of Languages and Spanish at Sherbrooke Community School in Melbourne Australia, Ben also has over ten years' experience teaching instrumental music. His classroom music experience includes acting Head of Music at Sherbrooke Community School and Musical Director of several productions. Ben has experience teaching music and English as a second language in Spain and Italy and was a recipient of a Spanish Government scholarship to study Spanish teaching methodology at Granada University in 2011. Ben is also currently guitarist and co-songwriter with *Anna Paddick and the Spekulators*.



HANA LO BIANCO

Biodata

Hana is a writer, independent filmmaker and English language teacher. She holds project management qualifications and has experience in both arts and cultural management and public policy. As a feature film panellist for the Melbourne International Film Festival, in 2010 she first combined her passion for the arts and languages by publishing 'Film and Language Learning in Victorian Schools: A Study of the 2009 Next Gen Program of the Melbourne International Film Festival' (*Babel*, Vol. 45, No. 1, November 2010). In addition to *My Music Languages*, she currently teaches business English in Rome and writes for *Romeing* magazine.



Abstract

Over recent years in Australia there has been a decline in languages study in primary and secondary schools. A key policy response to this trend was proposed in the *Victorian Government Vision for Languages Education* (the Vision) in October 2011. The Vision called for languages teaching to be linked more closely to content areas using Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) methods. *My Music Languages* was initiated as a response to this challenge in 2012.

Ben Paddick and Hana Lo Bianco launched *My Music Languages* as a three-stage pilot project to design, implement and evaluate a bi-lingual (English/Italian) songwriting program. *My Music Languages* uses music, video and social media to make language learning relevant and empowering for students. The program also supports teachers of languages and music with inclusive methods, resources and results. Both the design and pilot stages of *My Music Languages* were conducted with middle-school students of English in Rome Italy and students of Italian in Melbourne Australia from June to December 2012.

The evaluation stage of *My Music Languages* is currently underway in collaboration with *Roma Tre* University and with financial support from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Results show increased student engagement in both countries and demonstrate the program as an effective way to build relationships between international schools. *My Music Languages* is now in a position to continue offering an evidence-based course model that uses CLIL, caters for a variety of age and language levels, and can encompass teacher training.