

Asia Literacy Ambassadors Project:

Nine of our Year 10 Indonesian Students – Kate Armstrong (Everard House), Kris Battyanyi (Rutter House), Mitchell Green (Stewart House), Tara Hardy (Stewart House), Isabelle Mayne (Everard House), Ebony Lee Saddington (Andrew House), Emily Voss (Rutter House), Michelle Williams (Rutter House), Alicia Wilson (Andrew House) were provided with a fantastic learning experience through their participation in the Pilot Work Placement Program for the Asia Literacy Ambassadors project in association with Specialist Link. Through the initiative the students were able to take their learning out into the community in a very genuine manner, and to gain insight into the opportunities that their learning is opening up for them.

The students were guests of a private company, Specialist Link, to translate a rather complex health document from English into Indonesian for the launch of the company into Asia in November. They travelled into the city and were welcomed into the Board Room of the company situated on the 40th floor of a building in William Street. There they received a presentation on the history of the company, its founder and the venture that the company is going to launch into Asia, beginning with Indonesia. With an understanding of the document that had been prepared in English and its aid in terms of what information it was hoping to convey about the business, the students then worked in small groups to translate the various parts of the document into Indonesian. When they had completed their translation they typed it up and orally presented each of their sections, in Indonesian, to the company founder, a member of the management team and a representative from AsiaLink (University of Melbourne). The students enjoyed a "working lunch" and made many suggestions to the company representatives based on their knowledge of Indonesian society and culture, about issues they thought may be encountered in launching such a service into Indonesia (Internet based allied health consultations with Australian Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, etc.). They also had the opportunity to hear from the company founder and manager about living and working in Asia and the opportunities available there.

The huge benefits from this event resonate with the fact that this was a real life situation and experience, with a genuine outcome being sought. The students presented with great confidence and demonstrated a high capacity to tackle the task which they approached conscientiously. All students were happy with their efforts and expressed a very positive view regarding the experience (some even deciding that perhaps the 'corporate life' was for them!)

In congratulating the students I also wish to commend the work of their teacher Mrs Pompa and the language assistants Rahmi Asep-Safitri and Erin Oliver for their contribution to the students learning and preparation for this event. This is yet another example of how our students, teachers and support staff continue to make us proud.