



THE AUSTRALIAN  
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FEDERATION**  
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## **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE FESTIVAL**

Turkish Language Olympiads have been organised by International Turkish Education Association since 2003. In 2012 students from more than 130 countries have competed in different areas like poetry, singing, acting etc. Member schools have participated in these Olympiads in the past and achieved great results representing Australia. It is a great opportunity for the school community to encourage teaching languages other than English. AUF tries to assist in organising the various stages in Australia and monitor the Australian team selections.

Students who were going to represent Australia at the 11<sup>th</sup> Turkish Language Olympiads, among the representatives of over 140 countries, had been selected at the Language and Culture Festival on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March at City Recital Hall in Sydney.

The Language and Culture Festival, organised by Bayram Turkish Cultural Association, was the battleground for fierce competitions to secure a place at the Olympiads which was held between 1 and 16 June 2013 in Turkey.

Students from across Australia displayed great performances and made the job of the judges, lead by Deputy CEO of the Australian Universal Federation Mahmut Celal Arikan, extremely hard. At the end, the following students secured the first place in their categories:

- ❖ Song contest; Ijabo Mohammed and Zehra Uzay (Turkish Background)
- ❖ Poetry Contest; Lena Yacine and Fatma Lelik (Turkish Background)
- ❖ Speaking Contest; Samira Quarshi
- ❖ Special Talent; Enes Ahmadi

Turkish Consul General Ms Gulseren Celik, CEO of Australian Universal Federation Mr Mehmet Yavuzlar, community leaders, local and national media, visitors from overseas was among more than 1000 guests. Senator The Hon Kate Lundy the Minister For Multicultural Affairs sent a warm message which was read by Ridvan Manav the President of the Bayram Turkish Cultural Association.



After the Australia Finals, Deputy CEO, Mahmut Celal Arikan had numerous sessions with the team to prepare them for the finals. The group represented Australia between 1 and 16 June in Turkey. The Australia Information Centre came third in the Culture Exhibition category. Enes Ahmadi received a third place in Speaking and mention in Special Talent. Fatma Lelik also received a third in Essay Writing.