**Confucius Institute opening – video transcript**

**Narrator:**

Colourful Chinese cultural performances and a food festival at La trobe University made an exquisite backdrop for the official opening of Victoria’s third Confucius Institute by State member for Bass, The Hon. Ken Smith MP.

**The Hon. Ken Smith:**

What we’ve got to do is to have an understanding of each other’s cultures, and also each other’s language. We are poles apart as far as language is concerned and as far as cultures are concerned, we both have different cultures but they are both cultures we can understand and enjoy from each other. To be able to have something like this, the Confucius Institute here at La Trobe University is going to allow so many more people to be able to understand, in particular the Chinese culture.

**Narrator:**

The Institute will be an important part of Melbourne’s north in promoting the awareness of Chinese language and culture by offering a range of activities and courses open to the public.

**Professor John Rosenberg:**

This is a really important relationship, first of all the Confucius Institute is an officially supported Institute by the Chinese Government, so it has some recognition both within China and internationally. These are very prestigious institutes, but in particular with Chongqing University, Chongqing University is among the top 20-30 Universities in China, it has a very proud history dating back to the 1920’s, an excellent research reputation and many synergies with La Trobe.

**Narrator:**

Established in partnership with Chongqing University and with the support of the Chinese Government, the non-profit public institution encourages the study of Chinese tradition, ethics and philosophy to further the understanding of China today.

**Professor Pei Likun:**

The world becomes smaller and smaller, people need to communicate to understand each other more than previously. The understanding is just not to do with business and to develop the economy, but the language and culture is very important element for globalisation.

**Narrator:**

The Institute will focus on delivering Chinese language programs and culture to achieve a deeper understanding by staff, students and the wider community.

**Professor John Rosenberg:**

This will provide an opportunity for us to work with staff from Chongqing, or student exchange, or development of research, relationships and to work with each other to provide opportunities for La Trobe students, staff and the community both here in Melbourne but also in our regional campuses to learn about China, the culture and the language.

**Narrator:**

This initiative will advance La Trobe’s wider networks and relationships with the Chinese Government, leading Universities and local communities and provide valuable opportunities for academics and students on all our campuses to communicate ideas with our Chinese peers.

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