



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Redirected to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Reference: Education

Hearing: 12/11/2025

In relation to: Senior secondary language education and Language services

Question received: 24/11/2025

Answer Due: 27/11/2025

The 2018 ACT Language Services Policy states the ACT Government will “promote language learning as a cross-cultural opportunity to develop understanding and appreciation of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds”. How does this policy align with discontinuing the provision of an external senior secondary language education offering for public school students in the ACT.

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The [ACT Language Services Policy](#) introduced by the then Community Services Directorate in 2018 is a broader government policy aimed at *‘improving access to the full range of government and government-services for people requiring language support, in the context of limited resources and acknowledging Canberra’s diverse communities’*, and is not directly aligned to the delivery of senior secondary language education.

The ACT Government recognises the valuable opportunities language learning provides for students and the importance of ensuring access to high-quality programs for all. We also acknowledge the role language education plays in strengthening our multicultural society.

Language education in ACT public schools currently occurs in various forms from preschool to year 12. In 2025, 11 different languages are being taught across ACT public schools, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages, Auslan, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean and Spanish.

In 2024, the Education Directorate published the [Language Education Action Plan](#). This plan sets out a pathway for the ACT to become the jurisdiction of choice for public school language education in Australia. Whilst there are currently no plans to introduce centralised language programs, the Education Directorate will continue to work with community and stakeholders to explore

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strengthening language education delivery options. The ACT Government is currently considering the demand and interest among ACT public school students for Punjabi and Hindi language programs.

CIT Solutions previously delivered Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) approved language courses for a small number of ACT college students via the Centre for Modern Languages. CIT will continue delivering language courses for the current year 11 cohort in 2026 to enable those students to complete a Language Major.

While CIT will not be accepting new enrolments for senior secondary languages programs, senior secondary students will continue to have access to a variety of established language options. There are established pathways for students to continue language education in years 11 and 12 when their local school does not offer a specific language choice. These may include enrolment in a college outside the Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) or studying a course of interest at another campus, while still enrolled in the student's school of choice.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Y' followed by a horizontal line and a loop.

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

08/12/25