



Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into E-PET-077-25: Access to 11-12 ATAR language courses in 2026

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - SP](#)
Subject: Petition and submission the need for centrally run senior secondary language courses to supplement day school programs
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Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Social Policy,

I am writing in response to the inquiry into access to senior secondary language courses in the ACT, chaired by Thomas Emerson. I strongly advocate for the inclusion of Tamil as an ATAR language subject in the ACT.

Tamil is one of the world's oldest living languages, with a rich literary tradition and a significant global and Australian-speaking population. Importantly, it is also a language spoken by many families within the ACT community.

I would like to share a personal perspective. My daughter studied Tamil, and the structured senior secondary program significantly enhanced her knowledge of the language—far beyond what she was able to gain through informal or community-based Tamil classes. The depth, rigor, and academic recognition of an ATAR subject provide a level of learning that simply cannot be replicated elsewhere.

Since the closure of CIT Solutions, students in the ACT have lost access to this valuable pathway. This places them at a clear disadvantage compared to students in New South Wales and Victoria, where Tamil continues to be offered as a recognised ATAR/HSC/VCE subject. Students in those states are able to both strengthen their linguistic skills and gain academic credit, while ACT students are left without equivalent opportunities.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to seek direct input from students who have completed Tamil at the senior secondary level. Their lived experiences will provide a more accurate and balanced understanding of the value and impact of the subject, rather than relying on assumptions or incomplete perspectives.

At present, it feels as though ACT students are being unfairly disadvantaged simply because they are studying in Canberra. This outcome risks penalising capable and motivated students for circumstances entirely beyond their control.

Reintroducing Tamil as an ATAR subject would:

- Restore equity with other Australian jurisdictions
- Support multicultural inclusion and community languages
- Enhance student engagement and academic outcomes
- Provide fair and equal opportunities for ACT students

I strongly urge the Committee to recommend the reintroduction of Tamil as an ATAR language subject in the ACT, including consideration of flexible delivery models if required.

Yours sincerely,

Muthaiah Ramanathan.