



Submission cover sheet

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

Submission number: 25

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - SP](#)
Subject: Re: Submission in Support of E-Petition 077-25 — Continuation of Tamil as an ATAR Subject
Date: Friday, 10 April 2026 2:56:13 PM

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Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Social Policy,

I am writing to strongly support the continuation of Tamil as an ATAR subject in the ACT, and to urge the Committee to recommend that the ACT Government restore and sustain the Year 11–12 ATAR language program beyond 2026.

We are deeply grateful that Tamil was included as an ATAR subject in the ACT. This recognition has been invaluable — it has allowed our children to study their mother tongue at the highest academic level, strengthening both their cultural identity and their future opportunities. Tamil is already offered as an ATAR subject in other Australian states, and it is only fair that ACT students have the same access. Removing this opportunity would disadvantage Tamil-speaking students in the ACT compared to their peers in other states, and would undermine years of effort by our community to maintain and celebrate our language heritage.

I strongly urge the Committee to recommend the continuation of Tamil — and all ATAR language courses — within the ACT Education Directorate, so that every ACT student can continue studying their chosen language at the ATAR level.

Tamil has a significant and growing presence in the ACT community. Three active Tamil cultural schools are operating regularly in Canberra, reflecting the strong commitment of our community to preserving and passing on our language and culture to the next generation. The discontinuation of Tamil as an ATAR subject would be a serious setback for Tamil-speaking families in the ACT. It is also worth noting the global significance of Tamil. It is one of the world's oldest living languages, spoken by millions of people across India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, and many other countries. Proficiency in Tamil is not only a cultural asset but also a valuable skill in an increasingly interconnected world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Yours sincerely,

Dr. Vikkitharan Gnanasambandapillai
[REDACTED]