



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Ms Haidon

In relation to: Canberra Institute of Technology – age of students

Hearing: 28 April 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 61

Transcript provided: 6 May 2026

Answer Due: 14 May 2026

Mr Haidon took on notice the following question(s):

Mr Haidon: It is doable. Again, it is about the mixture of students. We definitely do have under-17-year-olds. And CIT has an under-18-year-old policy and procedure, that certain checks are made to ensure that that student entering an adult learning environment is mentally, you know, psychologically ready for that, and also they have the backing of their employer or the backing of their school and their family and their kind of network. And any risks, say, with their language, literacy, numeracy capabilities are factored into supporting them into that adult learning environment; knowing that we have a very different way of approaching those supports to what a K-12, P-12 school would. And as adults, they are making decisions with more agency than what you may have in a school system.

MS BARRY: And what is the youngest you would have in a mixed school?

Mr Haidon: Yes, at CIT?

MS BARRY: Yes.

Mr Haidon: I think we would go right—I could take it on notice, but I would say it is around about—

Canberra Institute of Technology: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

CIT is recognised as an adult education provider and any person over the age of 17 may apply to be a student at CIT as per the *admissions and enrolment policy* at [Admission and Enrolment Policy : Canberra Institute of Technology](#)

The CIT *'Applications for Admissions of Young People Under 17 Policy'* outlines the protocols where people under the age of 17 may be considered. The policy can be found at [Applications for Admission of Young People Under 17 Policy : Canberra Institute of Technology](#). CIT can confirm that

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there were a small number of students as young as 15 who are completing courses that included adult students, in accordance with this policy.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: 

Date: 12 May 2026

By the Canberra Institute of Technology, Chief Executive Officer, Dr Margot McNeill