



# Submission cover sheet

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

Submission number: 18

Submitter: Sarvesh Kumar

Date authorised for publication: 14 April 2026

## **Petition to Protect the Year 11 – 12 ATAR Language courses in 2026**

To all the Members on the Standing Committee on Social Policy,

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the future of the Year 11 – 12 ATAR languages, as raised in the E-Petition 077-25: Access to 11 – 12 ATAR language courses in 2026.

As someone who has undertaken the Tamil course, I have come to realise that learning my language is so much more than studying words and sentences; it has been a way to connect with my family, culture and my identity. For me, studying Tamil has advanced my skills to the point where I can speak and understand it fluently, allowing me to form an even deeper relationship with my grandparents – thanks to the people at the Canberra Academy of Languages and my teacher, Mrs Uma Ramiah.

It has also allowed me to understand various cultural texts, such as the Thirukkural, which carry lessons about life, values, and humanity. Being able to read and appreciate these works in their original language has made me feel proud, proud to be associated with a culture that is embedded in so much history, culture and meaning.

But this experience is not just meaningful for me, but for many other students as well. For those studying these languages out of interest, it offers a valuable opportunity to explore and understand different cultures and perspectives. Australia prides itself on its multiculturalism and diversity, and CAL has made these experiences meaningful and accessible.

On behalf of all parents, guardians and students, past and present, of the CAL, we urge the assembly to protect access to Year 11 – 12 ATAR languages courses in 2026.

Yours sincerely,  
Sarvesh Senthil Kumar

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.