



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

In relation to: Erindale College – Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander language

Hearing: 28/04/2026

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Transcript provided: 06/05/2026

Answer Due: 14/05/2026

Ms Angela Spence took on notice the following question(s):

MS TOUGH: Thank you. Yes, thank you. One of the questions I was going to ask was about mapping because we have heard some evidence this morning, according to ACT Parents, that Tuggeranong and some parts of Belconnen are less serviced for languages than other parts of Canberra. But reading the government submission, it mentions all colleges have languages except Erindale. Is there a reason that Erindale does not have languages at the moment?

Mr Borton: That is not our understanding. I think every college—there were schools that we checked in and none of them were colleges that did not have—they had an external provider. Yes, so we are following up on that one.

Ms Spence: They do offer an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language program.

MS TOUGH: Awesome.

Mr Borton: That is right, yes.

Ms Spence: But it is not one of our A-priority languages.

MS TOUGH: Yes.

Mr Borton: Which is—in colleges there is a little bit of flexibility around that because they are looking for BSSS endorsement for their programs. And also, it is not the Australian curriculum they are delivering so they do have a language-based program.

MS TOUGH: Yes, it is not one of the eight.

Mr Borton: It is not one of the eight, yes.

MS TOUGH: Yes, no, that makes more sense.

Mr Borton: So that might be why they have said that, yes.

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MS TOUGH: Yes, wonderful. And is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language course they are delivering BSSS accredited, certified that you know of?

Ms Spence: I do not know off the top of my head. I can take that on notice and get you—

MS TOUGH: Yes, if you could take that on notice? Because if that is, that is really interesting that that is being taught. Quite wonderful, actually.

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

The Indigenous Culture and Languages course offered at Erindale College is an ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) course.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature



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

Date:

20/05/2016