



Submission cover sheet

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

Submission number:19

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - SP](#)
Subject: Petition against removal of Tamil as an ATAR course
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Name: Nivedha and Shivani Manikandan

Dear Assembly Committees,

My sister and I are writing to raise a petition against the proposed removal of the Tamil ATAR course.

We had the privilege of studying Tamil at the Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) during 2020–2021 and 2022–2023. CAL provided a rare and invaluable opportunity to deepen our understanding of our language, culture and heritage. It also allowed us to receive academic credit for learning our mother tongue, Tamil. This year marks the sixth year in Canberra that Tamil has been recognised as a tertiary course, and we are deeply grateful to CAL for this initiative.

Through this program, we have gained a profound appreciation for the rich Tamil culture, including its traditions, literature, arts and crafts, sports, and more. Learning Tamil has not only strengthened my language skills in reading, writing and speaking, but has further shaped my identity and heritage. These skills have been beneficial during my visits to India, allowing me to engage more with family and appreciate our heritage.

Removing the Tamil ATAR course would reduce opportunities for young people to engage with and celebrate the contributions of the Tamil community. For students who speak Tamil at home, this course provides an important way to maintain and develop their language skills. Without it, students may have fewer opportunities to read, write and speak Tamil fluently, which could make it harder to stay connected to their roots.

We urge the Assembly Committees to recognise the immense value of the Tamil ATAR course and to ensure that it continues to be available for current and future students.

Thank you for considering our petition.

Yours sincerely,
Nivedha Manikandan and Shivani Manikandan.