



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

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Mr Thiruvathwooran

In relation to: Canberra Tamil School - Infrastructure gap in moderation and recognition of language learning

Hearing: 28 April 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 15

Transcript provided: 6 May 2026

Answer Due: 14 May 2026

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

**MS BARRY:** Yes, thank you. I have got a few questions. So in your submission you talked about infrastructure gap and you said you cannot offer ATAR-accredited classes because there is no centralised directorate-level system to moderate and recognise this learning. What conversations have you had with the government or the Education Directorate about that, if any?

**Mr Thiruvathwooran:** We have to take that on notice, yes.

### Canberra Tamil School: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Our School is uniquely positioned to deliver high-quality Tamil language education, supported by over 35 years of experience and robust community backing. We utilise the national Tamil syllabus developed by the **NSW Federation of Tamil Schools** for Pre-school through Year 10. This curriculum is the standard across Australian Tamil community language schools. In New South Wales, it is formally recognised through the **Record of School Achievement (RoSA)** and provides a direct pathway for students to complete **HSC Units 1 - 4**.

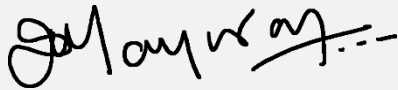
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While the Year 11 and 12 curriculum, developed in Victoria, is utilised nationwide, a significant regulatory disparity exists in the ACT. Unlike other states, where community language schools operate with high-level subject matter experts, the ACT **Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS)** requires that these units be delivered by a **TQI-registered teacher** within an accredited **Specialist Education Provider**.

Consequently, despite our proven expertise and facilities, our status as a community language school prevents us from offering accredited senior courses in the ACT. Previous efforts to address this through community forums and government advocacy were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To my knowledge, there has not yet been a formal engagement with the ACT Government to resolve this specific legislative barrier.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date: 10/05/2026

By Mayuran Sivarasa, the Principal Coordinator, Canberra Tamil School