



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

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Reference: Education

Hearing: 28/04/2026

In relation to: senior secondary language education consultation

Question received: 07/05/2026

Answer Due: 14/05/2026

(1) Please provide a list of stakeholders the Government consulted on the impact of the closure of the Centre for Modern Languages, and during the Education Directorate's consideration of taking on the centralised languages program itself.

(2) If around 25% of out of area enrolment applications for languages are being rejected because of school capacity, why is this being put forward as a viable alternative to a centralised senior secondary languages program?

(3) What consultation did the Education Directorate undertake in 2025 with the teaching workforce on alternative language education delivery models?

(4) Has the ACT Government modelled the impact of the loss of a centralised senior secondary language program on language learning pathways for public college students, and have you modelled the cost of addressing the gaps created by this loss?

(5) Given community demand, what steps has the Government taken to address the loss of Tamil as an ATAR-accredited language for ACT public school students?

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

(1) The Education Directorate consulted with the following stakeholders on the impact of the closure of the CIT Solutions Centre for Modern Languages and potential future delivery options:

- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)
- CIT Solutions
- ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies; and
- Frank Keighley, former convener of Canberra Academy of Languages
- ACT Parents
- A group of ACT college principals
- Australian National University

- University of Canberra;
- (2) The option for out of area enrolment to access a curriculum choice(s) is specified in the Education Directorate's *ACT Public Schools Enrolment Procedure Kindergarten – Year 12*. Although this is subject to school capacity, it remains one of the options available to senior secondary students to access a language course depending on their language of choice and preferred school.
- (3) The Education Directorate consulted with the following stakeholders from the teaching workforce in 2025 in relation to alternative language education delivery models:
- a. ACT Principals Association
  - b. ACT Parents
  - c. Selected college principals
  - d. Australian National University
  - e. University of Canberra; and
  - f. Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment school leaders on a potential alternative language education delivery models within a primary school context.
- (4) No, the ACT Government has not modelled the impact of the cessation of private providers of an externally delivered senior secondary language program on language learning pathways for public college students, or the cost of addressing the gaps created by these closures. The Education Directorate has modelled estimated costings for a centralised senior secondary language education service delivered by the ACT Government.
- (5) Principals of ACT public schools, including colleges, determine what languages are taught in their school in consultation with their school board and community. The Education Directorate identifies eight priority languages for ACT public schools: Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Spanish, Japanese and Korean. Tamil is not identified as a priority language for ACT public schools, noting it is also not currently recognised under the Australian Curriculum: Languages learning area and therefore there is no formal language pathway for Tamil from high school to college at this time.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

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

Date:

20/05/26