



# Submission cover sheet

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

Submission number: 20

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LA Committee - SP](#)  
**Subject:** E-Petition 077-25: Access to 11–12 ATAR language courses in 2026  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 April 2026 8:32:19 PM

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**Name:** Manikandan Lakshmanan  
[REDACTED]

**Dear Assembly Committees,**

I write as a concerned Tamil parent regarding the proposal to remove Tamil as an ATAR language course in ACT schools.

Tamil is one of the world's oldest living languages, with a long and rich cultural history. In Australia, it is an important part of our multicultural society and is spoken by a large and growing population.

As noted in the NSW Parliament in 2016 by MP, Dr Hugh McDermott, Tamil is among the most widely spoken languages in Australia and introduced as Australia's fourth national language, highlighting its importance within our nation.

For families like mine, learning Tamil at school is more than just a subject. It helps our children stay connected to their culture, communicate with family members and understand their heritage while growing up in Australia.

Removing Tamil from the curriculum sends a negative message to our community and risks excluding a significant cultural group. It goes against the values of diversity and inclusion that Australia stands for.

Learning heritage languages also supports students' overall development and sense of belonging. Keeping Tamil in schools supports both education and cultural understanding.

I respectfully urge the ACT Government to reconsider this decision and continue offering Tamil as an ATAR course in schools.

Yours sincerely,  
Manikandan Lakshmanan.