



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

In relation to: Costs of delivery

Hearing: 28/04/2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 66-67

Transcript provided: 06/05/2026

Answer Due: 14/05/2026

Ms Jo Wod took on notice the following question(s):

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THE CHAIR: We will go directly into questions. I have a question about modelling for the cost of delivering a centralised language program, languages program for year 11 and 12 students. Is this a cost that the education directorate modelled after finding out that CIT Solutions was being wound up in June of last year?

Ms Wood: Jo Wood. Director-General, ACT Education. The directorate has looked at some costs of—looking at costs of delivery. There is a whole lot of different considerations depending on what model you might land on. So I would not say we have a definitive cost. But we could share some of that work that went into that on notice, if that would assist the committee.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Yes, that would be really helpful. I am curious about the extent to which cost was the determining factor in deciding not to take over the delivery of the program, and at what point that decision was made.

Ms Wood: So there is a range, and Ms Spence can add to this, there is obviously a range of factors in looking at the concept of a centralised delivery of languages. It is about student demand. It is about teacher and workforce availability. And it is about costs and, you know, there always trade-offs in investing in a new thing, is look at where you would take the resources from. So all of those factors are part of the consideration. And all of those factors impact on whether something would be a sustainable thing to deliver centrally.

THE CHAIR: I acknowledge you have taken on notice the question of cost. We have heard a couple of costs today. You may have been listening in, so the Canberra Academy of Languages provided a costing of \$206,000 a year to deliver the program with six teachers for six languages. CIT indicated that this year they are delivering it for \$124,000, that is just the staffing cost. Were your costings in that—like in that region? It seems like a pretty small figure.

Ms Wood: Our costings would be significantly more than that. Obviously, we have got to take into account our own staff entitlements if we were to be running a service staffed by our own staff. And to cover that span of languages I would think would be significantly more.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Can you shed some light on the assumptions that the directorate was applying? So in the CAL costing, the Canberra Academy of Languages costing that has been tabled, they assumed six teachers at 0.2 FTE. I think they got the salary figures from the current—the Education Directorates latest enterprise agreement. Is that—that kind of the—

Ms Berry: I think we have taken that on notice.

Ms Wood: But that would include—what we come back with, we can include those assumptions about how we reached the costings, yes.

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

Prior to *E-PET-077-25: Access to 11-12 ATAR language courses in 2026*, the Education Directorate investigated estimated costings for a centralised senior secondary language education service to be delivered by the ACT Government. The total estimated cost to the Education Directorate to deliver this centralised service is approximately \$563,000 annually. This comprises the following estimates:

	2025-26	2026-27
	Costs (\$)	Costs (\$)
Classroom Teacher 1.4 FTE (7 x 0.2)	250,778	258,140
SLC (Program Manager)	201,582	207,515
ASO 4 (.5) (Administration Support)	65,678	67,439
Administration including ICT costs and student resources	30,000	30,000
Total	548,038	563,094

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: 

Date: 25/05/26

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