



Submission cover sheet

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

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - SP](#)
Subject: Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) past student
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Hi there,

I'd like to write to you about my experience at the Canberra academy of languages a few years ago when I was finishing school.

My name is Theo, I'm 23 years old studying environmental science in Prague and a previous student at CAL, where I studied German in 2019. The teacher was fantastic and the class prepared me for an exchange in Germany in 2020, over the course of that exchange year I reached a level of conversational fluency to live by and in 2021 came back to CAL for year 12 where I learned more essential grammar structures and advanced vocabulary to reach higher fluency of German.

In 2022 I further put my German classes at call to work and moved to Nuremberg in Germany to start working as an Au Pair, an opportunity only available to me because I had the language skills. It was incredible. I went whole weeks only speaking German, not coming into contact with any English and by the end of it had C1 level fluency, and could've studied for free in German at a German university if I wanted to. I don't live in Germany anymore, I now live and study in Prague but I still use my German here at work, and am constantly finding connections as I learn Czech which has some similarities in the vocabulary and grammar.

This all wouldn't be possible if I hadn't had learned German at CAL and for that I'm forever grateful.

I hope you consider the importance of senior secondary languages and the opportunities they create for students.

Warm regards,

Theo Hearder