



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: Support for Continuation of Year 11–12 ATAR Tamil Courses
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Hello-

I strongly support the continuation of Year 11–12 ATAR language courses, particularly Tamil, as part of the education offerings in the ACT.

Tamil is not just another language—it is our mother tongue, deeply tied to our identity, culture, and heritage. For many families, it is the primary language spoken at home and a vital link between generations. Providing students the opportunity to formally study Tamil at the senior secondary level is essential in preserving this connection.

For students who have already invested years learning Tamil at home and other community classes, the removal of ATAR pathways creates a significant gap. It sends the message that their language and cultural background are not valued within the formal education system. This can be discouraging and may lead to disengagement from language learning altogether.

Studying Tamil in Years 11–12 offers several important benefits:
It strengthens literacy and academic skills in a student's first language
It enhances overall cognitive development and supports learning in other subjects

It allows students to gain formal recognition through ATAR, contributing to their academic pathways
It helps maintain cultural identity, pride, and belonging in a multicultural society like Australia

Tamil is one of the world's oldest and richest languages, with a vast literary and cultural heritage. Supporting its study at the ATAR level reflects Australia's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism.

The existing model—where students attend weekly centralised classes outside regular school hours—has proven to be accessible and effective. Removing this pathway would be a significant loss, especially for communities where Tamil is widely spoken but not offered in local colleges.

I strongly urge the ACT Government to reinstate and sustain Year 11–12 ATAR Tamil courses so that students can continue their language journey without disruption. Ensuring access to mother tongue education at this level is not just an academic need—it is a cultural and community responsibility.

Thanks
Meenu Sampath