



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

Answer to question on notice

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 pathways and promotion

Question received: 07/05/2026

Answer Due: 14/05/2026

- (1) How many year 11 and 12 students in our public education system are currently studying ATAR-level languages?
- (2) How does the ACT Government promote language learning in schools to students, and how much money is spent encouraging (primary school students, (b) high school students and (c) college students to learn languages.
- (3) The Canberra Academy of Languages' submission references that ACT government schools only had 3.67% of their cohort complete language majors at a continuing level, compared to 4.96% for nongovernment schools. What is the ACT Government's understanding of the causes of this gap, and does the Government intend to close it?

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

- (1) There are currently 722 students studying 'T' accredited language courses in Year 11 and Year 12 in ACT public schools. The Board of Senior Secondary Studies refer to 'T' accredited courses that contribute to a student's aggregate scaled score for a student seeking a Tertiary Entrance Statement.
- (2) There is no dedicated ACT Government budget allocated to the promotion of language learning in schools to students. Course offerings are promoted to students and families via existing school communication channels, such as school websites and course guides/prospectus.
- (3) Languages are an elective subject for senior secondary students. The uptake of language courses in years 11 and 12 is based on student choice which may change from year to year based on individual student circumstances and preferences. The ACT Government cannot comment on the approach of non-government schools.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

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

Date:

20/05/26