

Future of senior secondary languages

Making the case for centrally delivered, BSSS-accredited, senior secondary language education programs to continue in the ACT

Context

At the end of 2023, the Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) completed its seventh and final year of program delivery. Since that time, throughout 2024 and 2025, equivalent programs have been delivered by the Centre for Modern Languages (CML) at CIT Solutions.

On 17 April this year (2025), it was reported in The Canberra Times that CIT had decided to transition the commercial business of its subsidiary, CIT Solutions, into CIT and wind up the company. Some programs would be transferred to the parent organisation, Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), while other programs would be discontinued.



On 17 June 2025, CIT committed to delivering senior secondary language courses until the end of this year. Two key questions now remain about plans for programs in the ACT:

- Will programs continue with CIT next year (2026)? Students in the current Year 11 cohort are relying on their language courses to contribute towards their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and their ATAR. At this stage in their Year 11 studies, it is too late to commence and complete a different subject for a major. In any case, they enrolled in their language courses because that is a focus area for them. Other subject areas are not a satisfactory substitute.
- What will be done to ensure there is a central delivery pathway for senior secondary language programs from 2027, for students to undertake language courses that are not available in their day schools? What will be done to ensure that the ACT becomes a leading jurisdiction, as it should be in its role as the national capital, in senior secondary languages?

Some key contacts

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Some key considerations

Below are some points for the decision-makers to consider.

- The ACT should have a long-term plan beyond 2026 that is made known to the public for students who need a study pathway outside their day schools for their senior secondary language studies. This is not to replace strong language programs in day schools, but is to complement them. It should be run by an entity that is visibly committed to the concept and will deliver it well.
- This is particularly important given Canberra's role as the national capital where many government departments interact regularly with their overseas counterparts, its multicultural profile, and its proclaimed status as "the knowledge capital".
- Government-run centrally delivered language education programs exist in NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory, supplementing (not replacing) programs available in day schools. If program delivery ceased, the ACT would be in a minority of educational jurisdictions in Australia without such a facility.
- From one year to the next, there is no way to forecast the range of schools that will be impacted if central delivery ceases, because a range of factors, including staffing, will always affect the capacity of schools to run language programs in-house.

More information

If you would like additional information, please visit the CAL website at <https://cal.act.edu.au>.