

How you can be an advocate

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.

In 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. CIT committed to delivering senior secondary language courses until the end of this year, but they will not enrol any new students next year. Two key questions remain about plans for programs in the ACT:

- Will centrally delivered programs commence with ACT Education Directorate next year (2026) for students who are now in Year 10 and who are about to commence senior secondary studies?
- 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?

Consider writing to these contacts

- Yvette Berry, ACT Education Minister Berry@act.gov.au
- Senator Katy Gallagher Senator.Katy.Gallagher@aph.gov.au
- Your local MLA, see this URL: <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/members/current>
- Senator David Pocock Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au
- MLA Thomas Emerson EMERSON@parliament.act.gov.au
- MLA Andrew Braddock BRADDOCK@parliament.act.gov.au

The last three listed above can help with advocacy to the ACT Government, and to do this, they need evidence of community engagement, particularly from stakeholders who are directly affected.

As CIT will not accept any new enrolments for senior secondary language studies, the only remaining option now is for the government to bring programs in-house with the ACT Education Directorate.

Some suggested points

Below are some points that you may consider making, among others, to the decision-makers.

- Why it is important and valuable for you or your family member to participate.
- Benefits that you have experienced or observed by participating.
- Year 12 students need to complete courses this year and receive credits towards the Senior Secondary Certificate and the ATAR.
- Current Year 11 students need to know that courses will continue throughout this year and next year.
- 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 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>.