

# Convener's Report for 2022

## Canberra Academy of Languages

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<https://languages.org.au>

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ABN: 73 256 637 048 ACT Incorporated Entity / Association Number: A05776 (September 2016)

Registered as a Specialist Education Provider with ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies to 31/12/2022



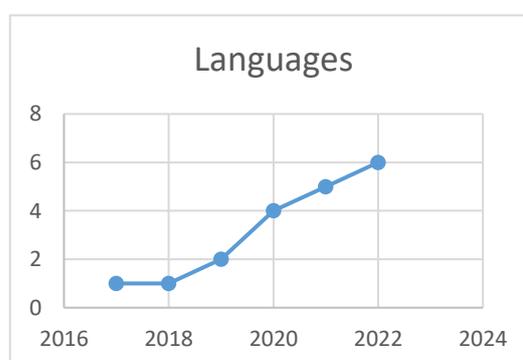
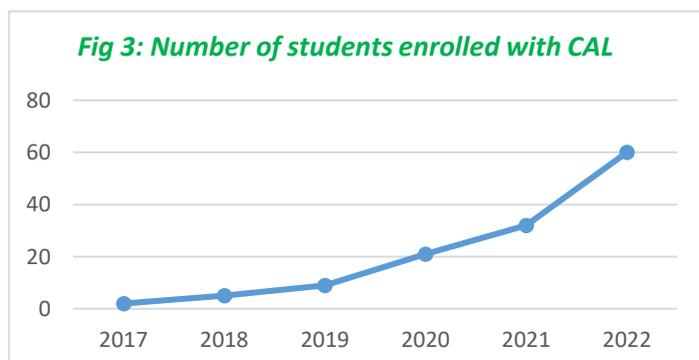
### CAL staffing

The Canberra Academy of Languages continues to be fortunate in having highly qualified teachers with a command of the target language that enables them to use it with confidence in routine classroom discourse. This year, our teachers are Baba Alhadji (French), Selina Jaeck (German), Beth McArthur (Japanese), Stella Lee (Korean), Eleanor Body (Spanish) and Uma Ramiah (Tamil). In addition, Orion Lethbridge has taken on the role of CAL Director of Studies, so that Rosalind Rice can focus on the role of Registrar. These two roles are essential in ensuring effective curriculum and assessment coordination, and financial management of our operations as a self-funded not-for-profit organisation that currently receives no government funding.

For 2023, we have invited expressions of interest from suitably qualified teachers for possible casual sessional roles teaching Beginning/Continuing/Advanced Arabic, Indonesian and Italian. If interested, please send your expression of interest to CAL, [info@cal.act.edu.au](mailto:info@cal.act.edu.au), addressing the points listed on the [News page on MLTA website](#), preferably by Friday 16 December 2022. These roles are contingent on enrolments reaching viable thresholds for program delivery in these languages in 2023.

### CAL programs

The number of languages we are teaching has increased from one in 2017 to six in 2022. Languages currently taught are French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil. In most of these languages, we have one or more students enrolled at beginning level, and in three of the six languages now offered, we have one or more students enrolled at advanced level. Most of our students are enrolled at continuing level. Across the two semesters, the number of enrolments has been slightly above or below 60. We will continue to deliver programs next year in the six languages we are currently teaching. We will also launch new programs in one or more of the remaining languages available to deliver in the senior secondary curriculum, except Chinese, which is already offered by another organisation.



## CAL budget proposal for the ACT 2022-23 budget

We have been advocating for six years the need for a government-run, centrally delivered system for languages education. Our first submission on the subject was at the end of 2017, as part of the Future of Education planning process. We have submitted a series of budget proposals to government over the years, including a detailed budget proposal to ACT Government during the budget consultation this year. There was no formal response to this.

A consultation process on languages education has now been launched by ACT Government. The first stage of the consultation is with stakeholders other than schools. We provided detailed responses for this. Consultation with schools will follow in 2023.

## Venue

Our venue for all CAL programs since the commencement of the 2021 school year is Ainslie School. This is an excellent location, being close to city transport hubs such as the bus interchange and the light rail line. With renovations completed and changes to usage of teaching spaces, CAL classes are now based on the ground floor of the main building. These arrangements facilitate collaboration both with our colleagues at Ainslie School, and also among our CAL teachers. Given that our classes are conducted in the evenings, this also offers greater security and scope for collegial support. The connection with Ainslie School is a valuable partnership for CAL.

## CAL Charter updated

At the CAL Advisory Panel's first meeting for this year on 10 January, the panel discussed and approved an update to CAL's Charter, among other matters. The charter now includes a statement, which was always implicit in CAL's purpose, that the Canberra Academy of Languages advocates language learners' rights – the right to aspire to, and to be supported in achieving, proficiency in more than one language.

## Registration renewal

CAL's registration renewal process as a specialist education provider with the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) will take place in 2023. One of the changes since our last registration process in 2017 is the requirement for schools and other providers to prepare a program of learning. Orion Lethbridge in his capacity as Director of Studies has prepared CAL's program of learning for the four semester units in the senior secondary curriculum for languages. The four documents have been published via links from the Programs page on CAL website. They will be helpful for the registration renewal process with BSSS.

## Class excursions and a DG visit

Excursions this year have been organised for the Japanese, Korean, Spanish and German classes. See our posts on Facebook. There was an evening of Tago Korean Drum at Lewellyn Hall on Thursday 28 July. The Korean Ambassador introduced the well-attended event. The CAL Spanish class and their teacher participated in an excursion to view the Warmi Pachakutik documentary at ANU on Wednesday 10 August as part of the Latin American Film Festival. The Ambassador of Ecuador addressed attendees. The Japanese class went to the Japanese Film Festival on Thursday 17 November. There was also a tasting evening in class recently for the Japanese class, and an evening with crêpes for the French class on Wednesday 16 November. The German class visited Laros Technologies in Week 16. The last visit was two years ago, so this will be new for all in the current cohort.



On Wednesday 27 July, ACT Education Director-General Katy Haire visited CAL classes at our Ainslie School venue. with Ainslie Principal Wendy Cave and CAL Director of Studies Orion Lethbridge also present. It was a pleasure to see our students in relaxed, informal conversation with the DG about languages, what they were doing in their classes, and their own pathways as learners.



## Assessment update

In the ACT senior secondary system, rankings underlie marks that are combined each semester to generate unit scores (essentially a norm-referenced approach to assessment), while achievement standards provide the basis for determining grades (a criterion-referenced approach). This year, we have set up an algorithm using the ratings from assessment item rubrics as data points that generate an average across the ratings to generate a summary grade for each assessment task, and using all data points (16 of these in total) to arrive at a grade that is essentially based on all the ratings in all the rubrics across the semester.

To inform our meshing consultations, Orion has set up a cross-language moderation file that automatically imports current data from the class spreadsheets. This provides an overview for meshing consultations chaired by Orion, which are held after each assessment task has been completed and marked.

## CAL End of Year Ceremony 2021

We would like to thank Ainslie School and the Ainslie staff team for providing the venue for the 2021 CAL End of Year Ceremony, which was held there on Tuesday 14 December. Contributors to the program are greatly appreciated too – Rosalind Rice for her organisational expertise in finalising arrangements for the event; Dr Mandy Scott for the acknowledgement of country; Wendy Cave, Ainslie School Principal, for the welcome; Kerrie Grundy, Narrabundah College Principal, for her address from a college principal's perspective; Evy Stuart for her address from a student perspective; and Dennis Flannery for closing remarks.



## CAL Information Evenings

An online information evening for students wishing to commence studies in Semester 2 of this year was held on Thursday 23 June 2022. A CAL Information Evening about programs for 2023 was held on Thursday 22 September 2022. After this had been communicated through multiple channels, a public holiday was declared following the death of the Queen. The session went ahead, but there were two follow-up sessions early in Term 4 for those who were unable to participate in the originally scheduled session.

## Online presence

There are new pages on Languages.Org.Au for Arabic, Hindi and Italian, all of which are possible languages for our programs to run next year. It is not yet possible to confirm which ones will be viable, but there have been expressions of interest relating to all of them.

CAL reached the milestone of 200 Facebook followers on 28 July this year. We currently have 230 followers. CAL's Facebook page is an important channel for our communications with CAL families, day schools and the broader community.

## Information technology

CAL Fuji Xerox Copy Printer: Fuji support have been excellent in providing advice on configuring the "Docucentre IV" model C2263 multi-function copier-printer-scanner that former students (1960s) of Ainslie School donated to CAL last year. CAL staff can also print to the machine if they install the required driver software on their devices. They can also scan documents, such as marked student work, to their CAL email accounts.



CAL Wi-Fi Mesh: Because our non-government school participants cannot access the "ONE" Wi-Fi government school network, I invested in an Optus mobile broadband facility. After extensive investigations and trials for different equipment choices and set methods, the facility is now functioning well.

## Partner activities and related events

See CAL Facebook page for more details about some of these:

- Celebrating Multilingual Canberra on Canberra Day, Monday 14 March, Commonwealth Park:
  - Multilingual story walk (pictured), exploring the Adventures of Sindbad by following the story walk near Stage 88. Nine stops and nine different languages. Each stop had an illustrated section of the story, written in English plus one other language.



- Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry, with Canberra in Poem, and Poets from the Balkans, with items in Serbian and English, and Bosnian and English.
  - Multilingual Canberra: Information Stall, Stall Number 4 (pictured), in the line of stalls nearest to Regatta Point, with information about languages and language learning in the ACT area.
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- ANU Language Teaching Forum – CAL Convener presented a session about CAL’s programs on Monday 4 April.
  - ANU Languages Showcase, online, Monday 4 April to Thursday 7 April 2022, with mini webinars and drop-in sessions presented by ANU academics.
  - Be:longing, Poetry and Story Share afternoon, Saturday 9 April, Smith’s Alternative. Be:longing, is an online publication exploring personal experiences of migration, cross-cultural interactions, nostalgia and feelings of divided (or shared) cultural belonging.
  - Multilingual Networking, ACTBEA event, Sunday 29 May 2022
  - MLTA TeachMeet, Friday 24 June 2022, at Ainslie School, CAL presentations from Eleanor Body and Frank Keighley.
  - Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry, 27 June at Smith’s Alternative. Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry celebrates cultures, history and identities from Australia and around the globe.
  - CLSA Open Day, Saturday 13 August, at the Albert Hall, a well-attended event (pictured at the right). We think the Albert Hall shares a heritage connection with Ainslie school, because of its architectural character, dating from the 1920s and 1930s.
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- Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry, 20 August, at the National Portrait Gallery.
  - ACTBEA Sharing the Joy of Languages Competition, open to 1 September 2022 – Orion Lethbridge was a member of the judging panel.
  - CLSA Annual Dinner, Saturday 10 September; CAL represented by CAL Director of Studies, Orion Lethbridge.
  - Poetry on the move, with the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research, Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra, 22 to 26 September.
  - Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry at Smith’s Alternative, 24 October.
  - ANGLS Conference, online meeting via MS Teams, Monday 31 October, annual conference of the Australian Network of Government Languages Schools, with ten language education providers participating from South Australia, Victoria, NSW, Queensland, NT and the ACT. All of us share the purpose of central provision to supplement language education programs in schools.
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## Financials and annual return

CAL financials for the 2022 financial year show an increase in the Convener loan, which reflects, among other factors, the cost of running a small start-up class this year.

## End of year

Our end of year ceremony is taking place at Ainslie School on the evening of Tuesday 13 December this year. Students who have completed their CAL studies (most with a major in the language studied) have been invited, along with their families and representatives from their schools.

During January, CAL is offering two summer schools – one in Japanese and one in Korean. The Japanese summer school will be for those who have completed prior study (in or out of school), who are eligible for Continuing Japanese, and who would like to do a bridging program in the holidays to ensure they are ready for the senior secondary course. In the Korean summer school, students will learn to read and write Korean script, practise Korean pronunciation, and learn Korean sentence structures. Registrations will remain open until the first week of January. The summer schools will take place in the 2nd to 4th weeks of January, with 3 hours online plus 2 hours of homework each week for a total of 15 programmed hours.

My thanks, as we finish the year, go to our CAL staff for their dedication and expertise, to our students for their commitment to their language studies, and to families and schools for supporting this important learning.

**Frank Keighley** | Convener, Canberra Academy of Languages, December 2022

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