



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM

Update December 2023

NEWS AND EVENTS

1. CIT Solutions set to deliver senior secondary language courses from 2024

From the start of 2024, CIT Solutions will take on the delivery of senior secondary languages programs currently run by the Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL). CAL was established in 2017 to provide the opportunity for Year 11-12 students to continue learning their chosen languages when a program was not available through their schools or other providers.

In 2023, CAL ran courses in French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil. It is anticipated that CIT Solutions will continue to offer these in 2024. For more information, see https://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/cit_solutions_cml_ssl_flier_2023-11.pdf or contact citsollanguages@cit.edu.au

2. ACT Education Directorate's Languages Education Action Plan

Almost five years ago, a motion was passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly to 'develop an action plan to encourage, improve and support language education in Canberra Schools as a part of implementing the Future of Education Strategy'. Some delay can be explained by the COVID years and their aftermath, but a draft Languages Education Action Plan was circulated to key stakeholders for comment in September 2022 and schools were consulted early this year.

An ABC News article in mid-August 2023 highlighted the need for action to address the many challenges in ACT schools (see <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-14/school-language-programs-lost-in-translation/102717578>). Despite the article ending with the expectation that the Directorate's languages education action plan will "endored by the end of the year", there seem to have been no updates on its progress since then, though we understand that representatives from the Education Directorate played a positive role in facilitating the transition of CAL programs to CIT Solutions. We look forward to more news about the long overdue Languages Education Action Plan and the public consultations that were to be part of its development.

3. Five languages in danger of being discontinued at Macquarie University

The Faculty of Arts at Macquarie University is considering discontinuing the teaching of five European languages: Croatian, Italian, German, Modern Greek and Russian. These are long established courses, and their loss will severely damage the breadth and variety of languages taught not just at Macquarie but in Australia.

Students at Macquarie have set up petitions strongly opposing the cuts. To find out more and support their petitions see <https://chnq.it/GNHSGGpkPv>, <https://chnq.it/dYcwwkji4N> and <https://chnq.it/GwPL7vZ8sW>

4. 'Languages in Australian Higher Education' Symposium

- Thursday 14 December 4pm-5.30pm
- Macquarie University, online option available

Keynote: Jasna Novak Milic, 'Language Preservation and Identity: The Story of Croatian Studies in Australia'

Chair: Ingrid Piller, Discussants: Antonia Rubino, Mark Matic, Jane Hanley

Free but registration required at <https://events.humanitix.com/languages-in-australian-higher-education>

5. Learning the languages of our community

Fantastic 30-minute discussion about languages on ABC RN on Wednesday morning 29 November.

Hilary Harper talks to Hoang Tran Nguyen, community advocate and co-founder of ViệtSpeak, and Dr Howard Manns, linguistics lecturer at Monash University about the value of bilingualism and whether the focus of our language education should shift to consider our local community.

We also hear the stories of listeners who call in to share their ideas and experiences about becoming multilingual.

Podcast available at <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/lifematters/languages-of-our-community/103163890>

6. Survey on Language transmission in multilingual families

Dr Susana Eisenclas, an Argentinian-born linguist working at Griffith University and researching language transmission in Australia, is calling for participants to be part of this multinational study on what might impact on parents' decisions to transmit, or not, their home languages to their children. Eligible participants are asked to complete an online survey, which should take 20-30 minutes.

The survey can be accessed at [Multilingual families \(live\) eng – v05 2023-11 \(kau.se\)](#)

More details at <https://kau.app.box.com/s/osuximibsff4p0fs71xkqgdh7kc7l9eu> or from Susana at s.eisenclas@griffith.edu.au

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Details of previous Forum Updates are available at <https://canberrallanguages.blogspot.com/>