



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM

UPDATE

November 2024

CALLS FOR ACTION

1. Contribute to an Investigation on the state of EAL/D education in Australian schools and EAL/D teaching courses at Australian universities

An opportunity to contribute to this national research project, which is helping to respond to growing concerns about the chronic shortage of qualified English as an additional language/dialect (EAL/D) teachers and reduced support for EAL/D learners in schools. All

- EAL/D teachers
- teachers of EAL/D learners, and/or
- tertiary EAL/D teacher educators

are invited to take part in the first stage of this research by completing an anonymous, 15-minute survey about the current situation of EAL/D education in their schools/institutions.

For more info and to access the survey: <https://atesolact.org.au/2024/11/your-help-needed-now-acta-survey-on-the-state-of-eal-d-education-in-australian-schools/>

Closing date: 2 December.

2. Protest the proposed closure of Languages at the University of Wollongong

The University of Wollongong is proposing to disestablish its entire Languages Discipline, including English Language and Linguistics, Mandarin, French, Japanese and Spanish. The Australian Society for French Studies (ASFS) is working with the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities (LCNAU) and other associations to reverse any such plan. While LCNAU understands the situation is difficult due to the impact of changes to international student arrangements, denying in one fell swoop critical opportunities for students to learn languages and to understand and work in the world around them is not the solution.

To voice your concern, you can sign the petition at: <https://chnq.it/jCGLq79tYQ>

You can also write directly to the Vice-chancellor, John Dewar at jdewar@uow.edu.au and/or Chancellor Michael Still at mstill@uow.edu.au, with a cc to Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (ASSH), Peter Kelly, at pkelly@uow.edu.au, and Acting HOS A/Prof Lisa Slater at lslater@uow.edu.au

3. Make use of the National Languages Campaign

This second iteration of the National Languages Campaign is designed to encourage students leaving high school to take up language study at university. To access the fun video and audio clips see <https://www.acicis.edu.au/lcnau-national-languages/>

The above URL also offers a link to ULPA (University Languages Portal Australia), which is a mine of information about how and where languages can be studied at universities around Australia. A search can be done by language or university, and there is a FAQ section covering: Interpreting your Search Results, Availability of languages, Enrolling, Degree Structures, Delivery, Proficiency, Navigating the Portal, and Information for Year 12 Students

For details see: <https://ulpa.edu.au/>

REPORTS FROM SOME LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND PROGRAMS

4. Modern Language Teachers' Association of the ACT Inc

The Modern Language Teachers' Association of the ACT (MLTA-ACT) is an independent non-profit professional association that supports teachers of languages and promotes language learning in the ACT and surrounding region. It provides a voice for language teachers of all languages and stages, and facilitates professional dialogue amongst colleagues within the ACT and other jurisdictions.

MLTA-ACT advertises language teaching positions and cultural events on their website, offers financial scholarships twice each year and organises four events annually, of which three are professional learning. Most are TQI accredited. Students at tertiary institutions and ACT Community Language School Teachers who are not otherwise employed as teachers are eligible to become Associate Members at no cost.

MLTA-ACT is affiliated with national and international associations including AFMLTA, NZALT and FATFA, enabling its members to attend conferences at member rates.

For more information visit <https://www.mltaact.asn.au/> or follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MLTAACTInc>

5. Year 11 and 12 courses at CIT Solutions' Centre for Modern Languages

CIT Solutions' Centre for Modern Languages (CML) is now accredited by the ACT Board of Senior School Studies (BSSS) as a Specialist Education Provider. Its senior secondary language courses (formerly run by the Canberra Academy of Languages) are thus formally acknowledged for the next 5 years as a part of students' senior secondary studies.

The senior secondary program offers a blended learning model to students who want to study French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, or Tamil as part of their senior secondary certificate, but are unable to do so through their school or college. Students can complete a course in Beginning, Continuing, or Advanced language study, and count their study towards their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and their ATAR. Each week, students complete two hours of off-site work and attend a two-hour face-to-face lesson with their teacher and their peers.

CIT Solutions thank their students, teachers, school partners, and the wider community for supporting another exciting year of language learning! Special thanks also to the team at Ainslie School, who generously host the face-to-face component of the program. CIT Solutions will celebrate the success of all their students who will graduate at the end of this semester at a Graduation Ceremony on 9 December 2024.

For prospective students, community members, or schools interested in learning more about the program, please visit <https://languagehub.citsolutions.edu.au/year-11-and-12-courses/> or email CitsolLanguages@cit.edu.au or phone 02 6207 0633.

6. ACT Bilingual Education Alliance

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) is a local non-profit community group that celebrates and promotes multilingualism in the Canberra region. Through events and activities organised during the year, its @ACTBEA Facebook page, and its website, the Alliance:

- provides information about bilingualism and its benefits,
- lists language programs in the Canberra area for children and adults,
- facilitates networking opportunities
- provides practical and academic advice about language learning,
- keeps members up to date with local news and events related to languages.

Working cooperatively with other local groups and organisations that promote multilingualism and language learning, during 2024 ACTBEA has:

- coordinated activities at the National Multicultural Festival to showcase and raise awareness of the many languages being spoken, taught and learned in Canberra,
- organised a well-attended presentation and panel-led discussion at the ANU about raising children in more than one language, and
- supported several Mother Tongue – Multilingual Poetry performances and open mics

See <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html> for more details.

ACTBEA is happy to visit playgroups, preschools and schools interested in bilingualism and bilingual education and to provide tailored talks for teachers, staff, and/or parents of children who attend these groups/schools.

For more information about ACTBEA see: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/> and for

Mother Tongue – Multilingual Poetry: <https://www.facebook.com/mothertonguemicro>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Contact Mandy at languagesact@gmail.com

Details of previous Forum Updates are available at

<https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/>