



CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

September 2022

NEWS

1. Canberra is becoming more multilingual

According to ABS census data for 2021, the percentage of people in the ACT speaking a language other than English at home (either exclusively, or in addition to English) was 24.6% of the population in 2021. This is an increase over 2016.

The top 20 languages spoken, in order are:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mandarin | 11. Italian |
| 2. Nepali | 12. Korean |
| 3. Vietnamese | 13. Malayalam |
| 4. Punjabi | 14. Telugu |
| 5. Hindi | 15. Bengali |
| 6. Cantonese | 16. Greek |
| 7. Spanish | 17. Tamil |
| 8. Filipino/Tagalog | 18. French |
| 9. Arabic | 19. Croatian |
| 10. Urdu | 20. Sinhalese |

The largest changes between 2016 and 2021 were:

- Nepali (+4,993 persons)
- Punjabi (+2,804 persons)
- Mandarin (+1,989 persons)
- Urdu (+1,269 persons)

More details at <https://profile.id.com.au/crjo/language?WebID=200&BMID=50>

2. ACT Language Education Action Plan 2022-2025

Nearly four years after the ACT Legislative Assembly passed a motion 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’, the ACT Education Directorate has developed a *Draft ACT Language Education Action Plan 2022-2025* and a *Discussion Paper: Languages Education in ACT Public Schools*.

Both documents are only available to key stakeholders at this stage.

There are plans for wide public consultation.

- Key external stakeholders are invited to provide comments and feedback on the Draft Plan to edu.languages@act.gov.au by 10 October 2022 using a template available from the ACT Education Directorate
- General public consultation will take place through the ACT government ‘Your Say’ page early in 2023
- Public schools will be consulted at the commencement of the 2023 academic year.

More details at <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/news.html>

3. Increased support for ACT Community Language Schools

Excellent news to hear that the ACT government committed an additional \$513,000 over four years in the 2022-23 ACT Budget to support ACT community language schools. According to Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Tara Cheyne, when she presented the [ACT Government response to the resolution on language challenges facing Canberra's Multicultural community](#) in August 2022, this amount will be added to the current 4-year budget allocation of \$777,259.

Minister Cheyne went on to say that a total of \$312,875 will be available in 2022-23 for

- the delivery of a community language school grant,
- to commence planning for a Teacher Professional Development Program and
- to fund the establishment of a New School and Teaching Resources Development Fund.

The ACT Government response also noted that the Community Services Directorate (CSD) is working with the ACT Community Language Schools Association, the Education Directorate, Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and Libraries ACT to identify alternative funding models, ongoing access to venues and professional development support for community language schoolteachers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

4. Canberra Academy of languages (CAL) Information evening

- Thursday 22 September 2022
- Online via Google Meet

An online information evening for students interested in commencing studies with CAL in 2023. Currently CAL offers programs in French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil. In 2023, programs for Arabic, Indonesian, Hindi and Italian may be offered if there are sufficient numbers of students interested.

Discussion will include information on learning languages in Years 11-12, receiving credit for languages studies towards the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and the ATAR, how CAL's programs are set up, and how to find current information about programs throughout the year.

For more details visit <https://www.cal.act.edu.au/news.htm> and email info@cal.act.edu.au to receive the link for the meeting.

5. Poetry on the move

An initiative of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research, Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra, this year's event will be run mostly in person over five days:

- Thursday 22 – Monday 26 September
- Gorman Arts Centre in Braddon with some online events.

Participants will engage in poetry locally, nationally, and internationally through readings and panel discussions that have been designed around the theme, Lyrical Manoeuvres.

There will also be workshops, some face-to-face but others mostly online, in the festival fringe; and some readings and other exciting events during the weeks before and after the festival proper.

- All events, except for workshops, are free, but registration is required.

More information at <https://www.poetryonthemove.net/blank-3>

6. ANU Language Teaching Forum

- Monday 26 September 4.15pm
- Online via Zoom

Fabricio Tocco will be presenting on “Bridging Indigenous Australia with Hispanic America through the Spanish classroom”

Free and open to all language teachers and researchers from the ANU as well as teachers in mainstream and community language schools in the Canberra region.

For more details and the Zoom link, contact Wesley.Lim@anu.edu.au

7. Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (COEDL) – End of Centre Event

Public lecture

- Wednesday 28 September from 6pm
- The Shine Dome, Canberra.
- Topic: *Waabarangara! Invigorating a community of speakers via performance*
- Speaker: Professor Clint Bracknell

Free but registration required via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/coedl-end-of-centre-public-lecture-tickets-358012122897>

This is part of the End of Centre Event at the Shine Dome from Wednesday 28 September to Friday 30 September. This event reflects on the achievements of Centre investigations and lessons learned since COEDL began in 2014 and discusses future avenues for linguistics research.

Registrations for the End of Centre Event closed on 31 August 2022, but you can see the program and abstracts of the sessions at <https://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/end-of-centre-event/program/>

Contact coedl@anu.edu.au with any questions.

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at
<https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>