

Convener's Report for 2023

Canberra Academy of Languages

Canberra Academy of Languages

Mailing address: GPO Box 1627, Canberra ACT 2601

Reception phone number: +61 – 2 – 6152 9140

Organisational website: <https://cal.act.edu.au> Resources website:

<https://languages.org.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CanberraAcademyOfLanguages>

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

We are completing our seventh and final year for CAL, delivering senior secondary courses for students whose preferred languages are not available to study in their day schools. I would like to thank current and past members of the CAL team. Past team members are mentioned in previous convener's reports. As of now, the CAL team comprises (clockwise from left to right): Eleanor Body – Spanish; Miriam Kataoka – Japanese; Rosalind Rice – Registrar; Uma Ramiah – Tamil; Baba Touré – French; Elissa Burt – Korean; Orion Lethbridge – Director of Studies; Beth McArthur – Director of School; Selina Jaeck – German; Frank Keighley – Convener.

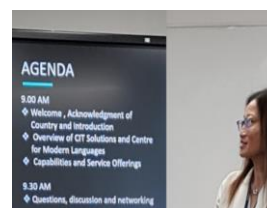


Transition for 2024

It was confirmed in September that CIT Solutions will take on the delivery of senior secondary languages programs from the start of 2024. CAL currently runs courses in French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil in 2023. CIT Solutions will continue to offer these in 2024. We welcome this initiative by CIT Solutions, and we are working with them to ensure a smooth and successful transition. Our CIT Solutions colleagues presented an information session jointly with us on Thursday 21 September 2023. They share our belief in the importance of providing language learning opportunities for ACT students, regardless of where they may live or attend school.



On Friday 10 November, CIT Solutions provided an information session for principals, deputy principals and other delegates from ACT, at the Bruce CIT campus, where CIT Solutions has its headquarters, to outline their plans to deliver senior secondary language courses through their Centre for Modern Languages (CML), and a flier was distributed to attendees. Continuing the arrangements that CAL has in place this year, classes will be held at Ainslie School, Donaldson Street, Braddon, with French, Spanish and Tamil on Wednesday evenings, and German, Japanese and Korean on Thursday evenings.



Class excursions and student initiatives

CAL and ACTBEA (ACT Bilingual Education Alliance) participated in the ACT CLSA Open Day on Saturday 20 May. The Community Language Schools Association organises an annual open day, community language schools present performances. There is also a round table session at the end of the day's program, where leaders of community language schools discuss matters of current interest. This year, topics for discussion included funding arrangements to be introduced after the recent review, and resources suitable for use in programs.





MULTILINGUAL CANBERRA

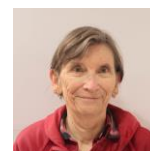
24.4% of people in the ACT spoke a language other than English at home in 2021

These are the top 40 languages

Language	Number of speakers in 2021	Change in %
Spanish	3,400	+10%
Arabic	2,900	+10%
Chinese	2,800	+10%
Italian	2,700	+10%
Portuguese	2,600	+10%
German	2,500	+10%
French	2,400	+10%
Polish	2,300	+10%
Ukrainian	2,200	+10%
Japanese	2,100	+10%
Vietnamese	2,000	+10%
Indonesian	1,900	+10%
Tagalog	1,800	+10%
Hebrew	1,700	+10%
Yiddish	1,600	+10%
Greek	1,500	+10%
Malay	1,400	+10%
Persian	1,300	+10%
Russian	1,200	+10%
Swedish	1,100	+10%
Thai	1,000	+10%
Urdu	900	+10%
Welsh	800	+10%
Yugoslavian	700	+10%
Other	600	+10%
...and 34 other languages	500	+10%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census of Population and Housing

On Monday 30 October 2023, Dr Mandy Scott, who among other roles is Chair of the Canberra Academy of Languages Advisory Panel, was one of the nominees recognised in a presentation for Australian of the Year in the Gandel Hall at the National Gallery of Australia. We were pleased to see



acknowledgement of Mandy's advocacy of community language learning, bilingualism and multiculturalism. Beforehand, on 28 October, Mandy was interviewed by Adie Francis on ABC Canberra Mornings show on Friday 20 October as one of the nominees for ACT Senior Citizen of the Year. The podcast of the program for that morning is at <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/canberra-mornings/mornings/102978482>. Mandy is also Honorary Lecturer, ANU School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, Convenor of the Languages Forum of the ACT, Secretary of the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, among multiple roles that she has in supporting and promoting multilingualism in Canberra.



The Community Language Schools Association held a well-attended end of year dinner at the Ruby Chinese Restaurant on Saturday 18 November, with CLSA President Dr Fuxin Li, Mohammed Ali, founder of HelpingACT, and CLSA Vice-President Manu Naufahu in attendance, as well as Stefan Romaniw, Executive Director of Community Languages Australia and Andrew Braddock, Greens MLA in the ACT Legislative Assembly. Stefan, who is also Co-Chair of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, was about to embark on a visit to Ukraine.



Dates have been confirmed for 2024 National Multicultural Festival. It will be held from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 February 2024. See the NMF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/national.multicultural.festival/> and <https://events.canberra.com.au/whats-on/62ba9cb012996c12183e50d3/national-multicultural-festival> for details.



The Mother Tongue Multilingual Poetry (<https://www.facebook.com/mothertonguemc>) group has successfully followed up the work of founder Jacqui Malins, with a coordinating group including Mandy Scott, Meredith Box, Vesna Cvjeticanin, Dunja Kaczmarek, Kasia Williams, Shun Ikeda, Mirjam Herzog, Marina Houston, Francesca Szeremet, who are also active in the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (<https://www.facebook.com/ACTBEA>).



Among the lineup of MTMLP events were sessions at Smith's Alternative on Monday 27 February, Coombs Community Centre on Saturday 11 March, Smith's Alternative on Monday 20 March, Woden Library on Saturday 20 May, Smith's Alternative on Monday 22 May, Street Theatre on Saturday 1 July, and Smith's Alternative on Monday 30 October and Saturday 18 November.



CAL Information Evenings

An online information evening for students wishing to commence studies from Term 2 of this year was held on Monday 27 March, and, as noted above, an online CAL Information Evening about programs for 2024 was held jointly with CIT Solutions on Thursday 21 September. My thanks go to Beth McArthur and Kirsty McCune for leading the online discussion during that online meeting.

CAL Wi-Fi Mesh

To supplement access via the "ONE" Wi-Fi government school network, last year, we installed an Optus mobile broadband facility. The broadband signal varies in strength and bandwidth. Further work on the facility this year included installation of an XPOL antenna and tripod for the antenna, to strengthen signal capture from mobile towers. The signal capture still leaves much to be desired. There have been many conversations with the broadband provider and many promises that the local tower capacity will improve.

ANGLS Conference, Adelaide, 28-29 August 2023

The annual conference of the Australian Network of Government Language Schools (ANGLS Conference) was held this year at the Education Development Centre, Hindmarsh, in Adelaide. Our colleagues from CIT Solutions joined the CAL Convener, CAL Registrar and CAL Director of Studies in meeting the delegates – talented and dedicated colleagues who shared their expertise from seven Australian jurisdictions.

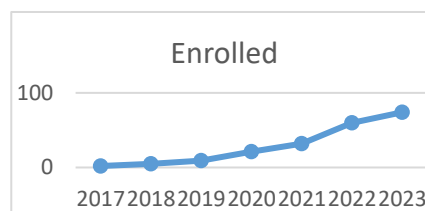


Lia Tedesco, retiring as Principal of the South Australian School of Languages at the end of this year, hosted the event. Dr Michelle Kohler has been appointed as principal there for 2024. Hilary Hughes, formerly Principal at the NSW School of Languages, who is now a Director with the NSW Department of Education, also moved on from the ANGLS President role, and Sana Zreika, Principal of the Secondary College of Languages NSW, is now ANGLS President.



Class of 2023

We had more than 70 students as of March this year and more than 60 students at the end of the year. Generally, over the seven years of program delivery for CAL, numbers were highest at the start of Q2, after our information sessions for the Q2 intakes. Among students in the CAL class of 2023, 32 students are completing a major in the language they have studied, and 27 are completing a minor as of now. Among those completing a minor this year, some will go on to convert it to a major by continuing their studies with CIT Solutions Centre for Modern Languages next year.



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

Frank Keighley | Convener, Canberra Academy of Languages, December 2023

Organisational website: <https://cal.act.edu.au> | Resources repository: <https://languages.org.au>