Who are we?

The School of Languages is a government school established in 1986 to enhance access, choice and continuity in language learning for South Australian students, through the provision of quality programs in a broad range of languages R—12, that complement and supplement languages programs offered in mainstream schools and ethnic schools.

NAIDOC Week 2019 Poster, by Charmaine Mumbulla, 'Awaken'

School of Languages
255 Torrens Road,
West Croydon SA 5008
- Telephone 08 8301 4800
- Facsimile 08 8301 4801
- dl.1802.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- www.schooloflanguages.sa.edu.au

Enquire now!
Why learn Australian Languages?

There are many reasons to learn Aboriginal languages, including:

- they alone are the original languages of the country
- enables Aboriginal students to access education in and about their languages, as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples
- enhances development of wider recognition and understanding of their languages, cultures, Countries and Places of Aboriginal students, and contributes to learning achievements and wellbeing
- develops a strong sense of identity, pride and self-esteem in all students
- provides intellectual challenges and distinctive means of understanding the relationship between land, environment and people, to all students
- contributes to the revival and maintenance of the languages, and to national Reconciliation.


About Pitjantjatjara

Pitjantjatjara is one of a group of over 30 closely related languages collectively referred to as the single, Western Desert language, with around 5000 speakers. The language is still being transmitted between generations as a first language.

Today, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people live in the SA Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands and other Western Desert communities of Alice Springs, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, the west coast of SA, and Adelaide.

Pitjantjatjara, like all Indigenous Australian languages, has a complex and elegant grammar and a culturally, environmentally and kinship-specialised vocabulary. It is spoken by all generations as the language of daily interactions while at the same time being an endangered language. In learning Pitjantjatjara at the School of Languages all students in the second language learning pathway will not only start or continue learning to communicate in grammatically and culturally appropriate ways but will also begin to understand something of the richness, variety, complexity and contemporary relevance of the broader Indigenous linguistic heritage of Australia.

Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara share a well-researched dictionary and other online and print sources of cultural and environmental information. Each has a published grammar. Written traditions date from the 1940s with the establishment of the Ernabella mission. The shared spelling system is easy to master although the primary form remains in oral discourse. Verbal art includes highly-developed forms of rhetoric, story-telling, songs and sung epics, and styles of kinship-based respect and deference.

Where are lessons held?

Course: School of Languages
Stage 1/2 Wednesday, 5:30 - 8:30pm
Beginners

Adult students

Australian Languages at School of Languages are open to adult students. Please refer to the website for information related to Adult enrolments.

SACE – Australian Languages (Stages 1 & 2)

The Pitjantjatjara course is part of the Australian Languages Subject Outline. This program can cater for those students who have no background in the language and for those who have some. There are no prerequisites. At SACE Stage 2 level, Pitjantjatjara can be taken as a 10 or 20-credit sequence.

How are courses delivered?

The School of Languages offers year long courses beginning in February and following school terms. Classes are held once per week.

How do I enrol?

If you are interested in learning a language, please contact the School of Languages. We would be happy to answer any questions you have and look forward to hearing from you.

How much does it cost?

The following annual charges apply:
Stage 1 and 2 SACE $150
All other Adults $350