



Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

- 3 JAN 2023

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Email: neil.laurie@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 December 2022 regarding Petition No. 3836-22, Inclusion of Punjabi language in Queensland's P-10 curriculum, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly

Queensland state school students have the opportunity to study a language as one of the eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum in Prep to Year 10. State schools are expected to provide languages in Years 5 to 8 and are encouraged to teach languages from Prep to Year 12.

In consultation with their school communities, state school principals choose the language/s to be taught from the Australian Curriculum: Languages suite developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). This suite does not currently include the Punjabi language.

The Department of Education has responded to a number of requests regarding the addition of Punjabi to the Languages subjects studied in Queensland state schools. As communicated in response to these requests, ACARA is responsible for the development of all eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum and the decision to not include Punjabi as a subject in the Australian Curriculum: Languages was not made by the Queensland Department of Education.

Punjabi is offered as a General Senior External Examination (SEE) Syllabus through the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and is designed for students in their final year of senior secondary schooling who are unable to access certain subjects at school because of timetable clashes or subject availability.

The Queensland Government provides grant funding to Community Language Schools (CLS). The CLS Grant Program is made up of community based not-for-profit organisations, which provide classes in a range of languages and cultures that make up Queensland's multicultural diversity. Further information about establishing a CLS is available on its website at www.communitylanguageschools.education.qld.gov.au/.

I am advised that the department is not aware of any Queensland state school or CLS that offers the Punjabi language. Please do note, however, that financial support is available for community not-for-profit CLS that are eligible and choose to apply for a grant annually.

Information on how to establish a Punjabi CLS has been previously provided to interested parties, as has information regarding Punjabi SEE.

I would like to thank you, the principal petitioner, and every person who signed the petition for their interest in the Queensland state education system.

Yours sincerely



GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

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