



Senator the Honorable Simon Birmingham
Minister for Education and Training
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT

Dear Minister,

RE: Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) Draft Request for Tender (RFT)

I write on behalf of the *Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA)* regarding the Draft Request for Tender for the Adult Migrant English Program.

ACTA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft RFT and that the draft document has allowed stakeholders to consider Government intentions for the operation of the Program.

We commend the commitment to encourage flexibility and innovation, and extend opportunities for English language learning. We also warmly commend the commitment to quality service provision through the Policy Parameters and AMEP Service Delivery Principles stated in the draft.

However, we believe that these commitments are seriously undermined by the Draft RFT proposals to divide the AMEP into two streams with downgraded standards permitting larger class sizes and the employment of unqualified teachers in one of these streams.

These proposed changes to the AMEP have little justification or warrant arising from the Program's central objectives and current functioning, the Government's most recent Evaluation of the Program, or the stated Policy Parameters and AMEP Service Delivery Principles in the Draft RFT.

As detailed in our attached submission, this unnecessary fragmentation and concurrent downgrading of part of the AMEP will create serious inequities between newly arriving migrants, erode its reputation in the public domain, increase inflexibilities in the Program, and create unnecessary logistical problems.

Consequently, we urge you to ensure that the Request for Tender is revised to reflect the stated Policy Parameters and Service Delivery Principles and continue quality and equitable provision for AMEP clients.

As always, we would be pleased to provide any further feedback that might assist the development of quality AMEP provision through the next round of tenders.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Michell', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

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