

Submission
No 93

**INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES
SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 9 August 2020

Partially
Confidential

Please Help Asian Background Students.

Due to the eligibility criteria established by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) in 2007, students of Indonesian, Korean, Chinese or Japanese backgrounds are often unable to take a course of their choice because of the language their parents speak at home. This means that for over a decade, students of these four Asian backgrounds have been forced to accept unreasonable conditions if they wish to study their parents' language for the HSC.

As HSC is a pathway to tertiary education, it must be a system that is fair to all students. Yet, there are strict eligibility criteria for students who are of one or more of the four Asian backgrounds if they wish to study the language of their parents. Why is this the case when students of the 30 other language backgrounds are not subject to such strict criteria?

The eligibility criteria are often incorrectly interpreted at schools. Students have simply been told verbally by their language teachers or principals that they are not eligible to take Indonesian/Korean/Chinese/Japanese because their mother is Indonesian/Korean/Chinese/Japanese. Many schools reject the students' wish to study the language of their parents based on misinterpretation of the eligibility criteria. As a result, many Asian-background students have been hurt and felt that their identity has been denied.

Students and parents of Asian backgrounds are unable to take a strong stance against their schools or the NESA because they are afraid that such action will reflect badly on the students' HSC. All they can do is shed tears.

ATAR is a system of ranking used for entry into tertiary education institutions. Students of the four Asian backgrounds are often forced to take "in Context" or "Literature" courses, which require higher levels of language proficiency than the "Extension" course. However, the mean ATAR for "in Context" and "Literature" are mostly lower than "Beginners" and "Continuers" due to the scaled-down ranks. The "in Context" and

“Literature” courses exist in the only Asian four languages.

The students who made an effort to study challenging levels of Asian language are especially disadvantaged by giving lower ATAR scaling.

◆Chinese language course

	Beginners	Continuers	Extension	in Context	Literature
HSC	36.9	42.7	44.9	44.3	41.5
Scaled	20.9	32.6	38.1	30.4	24.8

◆Japanese language course

	Beginners	Continuers	Extension	in Context	Literature
HSC	36.7	40.5	42.2	41.6	42.4
Scaled	23.7	31.2	38.4	28.3	24.3

◆Korean language course

	Beginners	Continuers	Extension	in Context	Literature
HSC	39.9	–	–	44.6	43
Scaled	27.1	–	–	28.8	22.7

◆Indonesian language course

	Beginners	Continuers	Extension	in Context	Literature
HSC	39.3	39.6	42.2	–	–
Scaled	22.8	30.4	34.5	–	–

I request that the syllabus of HSC languages courses be fair for students of Asian backgrounds.

We believe that pathways to university should be fair for all students.

Please assist us to enable students of Asian backgrounds to be treated fairly for their HSC examinations.

Thank you very much for your attention. I look forward to see the improved outcome of the inquiry of NSW educational curriculum.

Sincerely yours,