



Community Languages Schools

Ambassador Program Student Profile



Abi Jothika Antonito

My name is Abi Jothika Antonito. I attended Balar Malar Tamil School at Ashfield from the age of 8 in 2009 and then at Seven Hills in 2014.

When I was younger, I spoke Tamil very fluently however, I did not know how to read or write the language. To further enhance my reading and writing skills, I enrolled in Tamil school. In the beginning I didn't really enjoy the lessons, but I later became more appreciative of learning my language and enjoyed my journey with friends along the way. I enjoyed the good laughs and banter and the competitive nature of achieving the best results in little quizzes and competitions with my friends and classmates.



Growing up my interests included playing the piano and violin, marathon running, singing, and hip-hop dancing. I enjoyed participating in community events and singing at church to further enhance my skills in Tamil.

It is really important for me to be able to associate with people from the Tamil community and to be able to communicate with my loved ones who cannot understand English, and pass Tamil on to future generations.

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It is also important for me to utilise my ability to communicate in Tamil for volunteering, including interpreting services for refugee women through the Community Migrant Resource Centre and tutoring children who speak Tamil well but do not understand English. I can bridge that gap with communication so that they are able to continue to learn their second language.

Learning a second language has really opened a part of me that I never thought would exist. It has enhanced my ability to communicate with relatives who do not understand English. It has also helped me in my workplace when I need to translate in Tamil for those who do not understand English.

Learning Tamil has helped shaped me into the person I am, appreciative of my culture and my roots. I couldn't be prouder of learning my mother tongue and being able to communicate in this beautiful language.