



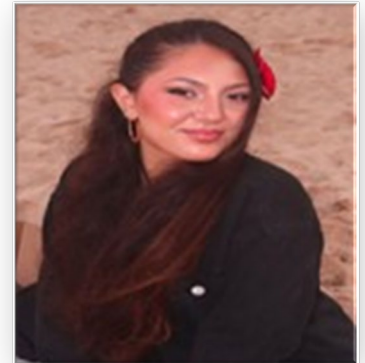
Community Languages Schools

Ambassador Program Alumni Profile



Nasren Dodangeh

My community language school journey began at Ryde Persian School, where I studied for two years before continuing at Andisheh Persian School for another ten years. There, I completed Persian Continuers for my HSC and was proud to achieve a Band 6 result.



"The greatest gift of language learning has been this ability to bridge cultures and strengthen relationships."

As a second-generation Australian, it was important to my parents that I stayed connected to my culture while growing up in an English-speaking country. Persian was my first spoken language and attending community language schools gave me the opportunity to formally learn how to read and write it.

From the beginning, I was actively involved in my school community. At Ryde Persian School, I participated in a theatre group, before discovering my passion for dance at Andisheh Persian School. Joining the dance group opened up countless opportunities to perform at cultural events and ceremonies. These experiences allowed me to express my culture through movement while also strengthening my family's ties to the community. Some of my fondest memories are performing alongside friends, sharing the excitement backstage and celebrating our heritage together.

Learning to read and write Persian has also enabled me to connect more deeply with my family overseas. It has enriched my everyday life – from writing heartfelt messages and enjoying Persian films with my parents, to singing songs in the car, reading poetry and appreciating the richness of Persian literature. My mother tongue has become more than just a language – it is a source of identity, pride and belonging.

Looking back, the advice I would give my younger self is to treasure every moment of learning. While at times it felt like I was learning Persian only for my parents, I now recognise the lifelong gift it has given me. It has shaped my identity, created opportunities and given me a sense of pride in my culture that I will carry forever.

Being bilingual is something I value deeply. The ability to speak, read and write two languages has expanded my world and strengthened my connection to my heritage. It has also allowed me to support my community through translation and knowledge-sharing. For me, being bilingual is not just about learning words – it is about preserving culture, identity and a part of myself that I will always carry with pride.