

Schools: Language Diversity in NSW, 2016

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

This bulletin summarises the diversity of students with a language background other than English (LBOTE) who are enrolled in NSW government schools in 2016.

Introduction

In 2016, 66.9 per cent of students who are enrolled in NSW government schools come from homes where English is the only language (see Figure 1). The 2016 collection of language background data shows that about one third (33.1 per cent) of students in NSW government schools come from homes where languages other than English are spoken.

The proportion of LBOTE (see definition on page 11) students rose by 0.8 percentage points from 2015 and 1.6 percentage point from 2014.

Figure 1

Language background of students in NSW government schools in 2016

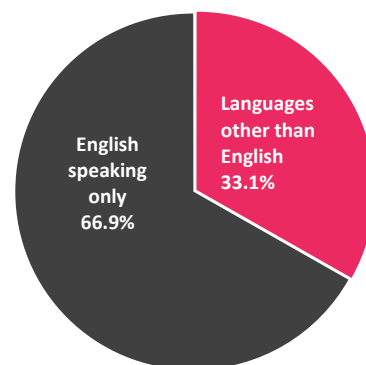
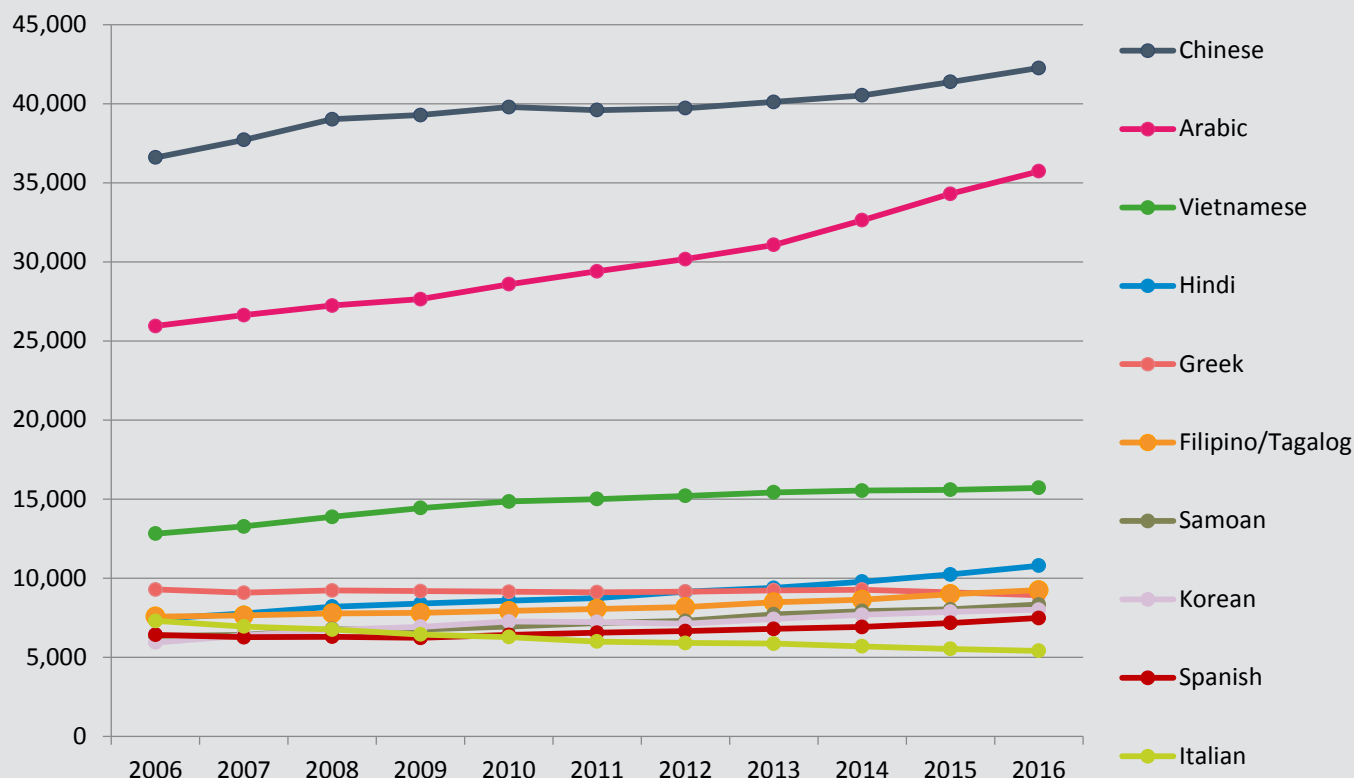


Figure 2

Top ten language background other than English, 2006-2016



Top ten language backgrounds of LBOTE students in NSW government schools

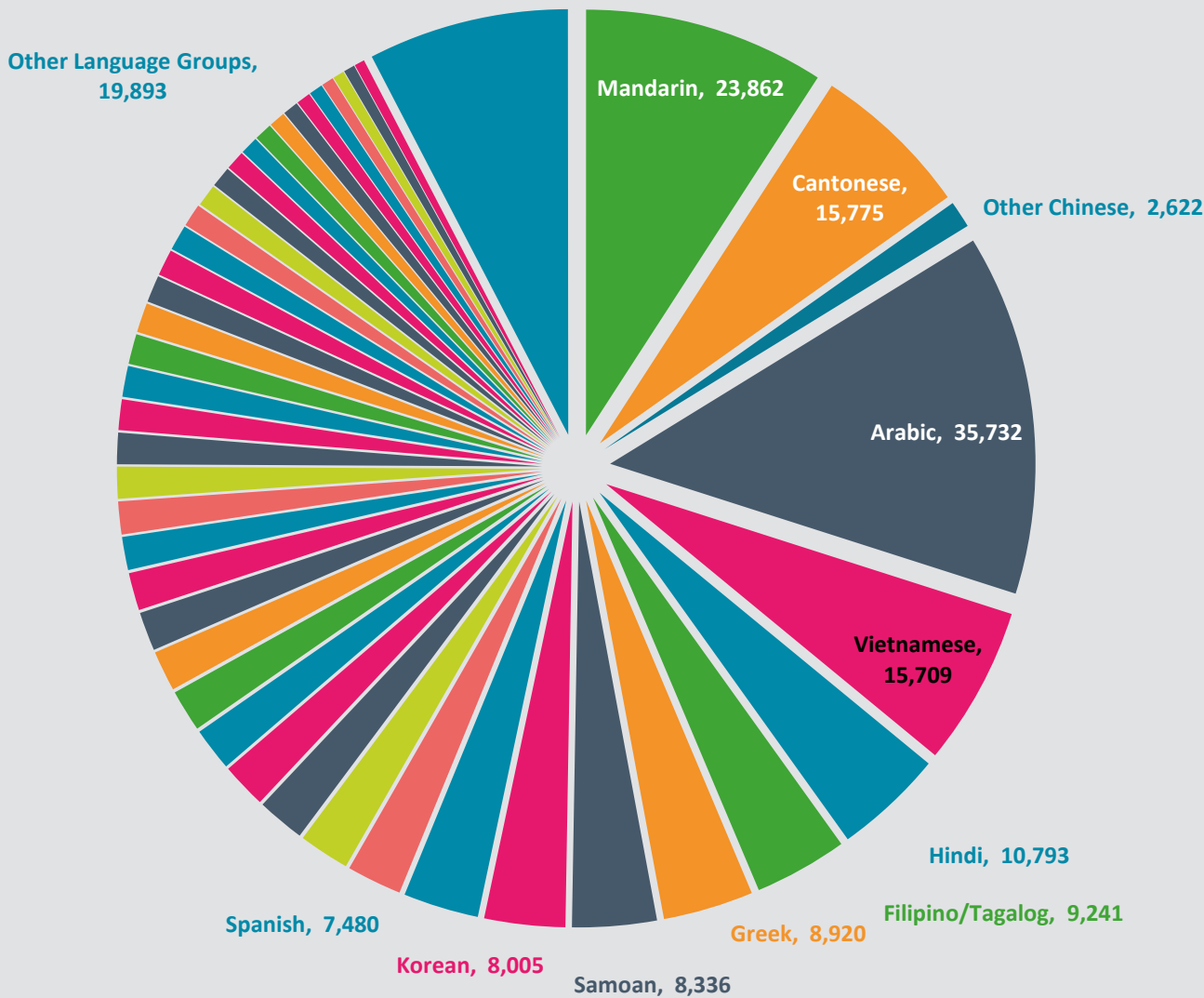
The largest single language group of LBOTE students in 2016 is Arabic (35,732 students) and the largest combined language group is Chinese, which comprises Mandarin, Cantonese and Other Chinese language backgrounds (42,259), see Figures 2 and 3.

In 2016 the top ten languages represent nearly 60 per cent of all LBOTE students.

Since 2006, the top three language groups have grown significantly, with Chinese growing 15.5 per cent, while Arabic and Vietnamese have grown 37.7 per cent and 22.6 per cent respectively over that period. Hindi has had the largest percentage growth over the period of 45.5 per cent.

Figure 2 shows that the top 10 languages in NSW have not changed since 2006, however the order of the largest language groups has changed. Italian has slipped from the seventh largest language in 2006 to the tenth in 2016, while Hindi has moved from sixth to fourth position.

Figure 3
Language background diversity in NSW government schools, 2016



What are the language backgrounds of our students?

There are 226 different language backgrounds of LBOTE students at NSW government schools but only 43 languages have more than 1,000 LBOTE students enrolled. 183 languages are included in the 'Other Language Groups'.

After Chinese and Arabic the next largest language background is Vietnamese, followed by Hindi and Filipino/Tagalog. Three European language backgrounds, Greek, Spanish and Italian, also feature in the top ten language backgrounds.

In March 2016, there were 260,599 NSW government primary and secondary students identified as having a language background other than English, which comprises 33.1 per cent of the 786,248 NSW government school students overall.

Table 1

Enrolments of students of language background other than English by language - 2015 and 2016 (by largest language groups in 2016).

Language	2015		2016	
	Students	% of Total LBOTE	Students	% of Total LBOTE
Chinese:	41,379	16.5%	42,259	16.2%
Mandarin	22,696	9.0%	23,862	9.2%
Cantonese	16,339	6.5%	15,775	6.1%
Other Chinese	2,344	0.9%	2,622	1.0%
Arabic	34,302	13.6%	35,732	13.7%
Vietnamese	15,593	6.2%	15,709	6.0%
Hindi	10,240	4.1%	10,793	4.1%
Filipino/Tagalog	8,991	3.6%	9,241	3.5%
Greek	9,111	3.6%	8,920	3.4%
Samoan	8,034	3.2%	8,336	3.2%
Korean	7,878	3.1%	8,005	3.1%
Spanish	7,166	2.9%	7,480	2.9%
Italian	5,530	2.2%	5,408	2.1%
Urdu	4,467	1.8%	5,006	1.9%
Tamil	4,366	1.7%	4,696	1.8%
Bengali	3,950	1.6%	4,451	1.7%
Tongan	4,207	1.7%	4,264	1.6%
Indonesian	4,055	1.6%	4,164	1.6%
Punjabi	3,579	1.4%	3,992	1.5%
Macedonian	3,913	1.6%	3,846	1.5%
Turkish	3,761	1.5%	3,717	1.4%
Japanese	3,118	1.2%	3,273	1.3%
Assyrian & Chaldean	3,139	1.2%	3,229	1.2%
Thai	2,968	1.2%	3,140	1.2%
German	3,046	1.2%	3,096	1.2%
French	2,880	1.1%	3,037	1.2%
Serbian	3,074	1.2%	3,029	1.2%
Gujarati	2,570	1.0%	2,968	1.1%
Persian (Excluding Dari)	2,862	1.1%	2,908	1.1%
Dari	2,529	1.0%	2,646	1.0%
Russian	2,396	1.0%	2,577	1.0%
Khmer	2,427	1.0%	2,501	1.0%
Nepali	1,971	0.8%	2,279	0.9%
Maori (New Zealand)	2,149	0.9%	2,163	0.8%
Portugese	1,876	0.7%	2,047	0.8%
Telugu	1,587	0.6%	1,904	0.7%
Malayalam	1,604	0.6%	1,783	0.7%
Sinhalese	1,773	0.7%	1,761	0.7%
Croatian	1,598	0.6%	1,616	0.6%
Fijian	1,519	0.6%	1,529	0.6%
Dutch	1,366	0.5%	1,401	0.5%
Afrikaans	1,299	0.5%	1,356	0.5%
Maori (Cook Island)	1,205	0.5%	1,194	0.5%
Marathi	1,023	0.4%	1,130	0.4%
Polish	1,010	0.4%	1,111	0.4%
Lao	1,024	0.4%	1,009	0.4%
Other Language Groups	18,801	7.5%	19,893	7.6%
Total	251,336	100%	260,599	100%

Notes:

1. The table is ordered by the largest language groups for language groups with 1,000 or more students in 2016. Language groups with fewer than 1,000 students in 2016 are included in 'Other Language Groups'.
2. See the definition of LBOTE on page 11 for the reporting rule used to determine the language background for students from households where multiple languages are spoken.
3. See page 11 for other explanatory notes.

Where are LBOTE students in NSW?

Map 1 shows the concentration of LBOTE students across NSW, using a geographical structure based on the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). ASGS Statistical Area 4 (SA4) boundaries in New South Wales have been combined into 11 groups for reporting and publication of department data.

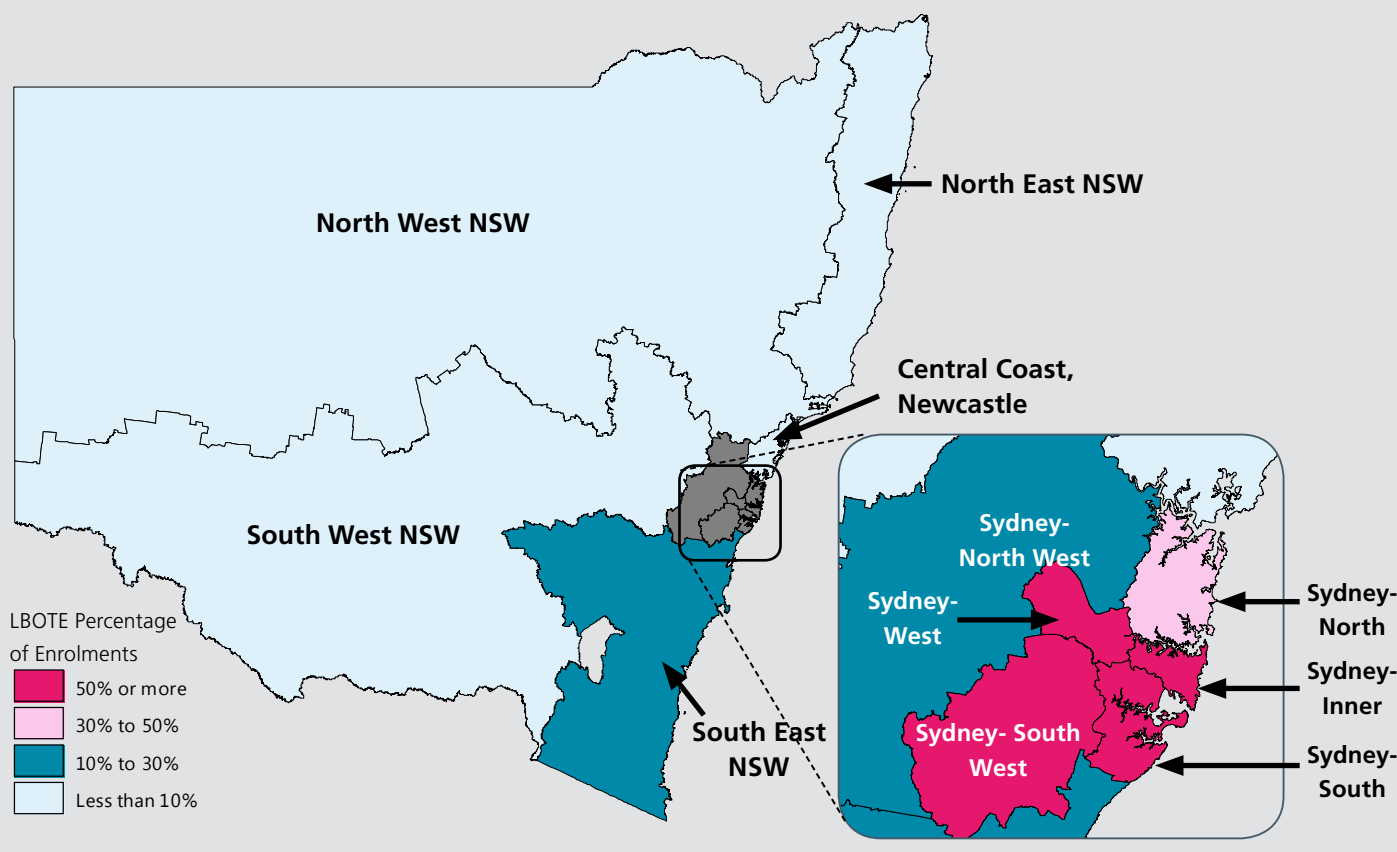
As Map 1 illustrates the concentration of students from LBOTE backgrounds is greater in the Sydney metropolitan area than in

other parts of NSW. Across all Sydney schools 52 per cent of the students have a language background other than English.

Sydney-West has the highest LBOTE student enrolment of 53,926 representing 65.5 per cent of all students enrolled. North West NSW has the lowest LBOTE student enrolment of 2,914 representing 4.3 per cent of all students enrolled.

Map 1

LBOTE Percentage of enrolments in a Statistical Area (SA4) grouping, March 2016



Location of LBOTE students from different language backgrounds

Nearly 60 per cent of all LBOTE students are located in Sydney-West, Sydney-South or Sydney-South West. However, there are significant pockets of students from various language backgrounds located in other areas as shown in Table 2. For example, students from Chinese, Korean, Japanese, German, and French language backgrounds are more likely to be located in Sydney-North, whereas students from Italian, Thai and Russian language backgrounds are more likely to be located in Sydney-Inner.

Many students from Indian language backgrounds are located in Sydney-West, which has the largest proportions of students from Hindi (35.9%), Urdu (35.5%), Tamil (49.5%), Punjabi

(48.5%), and Gujarati (67.5%) language backgrounds. Sydney-West also has the largest proportion of students from Persian (excluding Dari) and Dari language backgrounds.

Sydney-South West contains almost all students from Assyrian and Chaldean (89.7%), Khmer (83.8%) and Lao (79.6%) language backgrounds, plus the largest concentrations of students with Vietnamese (54.3%), Serbian (49.4%) and Samoan (47.9%) language backgrounds.

Sydney-South has the largest proportions of students from Arabic (38.1%), Greek (46.6%), Bengali (28.7%), Indonesian (24.2%) and Macedonian (41.0%) language backgrounds.

The only language background with a significant concentration of students outside the Sydney metropolitan area is Macedonian with 27.2 per cent of these students located in South East NSW.

Table 2

LBOTE enrolments by language and Statistical Area 4 Groupings and number of language groups - March 2016

Language	Sydney-North	Sydney-Inner	Sydney-South	Sydney-South West	Sydney-West	Sydney-North West	North East NSW	North West NSW	South West NSW	South East NSW	Central Coast, Newcastle	Total State LBOTE	As % of Total LBOTE
Chinese:	12,139	7,403	7,657	3,826	6,380	3,323	129	133	145	454	670	42,259	16.2%
Mandarin	7,759	4,354	4,016	1,076	3,664	2,171	54	62	62	266	378	23,862	9.2%
Cantonese	3,989	2,711	3,385	1,779	2,371	1,021	52	61	55	122	229	15,775	6.1%
Other Chinese	391	338	256	971	345	131	23	10	28	66	63	2,622	1.0%
Arabic	718	1,599	13,601	8,447	9,052	928	65	114	125	836	247	35,732	13.7%
Vietnamese	573	1,747	2,688	8,534	1,363	272	51	60	35	211	175	15,709	6.0%
Hindi	1,314	684	727	2,431	3,874	1,269	45	61	85	119	184	10,793	4.1%
Filipino/Tagalog	890	736	936	1,143	2,682	992	276	376	280	436	494	9,241	3.5%
Greek	589	1,692	4,161	786	489	407	65	48	63	378	242	8,920	3.4%
Samoan	68	114	760	3,993	2,246	531	37	55	239	100	193	8,336	3.2%
Korean	3,075	1,615	401	67	1,620	866	21	15	14	81	230	8,005	3.1%
Spanish	1,022	1,090	868	1,949	683	610	233	73	100	432	420	7,480	2.9%
Italian	773	1,230	616	1,012	313	406	110	67	226	377	278	5,408	2.1%
Urdu	281	324	1,115	669	1,777	569	15	47	69	73	67	5,006	1.9%
Tamil	473	644	148	279	2,324	678	8	37	28	19	58	4,696	1.8%
Bengali	240	651	1,276	942	894	249	9	37	43	44	66	4,451	1.7%
Tongan	238	370	550	1,073	1,343	223	26	28	131	113	169	4,264	1.6%
Indonesian	604	913	1,006	368	523	282	96	23	20	143	186	4,164	1.6%
Punjabi	256	138	214	343	1,936	536	264	37	164	60	44	3,992	1.5%
Macedonian	78	121	1,578	600	84	43	5	3	10	1,048	276	3,846	1.5%
Turkish	163	561	362	490	1,586	236	23	16	37	203	40	3,717	1.4%
Japanese	1,380	593	351	79	176	150	189	40	36	114	165	3,273	1.3%
Assyrian & Chaldean	16	91	70	2,898	85	57	1	4		4	3	3,229	1.2%
Thai	512	554	430	392	263	152	196	91	101	235	214	3,140	1.2%
German	861	517	224	114	85	227	325	89	74	306	274	3,096	1.2%
French	1,041	572	269	130	191	152	197	65	56	164	200	3,037	1.2%
Serbian	279	217	266	1,495	199	143	7	14	22	315	72	3,029	1.2%
Gujarati	217	135	138	93	2,004	250	11	18	41	27	34	2,968	1.1%
Persian Excluding Dari	741	140	136	228	1,051	445	12	7	35	74	39	2,908	1.1%
Dari	114	90	100	168	1,847	151	69	11	32	11	53	2,646	1.0%
Russian	548	740	396	142	235	202	42	39	42	69	122	2,577	1.0%
Khmer	49	44	72	2,097	106	46	10	1	13	19	44	2,501	1.0%
Nepali	237	340	607	204	534	111	6	39	141	32	28	2,279	0.9%
Maori (New Zealand)	82	133	410	373	425	157	100	88	97	165	133	2,163	0.8%
Portuguese	455	414	345	216	143	90	74	47	16	157	90	2,047	0.8%
Telugu	235	255	73	115	947	201	1	13	17	19	28	1,904	0.7%
Malayalam	239	158	135	274	548	258	12	26	20	56	57	1,783	0.7%
Sinhalese	348	79	59	117	488	503	13	23	38	49	44	1,761	0.7%
Croatian	195	119	227	397	192	183	21	17	23	162	80	1,616	0.6%
Fijian	56	120	288	325	359	54	32	38	137	42	78	1,529	0.6%
Dutch	477	190	104	28	55	132	99	51	40	121	104	1,401	0.5%
Afrikaans	331	55	96	97	67	251	44	113	99	85	118	1,356	0.5%
Maori (Cook Island)	24	88	289	204	321	49	6	22	78	94	19	1,194	0.5%
Marathi	182	75	66	278	361	127	7	7	7	5	15	1,130	0.4%
Polish	237	137	126	137	114	124	35	22	8	73	98	1,111	0.4%
Lao	30	17	43	803	28	16	8	7	25	21	11	1,009	0.4%
Other Language Groups	2,621	2,381	2,245	2,744	3,933	1,623	887	792	584	1,086	997	19,893	7.6%
Total LBOTE	35,001	29,886	46,229	51,100	53,926	18,274	3,882	2,914	3,596	8,632	7,159	260,599	100%
No. of different language groups	151	164	165	165	172	159	131	127	132	152	144	226	

Notes:

1. The table is ordered by the largest language groups for languages with 1,000 or more students in 2016.
2. See page 11 for other explanatory notes.

Table 3

Enrolments of students of language background other than English, by Statistical Area 4 groupings and level of schooling, March 2016

SA4 Groupings	Primary			Secondary			SSP			All Students		
	LBOTE students	All students	LBOTE as % of enols	LBOTE students	All students	LBOTE as % of enols	LBOTE students	All students	LBOTE as % of enols	LBOTE students	All students	LBOTE as % of enols
Sydney-North	21,166	55,985	37.8%	13,699	28,683	47.8%	136	380	35.8%	35,001	85,048	41.2%
Sydney-Inner	16,306	35,056	46.5%	13,470	20,633	65.3%	110	196	56.1%	29,886	55,885	53.5%
Sydney-South	27,535	46,133	59.7%	18,303	30,353	60.3%	391	700	55.9%	46,229	77,186	59.9%
Sydney-South West	28,719	49,295	58.3%	22,129	35,206	62.9%	252	594	42.4%	51,100	85,095	60.1%
Sydney-West	35,361	53,325	66.3%	18,153	28,240	64.3%	412	776	53.1%	53,926	82,341	65.5%
Sydney-North West	10,141	37,485	27.1%	8,067	25,118	32.1%	66	241	27.4%	18,274	62,844	29.1%
North East NSW	2,334	36,649	6.4%	1,541	27,472	5.6%	7	125	5.6%	3,882	64,246	6.0%
North West NSW	1,760	39,909	4.4%	1,149	27,419	4.2%	5	175	2.9%	2,914	67,503	4.3%
South West NSW	2,232	31,829	7.0%	1,343	22,048	6.1%	21	462	4.5%	3,596	54,339	6.6%
South East NSW	5,150	43,036	12.0%	3,444	28,775	12.0%	38	374	10.2%	8,632	72,185	12.0%
Central Coast, Newcastle	4,150	45,304	9.2%	2,969	33,765	8.8%	40	507	7.9%	7,159	79,576	9.0%
Total	154,854	474,006	32.7%	104,267	307,712	33.9%	1,478	4,530	32.6%	260,599	786,248	33.1%

Notes:

1. LBOTE enrolments for 2016 are compared to enrolments (headcount) in March 2016.
2. Previous publications of the LBOTE bulletin have compared DEC regions. From 2015 these geographies have been discontinued and replaced with a new geographical structure by the ABS. See page 11 for further information.

Location of LBOTE students by level of schooling

For schools in Sydney-North and Sydney-Inner the proportion of LBOTE students as a percentage of enrolments is more than 10 percentage points higher for secondary schools than for primary schools (see Table 4). Contributing factors are likely to include: full fee paying international students who are predominantly Year 10-12 students enrolling in schools in these

two areas; a relatively large number of selective schools (which have very high LBOTE enrolments) in these two areas drawing some of their students from other areas; and the slightly higher rate of retention of LBOTE students to Year 12 relative to English speaking students.



Table 4

Enrolments of students of language background other than English by language and level of schooling,
March 2016 (by largest language groups)

Language	Primary		Secondary		All LBOTE Students		
	Students	% of Primary LBOTE	Students	% of Primary LBOTE	Students	% of Total LBOTE	Cumulative
Chinese:	22,616	14.6%	19,522	18.7%	42,259	16.2%	16.2%
Mandarin	13,371	8.6%	10,445	10.0%	23,862	9.2%	n/a
Cantonese	7,650	4.9%	8,065	7.7%	15,775	6.1%	n/a
Other Chinese	1,595	1.0%	1,012	1.0%	2,622	1.0%	n/a
Arabic	21,537	13.9%	13,827	13.3%	35,732	13.7%	29.9%
Vietnamese	7,931	5.1%	7,656	7.3%	15,709	6.0%	36.0%
Hindi	6,977	4.5%	3,760	3.6%	10,793	4.1%	40.1%
Filipino/Tagalog	4,829	3.1%	4,336	4.2%	9,241	3.5%	43.6%
Greek	5,631	3.6%	3,233	3.1%	8,920	3.4%	47.1%
Samoaan	4,697	3.0%	3,597	3.4%	8,336	3.2%	50.3%
Korean	4,664	3.0%	3,321	3.2%	8,005	3.1%	53.3%
Spanish	4,752	3.1%	2,683	2.6%	7,480	2.9%	56.2%
Italian	3,236	2.1%	2,136	2.0%	5,408	2.1%	58.3%
Urdu	3,363	2.2%	1,614	1.5%	5,006	1.9%	60.2%
Tamil	2,948	1.9%	1,729	1.7%	4,696	1.8%	62.0%
Bengali	2,943	1.9%	1,461	1.4%	4,451	1.7%	63.7%
Tongan	2,453	1.6%	1,783	1.7%	4,264	1.6%	65.3%
Indonesian	2,490	1.6%	1,660	1.6%	4,164	1.6%	66.9%
Punjabi	2,839	1.8%	1,138	1.1%	3,992	1.5%	68.5%
Macedonian	2,230	1.4%	1,598	1.5%	3,846	1.5%	70.0%
Turkish	2,049	1.3%	1,641	1.6%	3,717	1.4%	71.4%
Japanese	2,061	1.3%	1,197	1.1%	3,273	1.3%	72.6%
Assyrian & Chaldean	1,889	1.2%	1,324	1.3%	3,229	1.2%	73.9%
Thai	1,911	1.2%	1,218	1.2%	3,140	1.2%	75.1%
German	1,913	1.2%	1,177	1.1%	3,096	1.2%	76.3%
French	2,006	1.3%	1,020	1.0%	3,037	1.2%	77.4%
Serbian	1,612	1.0%	1,404	1.3%	3,029	1.2%	78.6%
Gujarati	2,243	1.4%	724	0.7%	2,968	1.1%	79.7%
Persian (Excluding Dari)	1,621	1.0%	1,272	1.2%	2,908	1.1%	80.9%
Dari	1,577	1.0%	1,056	1.0%	2,646	1.0%	81.9%
Russian	1,743	1.1%	828	0.8%	2,577	1.0%	82.9%
Khmer	1,418	0.9%	1,073	1.0%	2,501	1.0%	83.8%
Nepali	1,557	1.0%	717	0.7%	2,279	0.9%	84.7%
Maori (New Zealand)	1,231	0.8%	923	0.9%	2,163	0.8%	85.5%
Portugese	1,387	0.9%	650	0.6%	2,047	0.8%	86.3%
Telugu	1,498	1.0%	406	0.4%	1,904	0.7%	87.0%
Malayalam	1,269	0.8%	510	0.5%	1,783	0.7%	87.7%
Sinhalese	1,053	0.7%	697	0.7%	1,761	0.7%	88.4%
Croatian	943	0.6%	657	0.6%	1,616	0.6%	89.0%
Fijian	851	0.5%	669	0.6%	1,529	0.6%	89.6%
Dutch	898	0.6%	497	0.5%	1,401	0.5%	90.1%
Afrikaans	819	0.5%	535	0.5%	1,356	0.5%	90.7%
Maori (Cook Island)	659	0.4%	530	0.5%	1,194	0.5%	91.1%
Marathi	762	0.5%	362	0.3%	1,130	0.4%	91.6%
Polish	761	0.5%	349	0.3%	1,111	0.4%	92.0%
Lao	556	0.4%	447	0.4%	1,009	0.4%	92.4%
Other Language Groups	12,431	8.0%	7,330	7.0%	19,893	7.6%	100.0%
Total	154,854	100.0%	104,267	100.0%	260,599	100.0%	

Notes:

1. All LBOTE students includes SSP students, which are not included in primary or secondary student numbers.
2. See page 11 for other explanatory notes.

LBOTE students Kindergarten to Year 12

As a percentage of enrolments in any particular academic year up to Year 10, the percentage of LBOTE students in NSW government schools is highest in Kindergarten at 34.3 per cent. This percentage is higher for the senior years with 35.3 per cent for Year 11 and 38.3 per cent for Year 12 students (see Table 5). This is indicative of higher rates of retention to Year 12 of LBOTE students compared to English speaking

students, as well as the increased number of full fee paying international students in these years.

There is a higher proportion of LBOTE students enrolled in NSW government secondary schools than in primary schools. LBOTE student enrolments represented 32.7 per cent of all primary enrolments and 33.9 per cent of all secondary enrolments in NSW government schools.

Table 5

Enrolments of students of language background other than English, by Statistical Area (SA4) grouping and scholastic year, March 2016

SA4 Groupings	Primary									SSP
	Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Support	Total	
Sydney-North	3,528	3,427	3,178	3,144	2,753	2,587	2,464	85	21,166	136
Sydney-Inner	2,537	2,529	2,471	2,342	2,236	2,023	2,025	143	16,306	110
Sydney-South	4,089	4,056	3,991	3,967	3,808	3,687	3,623	314	27,535	391
Sydney-South West	3,965	3,963	4,063	4,098	4,249	3,941	3,880	560	28,719	252
Sydney-West	5,879	5,420	5,172	5,084	4,740	4,423	4,211	432	35,361	412
Sydney-North West	1,568	1,476	1,435	1,491	1,410	1,378	1,279	104	10,141	66
North East NSW	378	365	328	316	326	310	293	18	2,334	7
North West NSW	265	266	241	265	244	230	217	32	1,760	5
South West NSW	314	337	351	316	328	293	278	15	2,232	21
South East NSW	766	779	738	704	693	724	677	69	5,150	38
Central Coast, Newcastle	636	646	592	571	586	561	519	39	4,150	40
State Total	23,925	23,264	22,560	22,298	21,373	20,157	19,466	1,811	154,854	1,478
As % of All Enrolments	34.3%	33.6%	32.8%	32.4%	32.0%	31.7%	32.2%	27.5%	32.7%	32.6%

SA4 Groupings	Secondary								Primary and Secondary		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Support	Total	LBOTE Enrols	All Enrols	As % SA4 Grouping
Sydney-North	2,095	2,073	2,078	2,209	2,546	2,240	458	13,699	35,001	85,048	41.2%
Sydney-Inner	1,971	1,974	2,033	2,311	2,475	2,252	454	13,470	29,886	55,885	53.5%
Sydney-South	2,797	2,825	2,795	3,220	3,187	2,783	696	18,303	46,229	77,186	59.9%
Sydney-South West	3,443	3,652	3,435	3,696	3,743	3,211	949	22,129	51,100	85,095	60.1%
Sydney-West	2,904	2,870	2,789	3,021	3,056	2,792	721	18,153	53,926	82,341	65.5%
Sydney-North West	1,217	1,230	1,204	1,279	1,605	1,395	137	8,067	18,274	62,844	29.1%
North East NSW	233	238	250	260	303	232	25	1,541	3,882	64,246	6.0%
North West NSW	186	198	193	194	185	156	37	1,149	2,914	67,503	4.3%
South West NSW	236	233	206	209	220	211	28	1,343	3,596	54,339	6.6%
South East NSW	552	501	580	593	553	526	139	3,444	8,632	72,185	12.0%
Central Coast, Newcastle	510	480	481	510	501	429	58	2,969	7,159	79,576	9.0%
State Total	16,144	16,274	16,044	17,502	18,374	16,227	3,702	104,267	260,599	786,248	
As % of All Enrolments	32.0%	32.5%	31.8%	33.4%	35.3%	38.3%	37.2%	33.9%	33.1%		

Notes:

1. All LBOTE students includes SSP students, which are not included in primary or secondary student numbers.
2. See page 11 for other explanatory notes.

What languages do newly arrived students speak?

Languages spoken by 'new arrival' students are counted on a different basis than LBOTE. The students in this table are counted based on the main languages spoken by the students themselves, while the LBOTE count includes students who speak another language and those with a parent/carer who

speaks another language. The total number of new arrival students in 2015 was 7,992. This is almost unchanged from last year's total of 7,958.

Table 6

Main languages spoken by new arrival students 2011 to 2015

2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
Language	Total	Language	Total	Language	Total	Language	Total	Language	Total
Mandarin	940	Mandarin	981	Arabic	1,054	Arabic	1,108	Arabic	1,198
Arabic	746	Arabic	574	Mandarin	810	Mandarin	1,019	Mandarin	991
Korean	352	Korean	371	Samoan	313	Hindi	309	Filipino/Tagalog	355
Filipino/Tagalog	334	Filipino/Tagalog	362	Korean	312	Samoan	308	Hindi	348
Cantonese	296	Vietnamese	349	Filipino/Tagalog	307	Korean	304	Urdu	294
Vietnamese	251	Samoan	305	Persian excluding Dari/Farsi	282	Cantonese	302	Samoan	281
Samoan	235	Cantonese	279	Hindi	234	Urdu	295	Vietnamese	276
Hindi	208	Hindi	220	Cantonese	225	Vietnamese	265	Korean	247
Tamil	159	Urdu	192	Vietnamese	218	Filipino/Tagalog	363	Cantonese	225
Persian excluding Dari/Farsi	151	Persian excluding Dari/Farsi	165	Urdu	186	Dari	201	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	190
Spanish	142	Nepalese	149	Dari	183	Nepali	164	Dari	187
Nepalese	140	Spanish	149	Tamil	171	Bengali	152	Spanish	157
Indonesian	140	Thai	133	Nepalese	171	Tamil	147	Tamil	156
Urdu	132	Japanese	119	Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	165	Spanish	142	Bengali	135
Thai	116	Indonesian	118	Spanish	123	Persian excluding Dari/Farsi	142	Thai	134
Japanese	115	Tamil	97	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	123	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	133	Nepali	120
Dari	105	Greek	92	Hazaraghi	121	Thai	129	Indonesian	120
Bengali	93	Bengali	91	Malayalam	117	Indonesian	122	Malayalam	117
Others	1,919	Others	1,971	Others	2,159	Others	2,353	Others	2,461
Total	6,574	Total	6,717	Total	7,274	Total	7,958	Total	7,992

Notes:

1. New The New Arrivals Program (NAP) survey is conducted twice per year (March and October up to end 2015) and includes only new enrolments in the 6 months prior to the NAP survey. Before 2012, the NAP survey was conducted three times per year (also included June).
2. In 2016 NAP data was collected through the EAL/D annual census conducted in June. The data is not collected and recorded in a way that is consistent with the way it was previously done in the NAP surveys, and therefore it is not included in this table. 2016 NAP data will be reported in future LBOTE bulletins as the start of a new time series report for new arrivals.
3. New arrival students include only those who have enrolled in school in the 6 months prior to the NAP survey, speak a language other than English as their first language, are enrolling in an Australian school for the first time, are in need of initial ESL instruction, and have been in Australia less than 6 months (or for Kindergarten students less than 18 months).
4. The student count in this table is based on main languages spoken by the students themselves. This differs from LBOTE student counts which include languages spoken by the student and/or their parents or carers.
5. With the move in official reporting from Multicultural Education Unit to Statistics Unit in 2013, counting rules used for 2013 and beyond slightly differ from previously published data.

What language backgrounds do preschool students come from?

Government preschools enrolled 1,961 students of language background other than English in 2016, representing 47.2 per cent (see Figure 4) of all government preschool enrolments.

Preschool LBOTE enrolments are reported in Table 7 by largest language groups. LBOTE enrolments less than 10 (approximately 0.5%) are included in 'Other Language Groups'.

Figure 4

Language background of preschool students in NSW government schools, March 2016

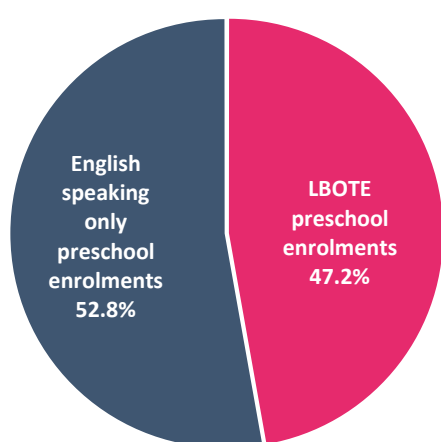


Table 7

Enrolments of government preschool students of language background other than English – largest language groups – March 2016

Language	Students	As a % of LBOTE
Arabic	320	16.3%
Vietnamese	295	15.0%
Chinese	176	9.0%
Cantonese	80	4.1%
Mandarin	69	3.5%
Other Chinese	27	1.4%
Bengali	86	4.4%
Urdu	86	4.4%
Hindi	76	3.9%
Samoan	65	3.3%
Khmer	58	3.0%
Filipino/Tagalog	54	2.8%
Punjabi	53	2.7%
Spanish	42	2.1%
Indonesian	41	2.1%
Tongan	39	2.0%
Gujarati	39	2.0%
Korean	37	1.9%
Assyrian & Chaldean	30	1.5%
Greek	27	1.4%
Tamil	26	1.3%
Italian	21	1.1%
Dari	20	1.0%
Aboriginal English	20	1.0%
Malayalam	20	1.0%
Thai	19	1.0%
Nepali	19	1.0%
Telugu	16	0.8%
Turkish	16	0.8%
Macedonian	14	0.7%
German	13	0.7%
Persian (Excluding Dari)	13	0.7%
Russian	13	0.7%
Total	1,961	100.0%
LBOTE as a % of preschool enrolment	47.2%	
Other Language Groups	184	9.4%

Notes:

1. Preschools include the 99 preschools attached to government primary/infant schools and the John Brothie Nursery School. Not included are the government funded community preschools and long day centres that provide a preschool program, which provide the majority of preschool education in NSW.
2. Students include children enrolled in a preschool or an Early Intervention program that is run by a NSW government school. These government preschool classes provide full-time or part-time schooling at pre-primary level.
3. LBOTE as a percentage of preschool enrolment uses March 2016 enrolment data.
4. Other language groups includes 65 language groups.

Definitions

1. LBOTE

Language background other than English: students from language backgrounds other than English are those in whose home a language other than English is spoken by the student, parents, or other primary caregivers.

For students where multiple languages are spoken at home, priority is given first to the primary language spoken by the student and then to that spoken by those caregivers recorded on enrolment forms and in ERN as parent 1 and parent 2 in that order.

2. New arrivals

New arrival students include only those who have enrolled in school in the 6 months prior to the survey.

New arrival students:

- speak a language other than English as their first language
- are enrolling in an Australian school for the first time
- are in need of initial ESL instruction
- have been in Australia less than 6 months (or for Kindergarten students less than 18 months).

The student count of new arrivals is based on main languages spoken by the students themselves. This differs from LBOTE student count which includes languages spoken by the student and/or their parents or carers.

Explanatory Notes

The census of students from language backgrounds other than English (LBOTE) was taken on 4 March 2016 in all NSW government schools, including preschools, intensive English centres and distance education centres.

Since 1996, information on LBOTE students has been collected in the first half of the school year. Until 2012 comparative enrolment information for all students was extracted from the School Entitlement System (February enrolment data). From 2013, comparative enrolment information for all students was extracted from the Enrolment Registration Number (ERN) system during March, at the time the LBOTE data was collected.

1. New arrivals data

Table 6 (main languages spoken by newly arriving students (2011 to 2015)) is a table sourced from the Statistics Unit analysis of data collected in the LBOTE data collections undertaken each year. The table notes that the student count is based on languages spoken by the students themselves and is therefore different from other LBOTE student counts in the bulletin.

2. Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL)

For information on languages, refer to Australian Standard Classification of Languages, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ASCL catalogue 1267.0).

3. Language groups reported

Tables are reported using the 'largest language groups'. The 'standard reporting groups' tables, which had been used up until 2010, have become out of date.

4. Combined language groups

The 'Other Chinese' language group includes Chinese nec (ASCL 7199), Hakka (ASCL 1027), Min Nan (ASCL 7107) and Wu (ASCL 7106).

Filipino (ASCL 6512) and Tagalog (ASCL 6511) have been combined into one language group.

The 'Assyrian & Chaldean' language group includes Assyrian Neo-Aramaic (ASCL 4206), Chaldean Neo-Aramaic (ASCL 4207) and Assyrian (ASCL 4203).

Other Language Groups are those languages with fewer than 1,000 students in 2016.

5. Statistical Area 4 Groupings

Previous publications of the LBOTE bulletin compared enrolments in DoE regions. From 2014 these geographies have been discontinued and replaced with a geographical structure based on the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). A combination of ASGS Statistical Area 4 (SA4) boundaries in New South Wales have been combined into 11 groups for reporting and publication of department data.

Name of SA4 Groupings	SA4 Name
Sydney-North	Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby, Sydney - Northern Beaches, Sydney - Ryde
Sydney-Inner	Sydney - City and Inner South, Sydney - Eastern Suburbs, Sydney - Inner West
Sydney-South	Sydney-Inner South West, Sydney - Sutherland
Sydney-South West	Sydney - Outer South West, Sydney - South West
Sydney-West	Sydney - Blacktown, Sydney - Parramatta
Sydney-North West	Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury, Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains
North East NSW	Coffs Harbour - Grafton, Mid North Coast, Richmond - Tweed
North West NSW	Hunter Valley exc Newcastle, Far West and Orana, New England and North West
South West NSW	Central West, Murray, Riverina
South East NSW	Capital Region, Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven
Central Coast, Newcastle	Central Coast, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie

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