

Schools: Language diversity in NSW, 2018

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

This bulletin summarises the diversity from students with language backgrounds other than English (LBOTE) who were enrolled in NSW government schools in March 2018.

Introduction

In March 2018, 64.9 per cent of students who were enrolled in NSW government schools came from homes where English was the only language spoken. More than one third (35.1 per cent) of students came from homes where languages other than English were spoken (Figure 1).

The proportion of LBOTE students (definition on page 13) rose by 0.9 percentage points from 2017 and 2.8 percentage points from 2015.

Figure 1

Language background of students in NSW government schools, March 2018

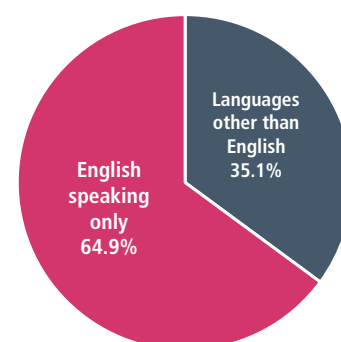


Figure 2

LBOTE students as percentage of total enrolments in NSW government schools – 2015 and 2018



Note:

1. Only includes schools open in 2015 and 2018.
2. Schools with fewer than 5 students were excluded due to the high variability of LBOTE student enrolments.
3. Excludes Aboriginal English due to changes in the reporting of this language background.

At a school level, in March 2018 19.7 per cent of NSW government schools reported that more than half of their students were from language backgrounds other than English (17.8 per cent of schools in 2015). Also, 9.7 per cent of schools had no students from a language background other than English, compared to 11.0 per cent of schools in 2015. Between 2015 and 2018, around two-thirds (64.4 per cent) of all schools saw their proportion of LBOTE students increase (schools on the left hand side of the pink line in Figure 2).

What are the language backgrounds of our students?

In March 2018, LBOTE students at NSW government schools spoke 239 different languages at home. Table 1 lists the 45 languages representing the backgrounds of more than 1,000 students.

The remaining languages representing fewer than 1,000 LBOTE students are included in the 'Other language groups' or in the 'Other' category of Indian or Chinese languages. There were 24,270 students in these categories.

There were 282,532 NSW government primary and secondary students identified as having a language background other than English, which comprised 35.1 per cent of the 804,946 NSW government school students overall. This was an increase of 10,131 LBOTE students from 2017.

Table 1

Enrolments of students from language backgrounds other than English by language – 2017 and 2018

Language	2017		2018	
	Students	% LBOTE	Students	% LBOTE
Indian	46,357	17.0%	51,064	18.1%
<i>Hindi</i>	11,622	4.3%	12,465	4.4%
<i>Urdu</i>	5,699	2.1%	6,418	2.3%
<i>Tamil</i>	5,075	1.9%	5,426	1.9%
<i>Bengali</i>	4,958	1.8%	5,487	1.9%
<i>Punjabi</i>	4,373	1.6%	4,758	1.7%
<i>Gujarati</i>	3,447	1.3%	3,898	1.4%
<i>Nepali</i>	2,625	1.0%	2,986	1.1%
<i>Telugu</i>	2,273	0.8%	2,692	1.0%
<i>Malayalam</i>	1,994	0.7%	2,298	0.8%
<i>Sinhalese</i>	1,829	0.7%	1,865	0.7%
<i>Marathi</i>	1,275	0.5%	1,424	0.5%
<i>Indian (other)</i>	1,187	0.4%	1,347	0.5%
Chinese	43,423	15.9%	44,741	15.8%
<i>Mandarin</i>	25,140	9.2%	26,569	9.4%
<i>Cantonese</i>	15,392	5.7%	15,031	5.3%
<i>Chinese other</i>	2,891	1.1%	3,141	1.1%
Arabic	37,790	13.9%	38,629	13.7%
Vietnamese	16,273	6.0%	16,758	5.9%
Filipino/Tagalog	9,552	3.5%	9,813	3.5%
Samoa	8,499	3.1%	8,497	3.0%
Greek	8,716	3.2%	8,416	3.0%
Korean	8,190	3.0%	8,387	3.0%
Spanish	7,583	2.8%	7,810	2.8%
Italian	5,178	1.9%	4,987	1.8%
Indonesian	4,307	1.6%	4,474	1.6%
Tongan	4,310	1.6%	4,382	1.6%
Assyrian/Chaldean	3,982	1.5%	4,335	1.5%
Turkish	3,858	1.4%	3,776	1.3%
Macedonian	3,755	1.4%	3,679	1.3%
Thai	3,336	1.2%	3,530	1.2%
Japanese	3,403	1.2%	3,527	1.2%
French	3,090	1.1%	3,188	1.1%
German	3,086	1.1%	3,102	1.1%
Persian (excluding Dari)	2,996	1.1%	3,059	1.1%
Dari	2,791	1.0%	3,025	1.1%
Serbian	2,976	1.1%	2,891	1.0%
Russian	2,724	1.0%	2,871	1.0%
Khmer	2,606	1.0%	2,695	1.0%
Portuguese	2,258	0.8%	2,450	0.9%
Maori (New Zealand)	2,114	0.8%	2,153	0.8%
Fijian	1,602	0.6%	1,633	0.6%
Croatian	1,586	0.6%	1,540	0.5%
Afrikaans	1,463	0.5%	1,510	0.5%
Dutch	1,361	0.5%	1,358	0.5%
Polish	1,189	0.4%	1,276	0.5%
Maori (Cook Island)	1,203	0.4%	1,167	0.4%
Hebrew	1,001	0.4%	1,018	0.4%
Lao	999	0.4%	1,009	0.4%
Other language groups	18,844	6.9%	19,782	7.0%
NSW Total	272,401	100.0%	282,532	100.0%
No. of languages	238	-	239	-

Note:

The table shows languages representing the backgrounds of 1,000 or more students enrolled in March 2018.

Largest language backgrounds of LBOTE students in NSW government schools

In March 2018 the nine largest languages and language groups represented 68.7 per cent of all LBOTE students. Each of these languages/language groups comprised 5,000 or more students (Figure 3).

The 'Indian languages' category continued to be the largest language group with 51,064 students, representing 18.1 per cent of all LBOTE students.

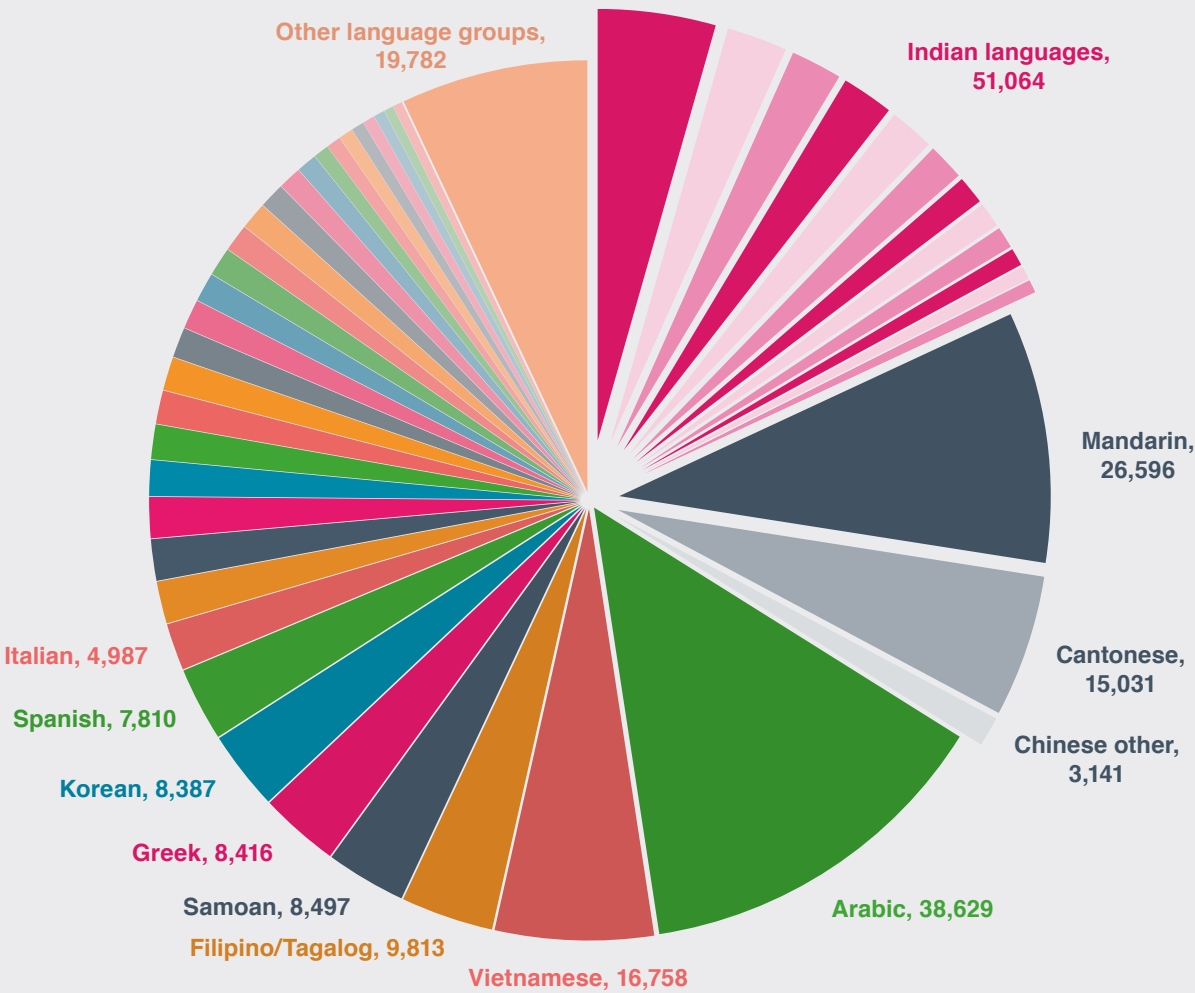
This group consists of eleven languages, each with over 1,000 students, and an additional grouping of 'Other Indian' languages (Table 1). Of the Indian languages, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil and Bengali each represented the backgrounds of more than 5,000 students enrolled in NSW government schools in 2018.

The second most common language background of the LBOTE students was 'Chinese languages', with 44,741 students enrolled in 2018.

The largest single language of LBOTE students in March 2018 was Arabic (38,629 students), followed by Mandarin (26,569 students) and Vietnamese (16,758 students).

Two European language backgrounds, Greek and Spanish, also featured in the largest language backgrounds, with 8,416 and 7,810 students enrolled, respectively (Figure 3).

Figure 3
Language background diversity in NSW government schools, March 2018



Since 2008, the combined 'Indian languages' group has more than doubled, from 22,707 students to 51,064 students in 2018. The second largest growth was in Arabic, which has increased 41.8 per cent, followed by Filipino/Tagalog and Samoan growing 26.2 per cent and 25.3 per cent respectively over the same period.

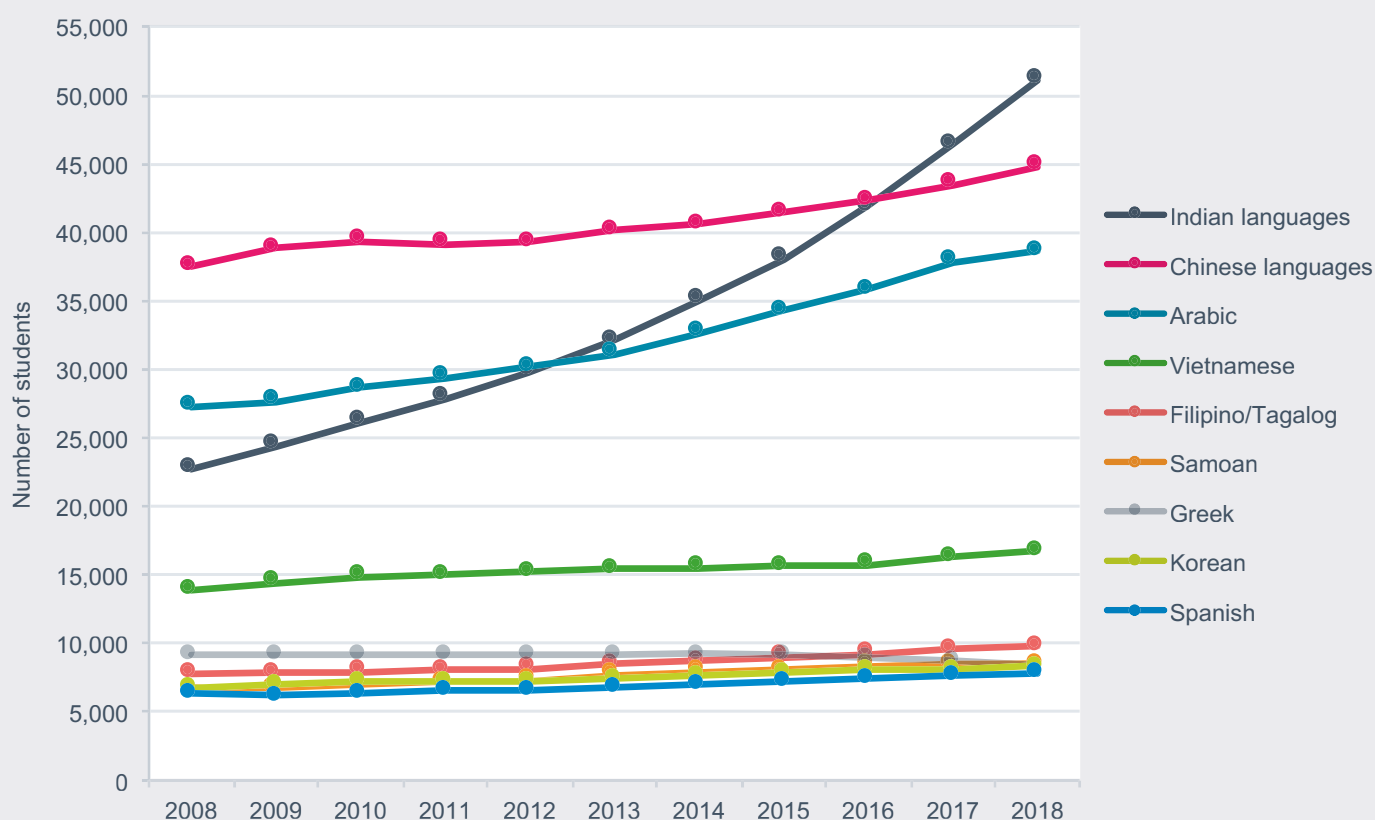
Between 2017 and 2018 the number of students from a Chinese language background rose from 43,423 to 44,741. However, due to a greater increase in other language backgrounds, especially Indian languages, the proportion of LBOTE students from a Chinese language background fell slightly from 15.9 per cent in 2017 to 15.8 per cent in 2018.

In the last two years, the proportion of students from 'Indian languages' backgrounds increased by 1.1 percentage points, from 17.0 per cent in 2017 to 18.1 per cent in 2018. The percentage of students from all other large languages and language groups either remained unchanged or decreased.

While the **proportion** of students from Arabic and Greek background diminished 0.2 percentage points between 2017 and 2018 to 13.7 per cent and 3.0 per cent respectively, the **number** of students from an Arabic language background increased. Greek is the only major language background with enrolments decreasing since 2008, from 9,221 to 8,416 students in 2018.

Figure 4

Largest language backgrounds other than English, 2008-2018



Note:

This chart shows languages or language groups with more than 5,000 students.

Where are LBOTE students in NSW?

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

Many students from Indian language backgrounds were located in **Sydney-West**, which had the largest proportions of students from Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Punjabi, Gujarati, Telugu, Malayalam, Sinhalese and Marathi language backgrounds. Sydney-West also had the largest proportion of students from Filipino/Tagalog, Tongan, Turkish, Persian (excluding Dari), Dari, and Maori (Cook Island) language backgrounds.

Sydney-South West schools contained almost all students from Assyrian/Chaldean (91.0 per cent), Khmer (82.0 per cent) and Lao (77.4 per cent) language backgrounds. This area also had a significant proportion of the students with Vietnamese (54.2 per cent), Samoan (48.6 per cent), Serbian (48.4 per cent) and Croatian (25.4%) language backgrounds.

Sydney-South had the largest proportions of the students from Macedonian (40.7 per cent), Arabic (36.6 per cent), Bengali (27.0 per cent), Nepali (24.8 per cent) and Indonesian (23.4 per cent) language backgrounds, plus almost half of the students in NSW government schools from a Greek background (47.1 per cent).

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

Figure 5

Distribution of LBOTE enrolments by Statistical Area 4 Groupings for selected languages, March 2018

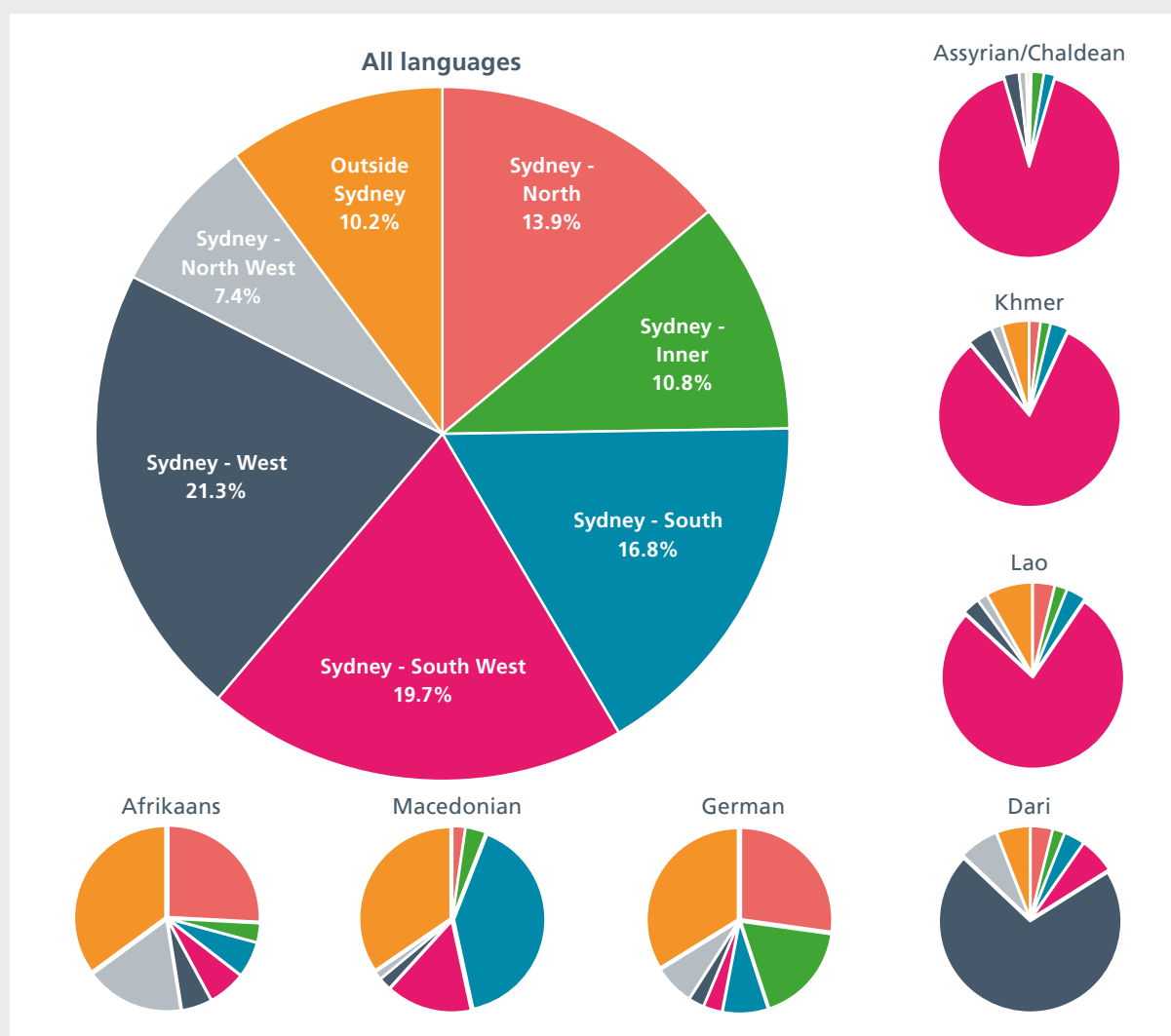


Table 2

Enrolments of students from language backgrounds other than English by language and Statistical Area 4 Groupings, March 2018

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	NSW Total	As % of total LBOTE
Indian	5,252	3,860	5,287	7,079	20,559	6,007	466	370	671	658	855	51,064	18.1%
Hindi	1,695	772	739	2,427	4,731	1,537	53	63	85	149	214	12,465	4.4%
Urdu	371	347	1,349	934	2,408	661	29	57	76	98	88	6,418	2.3%
Tamil	567	628	175	305	2,765	826	13	29	22	21	75	5,426	1.9%
Bengali	291	654	1,484	1,340	1,162	285	12	52	57	66	84	5,487	1.9%
Punjabi	297	141	204	431	2,371	683	287	36	165	70	73	4,758	1.7%
Gujarati	251	141	146	111	2,686	404	13	15	56	30	45	3,898	1.4%
Nepali	320	378	741	365	710	168	9	38	141	62	54	2,986	1.1%
Telugu	322	301	106	163	1,395	297	6	18	10	32	42	2,692	1.0%
Malayalam	332	175	128	361	761	336	18	24	17	63	83	2,298	0.8%
Sinhalese	379	91	60	111	534	526	16	25	23	47	53	1,865	0.7%
Marathi	234	99	79	313	496	151	6	7	5	7	27	1,424	0.5%
Indian (other)	193	133	76	218	540	133	4	6	14	13	17	1,347	0.5%
Chinese	13,928	7,145	7,542	3,700	6,797	3,994	131	160	135	497	710	44,741	15.8%
Mandarin	9,255	4,280	4,166	1,131	4,116	2,733	62	84	51	277	414	26,569	9.4%
Cantonese	4,115	2,468	3,052	1,616	2,261	1,035	43	54	48	130	209	15,031	5.3%
Chinese other	558	397	324	953	420	226	26	22	36	90	87	3,141	1.1%
Arabic	806	1,745	14,036	9,899	9,489	993	89	121	112	905	434	38,629	13.7%
Vietnamese	708	1,913	2,693	9,077	1,410	311	71	67	51	239	218	16,758	5.9%
Filipino/Tagalog	1,035	745	993	1,233	2,765	1,048	284	435	315	450	507	9,813	3.5%
Samoaan	63	103	639	4,126	2,271	621	38	69	244	117	206	8,497	3.0%
Greek	582	1,548	3,964	748	466	370	62	62	62	341	211	8,416	3.0%
Korean	3,175	1,559	400	68	1,820	932	21	20	27	86	279	8,387	3.0%
Spanish	1,145	1,178	905	1,914	720	629	266	91	87	449	426	7,810	2.8%
Italian	736	1,165	593	889	282	376	115	77	177	347	230	4,987	1.8%
Indonesian	686	955	1,046	408	557	309	101	32	27	143	210	4,474	1.6%
Tongan	213	355	515	1,173	1,346	249	32	29	163	113	194	4,382	1.6%
Assyrian/Chaldean	16	95	85	3,945	117	55	-	3	-	7	12	4,335	1.5%
Turkish	193	619	380	486	1,530	256	22	14	43	191	42	3,776	1.3%
Macedonian	84	134	1,497	557	81	54	5	15	11	1,001	240	3,679	1.3%
Thai	557	606	496	404	308	172	220	113	104	260	286	3,530	1.2%
Japanese	1,447	637	346	85	189	176	205	46	50	131	215	3,527	1.2%
French	1,088	616	277	126	186	158	207	62	62	177	229	3,188	1.1%
German	844	551	249	103	85	221	329	91	60	309	260	3,102	1.1%
Persian (excluding Dari)	837	134	121	232	1,029	523	23	6	34	68	52	3,059	1.1%
Dari	118	64	111	193	2,147	213	42	7	26	15	89	3,025	1.1%
Serbian	275	216	268	1,400	181	136	8	15	20	310	62	2,891	1.0%
Russian	668	739	451	163	237	230	47	44	36	83	172	2,871	1.0%
Khmer	53	47	86	2,210	120	49	18	8	20	30	54	2,695	1.0%
Portuguese	629	516	407	236	147	106	112	39	13	125	120	2,450	0.9%
Maori (New Zealand)	82	120	394	366	401	185	111	91	88	172	143	2,153	0.8%
Fijian	63	125	301	363	371	66	42	50	112	47	84	1,633	0.6%
Croatian	172	138	220	391	178	177	31	21	15	120	77	1,540	0.5%
Afrikaans	390	51	95	100	81	263	55	122	106	101	146	1,510	0.5%
Dutch	449	212	107	36	45	98	97	51	43	115	105	1,358	0.5%
Polish	265	194	150	148	120	139	27	22	14	90	107	1,276	0.5%
Maori (Cook Island)	30	70	249	214	322	65	5	18	75	96	23	1,167	0.4%
Hebrew	278	557	20	1	13	23	69	8	7	15	27	1,018	0.4%
Lao	39	22	35	781	31	18	12	9	23	25	14	1,009	0.4%
Other language groups	2,420	1,873	2,397	2,755	3,729	1,591	982	892	750	1,161	1,090	19,782	7.0%
Grand total	39,326	30,607	47,355	55,609	60,130	20,813	4,345	3,280	3,783	8,994	8,129	282,532	100%
% LBOTE	13.9%	10.8%	16.8%	19.7%	21.3%	7.4%	1.5%	1.2%	1.3%	3.2%	2.9%	100.0%	-
No. of languages	168	171	171	172	181	164	138	133	140	163	152	239	-

Note:

The 'Grand Total' includes Norfolk Island which is not included in SA4 groups' numbers.

Concentration of LBOTE students across 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 NSW have been combined into 11 groups for reporting and publication of department data.

As Map 1 illustrates, the concentration of students from LBOTE backgrounds was greater in the Sydney metropolitan area than in other parts of NSW. Across all Sydney schools 54.5 per cent of the students were from language backgrounds other than English.

Students from language backgrounds other than English represented 68.5 per cent of the 87,776 students enrolled at schools in **Sydney-West**, the highest percentage in NSW. Of these students, the majority had an Indian, Arabic or Chinese language background.

On the other hand, in **North West NSW**, of the over 67,000 enrolments in government schools, only 4.8 per cent were LBOTE students. More than one third of these 3,280 students had a Filipino/Tagalog, Indian or Aboriginal English language background.

The increase in the number of LBOTE students in Sydney-West between 2017 and 2018 (3,043) was about the same as the total LBOTE population for North West NSW in 2018.

Map 1

LBOTE as percentage of enrolments in a Statistical Area 4 groupings, March 2018

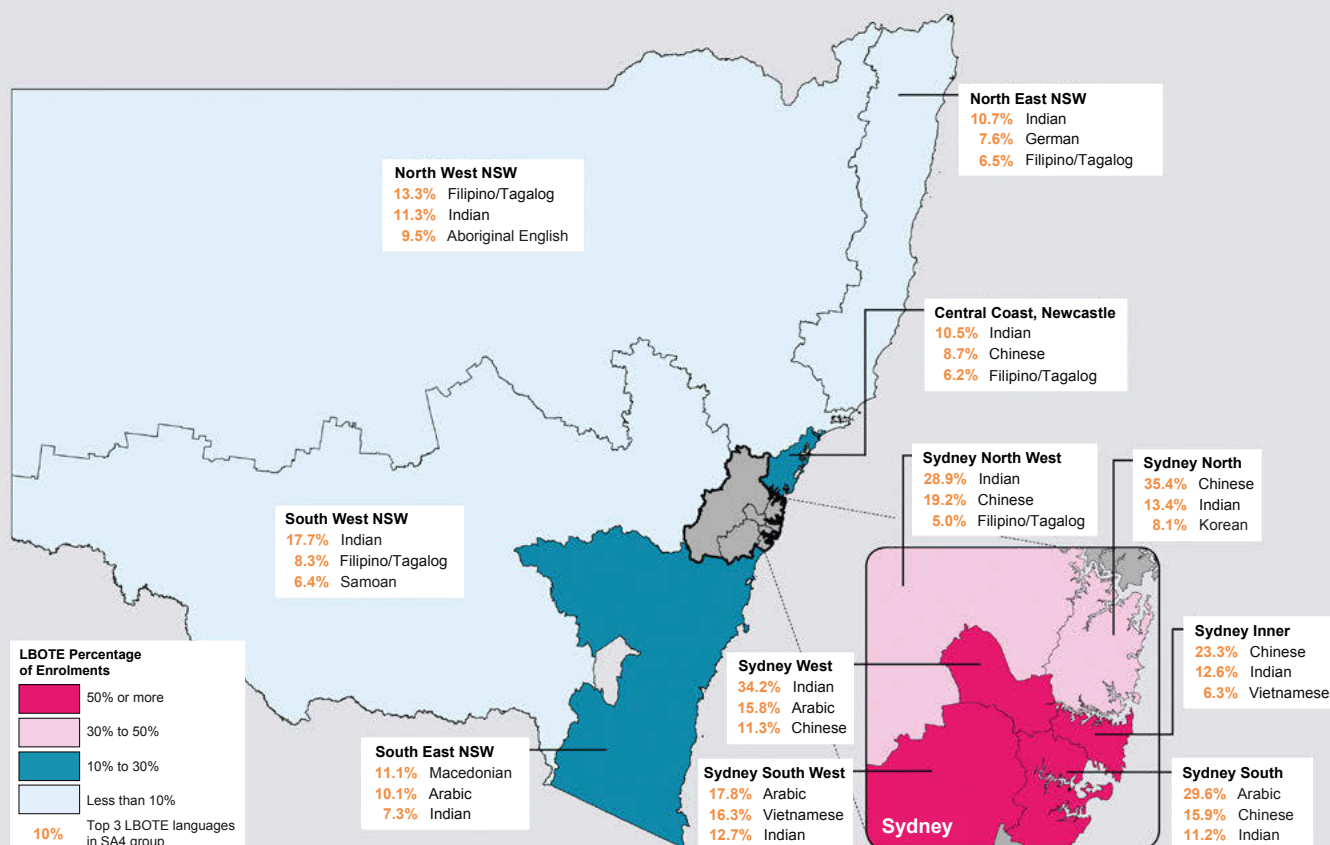


Table 3

Enrolments of students from language backgrounds other than English by language and level of schooling,
March 2018 (by largest language groups)

Language	LBOTE primary		LBOTE secondary		All LBOTE students		Cumulative
	Students	% of primary LBOTE	Students	% of secondary LBOTE	Students	% of total LBOTE	
Indian	35,339	20.5%	15,488	14.3%	51,064	18.1%	18.1%
<i>Hindi</i>	8,264	4.8%	4,140	3.8%	12,465	4.4%	n/a
<i>Urdu</i>	4,487	2.6%	1,902	1.8%	6,418	2.3%	n/a
<i>Tamil</i>	3,503	2.0%	1,896	1.7%	5,426	1.9%	n/a
<i>Bengali</i>	3,720	2.2%	1,711	1.6%	5,487	1.9%	n/a
<i>Punjabi</i>	3,460	2.0%	1,280	1.2%	4,758	1.7%	n/a
<i>Gujarati</i>	2,938	1.7%	958	0.9%	3,898	1.4%	n/a
<i>Nepali</i>	2,103	1.2%	875	0.8%	2,986	1.1%	n/a
<i>Telugu</i>	2,149	1.2%	539	0.5%	2,692	1.0%	n/a
<i>Malayalam</i>	1,671	1.0%	618	0.6%	2,298	0.8%	n/a
<i>Sinhalese</i>	1,120	0.6%	733	0.7%	1,865	0.7%	n/a
<i>Marathi</i>	960	0.6%	456	0.4%	1,424	0.5%	n/a
<i>Indian (other)</i>	964	0.6%	380	0.4%	1,347	0.5%	n/a
Chinese	26,355	15.3%	18,266	16.8%	44,741	15.8%	33.9%
<i>Mandarin</i>	16,380	9.5%	10,140	9.3%	26,569	9.4%	n/a
<i>Cantonese</i>	7,907	4.6%	7,070	6.5%	15,031	5.3%	n/a
<i>Chinese other</i>	2,068	1.2%	1,056	1.0%	3,141	1.1%	n/a
Arabic	23,060	13.4%	15,169	14.0%	38,629	13.7%	47.6%
Vietnamese	8,386	4.9%	8,261	7.6%	16,758	5.9%	53.5%
Filipino/Tagalog	5,272	3.1%	4,457	4.1%	9,813	3.5%	57.0%
Samoa	4,745	2.8%	3,707	3.4%	8,497	3.0%	60.0%
Greek	5,265	3.1%	3,101	2.9%	8,416	3.0%	63.0%
Korean	5,079	2.9%	3,286	3.0%	8,387	3.0%	65.9%
Spanish	5,000	2.9%	2,764	2.5%	7,810	2.8%	68.7%
Italian	2,939	1.7%	1,998	1.8%	4,987	1.8%	70.5%
Indonesian	2,646	1.5%	1,809	1.7%	4,474	1.6%	72.1%
Tongan	2,604	1.5%	1,751	1.6%	4,382	1.6%	73.6%
Assyrian/Chaldean	2,525	1.5%	1,789	1.6%	4,335	1.5%	75.1%
Turkish	2,162	1.3%	1,581	1.5%	3,776	1.3%	76.5%
Macedonian	2,140	1.2%	1,515	1.4%	3,679	1.3%	77.8%
Thai	2,192	1.3%	1,324	1.2%	3,530	1.2%	79.0%
Japanese	2,254	1.3%	1,261	1.2%	3,527	1.2%	80.3%
French	2,088	1.2%	1,086	1.0%	3,188	1.1%	81.4%
German	1,949	1.1%	1,145	1.1%	3,102	1.1%	82.5%
Persian (excluding Dari)	1,739	1.0%	1,296	1.2%	3,059	1.1%	83.6%
Dari	1,823	1.1%	1,187	1.1%	3,025	1.1%	84.7%
Serbian	1,628	0.9%	1,255	1.2%	2,891	1.0%	85.7%
Russian	1,944	1.1%	916	0.8%	2,871	1.0%	86.7%
Khmer	1,556	0.9%	1,126	1.0%	2,695	1.0%	87.6%
Portuguese	1,663	1.0%	779	0.7%	2,450	0.9%	88.5%
Maori (New Zealand)	1,244	0.7%	899	0.8%	2,153	0.8%	89.3%
Fijian	929	0.5%	690	0.6%	1,633	0.6%	89.9%
Croatian	944	0.5%	584	0.5%	1,540	0.5%	90.4%
Afrikaans	923	0.5%	584	0.5%	1,510	0.5%	90.9%
Dutch	826	0.5%	528	0.5%	1,358	0.5%	91.4%
Polish	877	0.5%	395	0.4%	1,276	0.5%	91.9%
Maori (Cook Island)	627	0.4%	531	0.5%	1,167	0.4%	92.3%
Hebrew	735	0.4%	281	0.3%	1,018	0.4%	92.6%
Lao	546	0.3%	455	0.4%	1,009	0.4%	93.0%
Other language groups	12,337	7.2%	7,300	6.7%	19,782	7.0%	100.0%
NSW total	172,341	100.0%	108,564	100.0%	282,532	100.0%	-

Note:

All LBOTE students includes SSP students, which are not included in primary or secondary students numbers.

LBOTE students by level of schooling

Table 3 shows variations between primary and secondary enrolments. Students from Indian language backgrounds comprised 20.5 per cent of the LBOTE primary enrolments, compared with 14.3 per cent of the LBOTE secondary enrolments, which suggests that Indian languages will most likely continue to increase as a proportion of all LBOTE students.

The proportion of LBOTE students from an Arabic language background was at 13.4 per cent for primary school students and 14.0 per cent for secondary students. Students from Chinese language backgrounds represented a higher proportion of the LBOTE secondary enrolments (16.8 per cent) compared with the LBOTE primary enrolments (15.3 per cent).

Although students from a Vietnamese language background comprised 5.9 per cent of enrolments of all LBOTE students, they represented only 4.9 per cent of primary enrolments compared with 7.6 per cent of secondary enrolments.

Location of LBOTE students by level of schooling

For schools in **Sydney-Inner** the proportion of LBOTE students as a percentage of enrolments was 16.8 percentage points higher for secondary enrolments than for primary enrolments (Table 4).

In **Sydney-North** the LBOTE secondary enrolments' figure was just over 5 percentage points higher than the LBOTE primary enrolments.

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 from language backgrounds other than English, by Statistical Area 4 groupings and level of schooling, March 2018

SA4 Groupings	Primary			Secondary			SSP			All students		
	LBOTE students	All students	LBOTE as % enols	LBOTE students	All students	LBOTE as % enols	LBOTE students	All students	LBOTE as % enols	LBOTE students	All students	LBOTE as % enols
Sydney-North	24,913	58,609	42.5%	14,250	29,847	47.7%	163	393	41.5%	39,326	88,849	44.3%
Sydney-Inner	17,128	36,296	47.2%	13,366	20,882	64.0%	113	215	52.6%	30,607	57,393	53.3%
Sydney-South	28,523	46,695	61.1%	18,419	30,377	60.6%	413	705	58.6%	47,355	77,777	60.9%
Sydney-South West	31,641	52,288	60.5%	23,697	36,185	65.5%	271	609	44.5%	55,609	89,082	62.4%
Sydney-West	40,586	58,038	69.9%	19,117	28,986	66.0%	427	752	56.8%	60,130	87,776	68.5%
Sydney-North West	12,133	39,207	30.9%	8,565	25,242	33.9%	115	311	37.0%	20,813	64,760	32.1%
North East NSW	2,715	37,220	7.3%	1,624	26,587	6.1%	6	122	4.9%	4,345	63,929	6.8%
North West NSW	2,025	40,299	5.0%	1,252	27,212	4.6%	3	174	1.7%	3,280	67,685	4.8%
South West NSW	2,360	32,025	7.4%	1,402	21,656	6.5%	21	475	4.4%	3,783	54,156	7.0%
South East NSW	5,378	43,703	12.3%	3,579	28,783	12.4%	37	409	9.0%	8,994	72,895	12.3%
Central Coast, Newcastle	4,864	46,402	10.5%	3,207	33,424	9.6%	58	525	11.0%	8,129	80,351	10.1%
NSW Total	172,341	490,944	35.1%	108,564	309,312	35.1%	1,627	4,690	34.7%	282,532	804,946	35.1%

Note:

NSW includes Norfolk Island which is not included in SA4 groups' numbers.

LBOTE students Kindergarten to Year 12

When looking at LBOTE students as a percentage of all enrolments, Table 5 shows that in primary grades, the percentage was highest in Kindergarten at 37.1 per cent. The proportion decreased through primary years and was lowest in Year 7 at 32.8 per cent, then increased for senior secondary grades (36.2 per cent in Year 11 and 40.6 per cent in Year 12). This largely reflects historic enrolment patterns, with the proportion of Kindergarten students from language backgrounds other than English rising from 27.9 per cent in 2008 to 37.1 per cent in 2018.

In previous years, LBOTE student enrolments represented a higher proportion of all secondary enrolments than of all primary enrolments. However, as Table 5 shows, in 2018 the proportion was the same at 35.1 per cent of all enrolments for both primary and secondary students.

Table 5

Enrolments of students from language backgrounds other than English, by Statistical Area 4 groupings and scholastic year, March 2018

SA4 Groupings	Primary								Total	SSP
	K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Support		
Sydney-North	4,254	3,981	3,765	3,537	3,239	3,195	2,849	93	24,913	163
Sydney-Inner	2,727	2,633	2,524	2,423	2,369	2,200	2,098	154	17,128	113
Sydney-South	4,221	4,360	4,037	3,950	3,901	3,893	3,796	365	28,523	413
Sydney-South West	4,460	4,388	4,281	4,302	4,464	4,470	4,601	675	31,641	271
Sydney-West	6,631	6,197	6,141	5,639	5,352	5,184	4,888	554	40,586	427
Sydney-North West	1,860	1,747	1,836	1,661	1,636	1,707	1,570	116	12,133	115
North East NSW	390	383	422	385	369	370	369	27	2,715	6
North West NSW	326	318	287	257	268	289	252	28	2,025	3
South West NSW	365	340	328	334	318	321	334	20	2,360	21
South East NSW	790	744	791	775	746	739	718	75	5,378	37
Central Coast, Newcastle	723	744	676	726	656	662	620	57	4,864	58
NSW Total LBOTE	26,752	25,848	25,099	23,999	23,328	23,044	22,107	2,164	172,341	1,627
NSW Total Enrolments	72,066	70,534	70,048	68,699	68,207	67,869	66,202	7,319	490,944	4,690
LBOTE as % enrolments	37.1%	36.6%	35.8%	34.9%	34.2%	34.0%	33.4%	29.6%	35.1%	34.7%

SA4 Groupings	Secondary								Primary and Secondary		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Support	Total	Total LBOTE Enrols	All Enrols	As % SA4 Grouping
Sydney-North	2,276	2,260	2,241	2,281	2,472	2,294	426	14,250	39,326	88,849	44.2%
Sydney-Inner	2,160	2,095	2,069	2,125	2,252	2,249	416	13,366	30,607	57,393	53.1%
Sydney-South	2,856	2,896	2,882	3,108	3,060	2,897	720	18,419	47,355	77,777	60.4%
Sydney-South West	3,658	3,669	3,761	3,996	3,814	3,484	1,315	23,697	55,609	89,082	61.7%
Sydney-West	3,183	3,097	3,072	3,118	3,027	2,734	886	19,117	60,130	87,776	67.9%
Sydney-North West	1,393	1,355	1,312	1,370	1,518	1,479	138	8,565	20,813	64,760	32.0%
North East NSW	296	280	256	269	278	212	33	1,624	4,345	63,929	6.8%
North West NSW	223	227	187	208	199	174	34	1,252	3,280	67,685	4.8%
South West NSW	250	255	226	249	217	176	29	1,402	3,783	54,156	6.9%
South East NSW	614	571	582	559	619	495	139	3,579	8,994	72,895	12.2%
Central Coast, Newcastle	608	557	546	516	496	422	62	3,207	8,129	80,351	10.0%
NSW Total LBOTE	17,529	17,274	17,155	17,809	17,966	16,633	4,198	108,564	282,532	804,946	-
NSW Total Enrolments	53,442	51,540	51,521	51,531	49,504	40,999	10,775	309,312	804,946	-	-
LBOTE as % enrolments	32.8%	33.5%	33.3%	34.6%	36.3%	40.6%	39.0%	35.1%	35.1%	-	-

Note:

NSW totals include Norfolk Island which is not included in SA4 groups' numbers.

What languages do newly arrived students speak?

Languages spoken by 'new arrival' students are counted on a different basis from LBOTE. The students in Table 6 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.

New arrivals data is collected through the English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) annual census, conducted in June.

The total number of new arrival students in 2017 was 9,167 and they spoke 136 different languages. Arabic was the most common single language, accounting for 15.6 per cent of these students. However, 24.2 per cent of new arrival students spoke an Indian language.

Table 6
Main languages spoken by new arrival students, 2017

Language	2017	
	Students	% of NAP students
Indian Languages	2,215	24.2%
<i>Hindi</i>	615	6.7%
<i>Urdu</i>	404	4.4%
<i>Tamil</i>	202	2.2%
<i>Telugu</i>	183	2.0%
<i>Malayalam</i>	144	1.6%
<i>Bengali</i>	130	1.4%
<i>Nepali</i>	121	1.3%
<i>Gujarati</i>	117	1.3%
<i>Punjabi</i>	101	1.1%
<i>Other Indian</i>	198	2.2%
Arabic	1,430	15.6%
Chinese Languages	1,279	14.0%
<i>Mandarin</i>	924	10.1%
<i>Cantonese</i>	210	2.3%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	145	1.6%
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	395	4.3%
Vietnamese	353	3.9%
Filipino/Tagalog	336	3.7%
Samoa	271	3.0%
Dari	233	2.5%
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	218	2.4%
Korean	196	2.1%
Mongolian	138	1.5%
Thai	138	1.5%
Spanish	127	1.4%
Portuguese	116	1.3%
Kurdish	107	1.2%
Persian (excluding Dari)	106	1.2%
Others	1,509	16.5%
NSW Total	9,167	100%

Note:

1. From 2016 new arrivals data was collected through EAL/D annual census conducted in June.
2. New arrival are defined as students who are enrolling in an Australian school for the first time, within 6 months of arriving in Australia (18 months for Kindergarten), speak a language other than English as their first language, and are in need of intensive E/ALD instruction.
3. Data collected prior to 2016 was collected based on different time periods to the EAL/D collection and so are incomparable with EAL/D new arrivals data
4. The student count in this table is based on main languages spoken by students themselves. This differs from LBOTE student counts which include languages spoken by the student and/or their parents.

Table 7

Enrolments of government preschool students from language backgrounds other than English – largest language groups – March 2018

Language	Students	% of LBOTE
Indian	511	24.3%
Urdu	117	5.6%
Bengali	81	3.8%
Hindi	70	3.3%
Punjabi	68	3.2%
Gujarati	53	2.5%
Tamil	34	1.6%
Nepali	27	1.3%
Telugu	18	0.9%
Malayalam	18	0.9%
Marathi	9	0.4%
Sinhalese	9	0.4%
Other Indian	7	0.3%
Arabic	364	17.3%
Vietnamese	273	13.0%
Chinese	168	8.0%
Cantonese	74	3.5%
Mandarin	63	3.0%
Other Chinese	31	1.5%
Samoan	88	4.2%
Filipino/Tagalog	66	3.1%
Khmer	51	2.4%
Indonesian	40	1.9%
Korean	38	1.8%
Tongan	37	1.8%
Spanish	36	1.7%
Mongolian	29	1.4%
Greek	28	1.3%
Thai	26	1.2%
Assyrian/Chaldean	26	1.2%
Aboriginal English	22	1.0%
Japanese	20	0.9%
Macedonian	17	0.8%
German	16	0.8%
Italian	15	0.7%
Dari	13	0.6%
French	13	0.6%
Turkish	12	0.6%
Lao	10	0.5%
Polish	10	0.5%
Other language groups	178	8.4%
NSW Total	2,107	100.0%

Note:

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 care 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 2018 enrolment data.
4. 'Other language groups' includes 59 language groups.

What language backgrounds do preschool students come from?

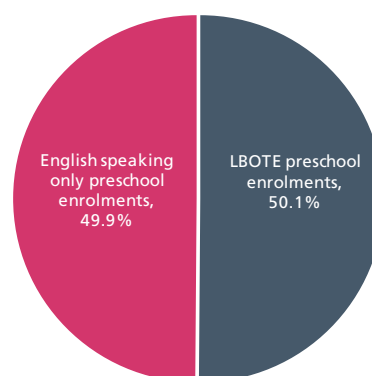
Government preschools enrolled 2,107 students from language backgrounds other than English in 2018, representing 50.1 per cent of all government preschool enrolments (Figure 6).

Preschool LBOTE enrolments are reported in Table 7 by largest language groups. LBOTE enrolments less than 10 (which equates to about 0.5% of total LBOTE preschool enrolments) are included in the 'Other language groups'.

In NSW, most children receiving a preschool education are enrolled at a government funded community preschool or in a Long Day Care centre which offers a preschool program. However, as Figure 6 shows, the proportion of LBOTE children at government preschools is significantly higher than the proportion enrolled at school.

Figure 6

Language background of preschool students in NSW government schools, March 2018



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 the department's Enrolment Registration Number system (ERN) as parent 1 and parent 2 (in that order).

2. New arrivals

New arrival students include only those who meet the following criteria:

- speak a language other than English as their first language
- are enrolling in an Australian school for the first time
- are in need of intensive EAL/D 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 conducted on 9 March 2018 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. 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).

2. Combined language groups

The 'Other Chinese' language group includes Chinese nec (ASCL 7199), Hakka (ASCL 7102), Min Nan (ASCL 7107) and Wu (ASCL 7106).

The 'Other Indian' language group includes Kannada (ASCL 5101), Tulu (ASCL 5105), Dravidian (Other) (ASCL 5199), Konkani (ASCL 5204), Sindhi, (ASCL 5208), Assamese (ASCL 5213), Kashmiri, (ASCL 5215), Oriya (ASCL 5216), Dhivehi (ASCL 5214),

Fijian Hindustani (ASCL 5217), Indo Aryan nec (ASCL 5299), Other Southern Asian languages (ASCL 5999).

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 2018.

3. 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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