

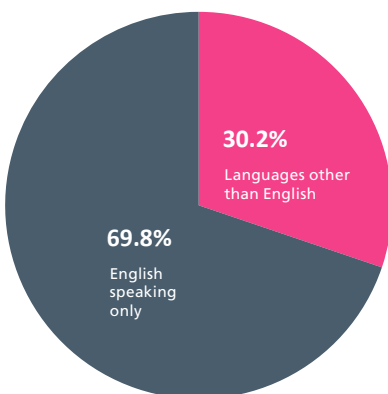
# Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

Language diversity in NSW government schools in 2012

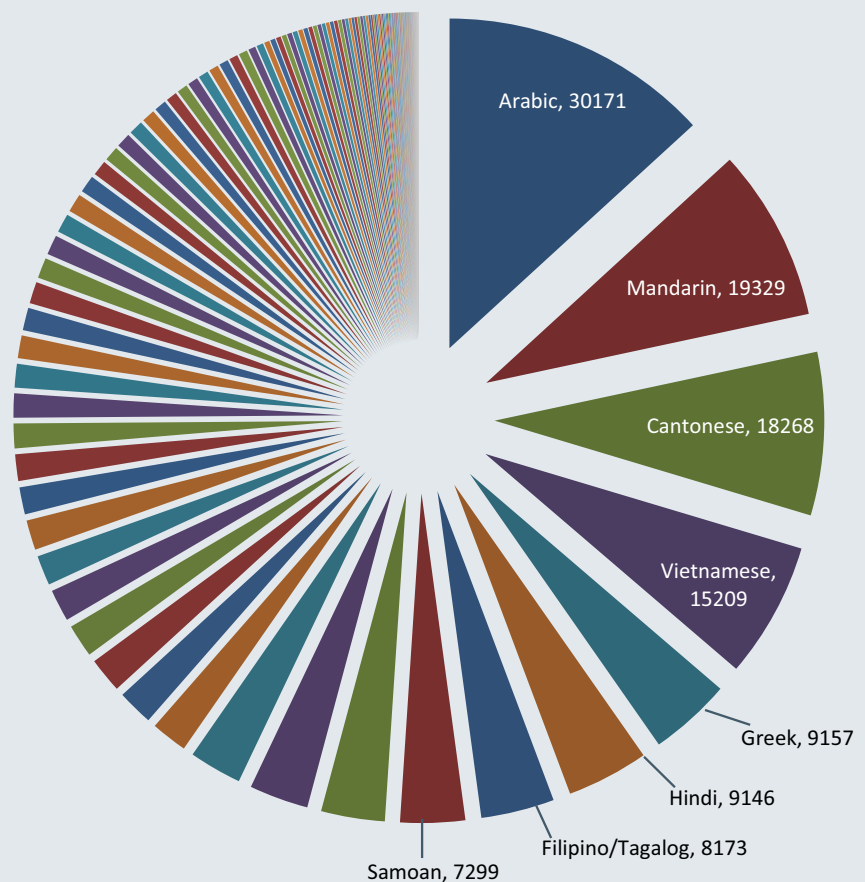
## Introduction

In 2012, 69.8% of students who are currently enrolled in NSW government schools come from homes where English is the only language. The annual collection of language background data shows that the language diversity of the 30.2% of students who come from homes where languages other than English are spoken has increased since 2011. The proportion of students with language background other than English (LBOTE) rose by 0.6% since 2011.

**Figure 1**  
Language background – students in NSW government schools 2012



**Figure 2**  
Language background diversity in NSW government schools 2012

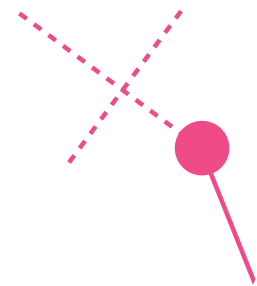


1. More than 240 language background groups other than English in NSW government schools
2. Eight language background groups make up 50% of LBOTE enrolments

## What are the language backgrounds of our students?

With 30,171 students, or 13.2 of all LBOTE students, Arabic remains the most common single language background. This is just 0.1 percentage point higher than in 2011.

Mandarin (8.4%) and Cantonese (8.0%) are the next most common languages, followed by Vietnamese at 6.6%. Students from all the Chinese language groups combined make up 17.3% of LBOTE students (39,719).



In March 2012, 229,106 students enrolled at government schools were identified as being of language background other than English (LBOTE). This represented 30.2 percent of all government school enrolments compared to 29.6 percent in 2011.

**Table 1A**  
Enrolments of students of language background other than English by language – 2011 and 2012 (by largest language groups in 2012<sup>1</sup>).

Language	2011		2012	
	Students	% of Total LBOTE	Students	% of Total LBOTE
Chinese	39593	17.6%	39719	17.3%
<i>Mandarin</i>	18480	8.2%	19329	8.4%
<i>Cantonese</i>	18971	8.4%	18268	8.0%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	2142	1.0%	2122	0.9%
Arabic	29402	13.1%	30171	13.2%
Vietnamese	15003	6.7%	15209	6.6%
Greek	9111	4.1%	9157	4.0%
Hindi	8747	3.9%	9146	4.0%
Filipino/Tagalog	8059	3.6%	8173	3.6%
Samoan	7170	3.2%	7299	3.2%
Korean	7235	3.2%	7130	3.1%
Spanish	6551	2.9%	6654	2.9%
Italian	5993	2.7%	5908	2.6%
Macedonian	4154	1.8%	4082	1.8%
Tongan	3981	1.8%	4003	1.7%
Turkish	3949	1.8%	3952	1.7%
Tamil	3520	1.6%	3712	1.6%
Indonesian	3470	1.5%	3609	1.6%
Serbian	3397	1.5%	3348	1.5%
Urdu	3154	1.4%	3321	1.4%
German	3043	1.4%	3054	1.3%
Bengali	2836	1.3%	2967	1.3%
Punjabi	2586	1.2%	2775	1.2%
French	2670	1.2%	2709	1.2%
Japanese	2550	1.1%	2674	1.2%
Assyrian & Chaldean <sup>2</sup>	2471	1.1%	2554	1.1%
Thai	2400	1.1%	2510	1.1%
Persian (excluding Dari)/Farsi	2236	1.0%	2411	1.1%
Khmer	2263	1.0%	2302	1.0%
Dari	2243	1.0%	2223	1.0%
Maori (New Zealand)	2017	0.9%	2097	0.9%
Russian	1870	0.8%	1951	0.9%
Croatian	1776	0.8%	1698	0.7%
Sinhalese	1591	0.7%	1636	0.7%
Gujarati	1386	0.6%	1607	0.7%
Portuguese	1534	0.7%	1592	0.7%
Fijian	1456	0.6%	1480	0.6%
Dutch	1322	0.6%	1347	0.6%
Nepali	1003	0.4%	1233	0.5%
Afrikaans	1160	0.5%	1168	0.5%
Maltese	1212	0.5%	1145	0.5%
Maori (Cook Islands)	1122	0.5%	1106	0.5%
Lao	1085	0.5%	1059	0.5%
Telugu <sup>3</sup>			1016	0.4%
<i>Other language groups</i>	18473	8.2%	18199	7.9%
<b>TOTAL LBOTE</b>	<b>224794</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>229106</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Notes:

1. Table is ordered by largest language groups for language groups with 1000 or more students. Language groups with fewer than 1000 students in 2012 are included in 'Other language groups'.
2. In 2012 this group includes Assyrian Neo-Aramaic (ASCL 4206), Chaldean Neo-Aramaic (ASCL 4207) and Assyrian (ASCL 4203 which was deleted from ASCL in 2011)
3. In 2011 Telugu had fewer than 1000 students

**Table 1B****Enrolments of students of language backgrounds other than English by language and level of schooling – March 2012 – largest language groups<sup>1</sup>**

Language	Primary		Secondary		All LBOTE students <sup>2</sup>		
	Students	% Primary LBOTE	Students	% Secondary LBOTE	Students	% Total LBOTE	Cumulative %
Chinese	18801	14.5%	20791	21.2%	39719	17.3%	17.3%
<i>Mandarin</i>	9666	7.4%	9618	9.8%	19329	8.4%	-
<i>Cantonese</i>	8066	6.2%	10131	10.3%	18268	8.0%	-
<i>Other Chinese</i>	1069	0.8%	1042	1.1%	2122	0.9%	-
Arabic	17761	13.7%	12108	12.3%	30171	13.2%	30.5%
Vietnamese	7936	6.1%	7153	7.3%	15209	6.6%	37.1%
Greek	6101	4.7%	3005	3.1%	9157	4.0%	41.1%
Hindi	5602	4.3%	3507	3.6%	9146	4.0%	45.1%
Filipino/Tagalog	4322	3.3%	3783	3.9%	8173	3.6%	48.7%
Samoan	4091	3.2%	3157	3.2%	7299	3.2%	51.9%
Korean	3902	3.0%	3214	3.3%	7130	3.1%	55.0%
Spanish	4043	3.1%	2575	2.6%	6654	2.9%	57.9%
Italian	3589	2.8%	2284	2.3%	5908	2.6%	60.5%
Macedonian	2399	1.8%	1664	1.7%	4082	1.8%	62.3%
Tongan	2252	1.7%	1725	1.8%	4003	1.7%	64.0%
Turkish	2136	1.6%	1792	1.8%	3952	1.7%	65.7%
Tamil	2219	1.7%	1479	1.5%	3712	1.6%	67.4%
Indonesian	2165	1.7%	1425	1.5%	3609	1.6%	68.9%
Serbian	1785	1.4%	1553	1.6%	3348	1.5%	70.4%
Urdu	2107	1.6%	1193	1.2%	3321	1.4%	71.8%
German	1812	1.4%	1234	1.3%	3054	1.3%	73.2%
Bengali	1924	1.5%	1015	1.0%	2967	1.3%	74.5%
Punjabi	1779	1.4%	988	1.0%	2775	1.2%	75.7%
French	1746	1.3%	954	1.0%	2709	1.2%	76.9%
Japanese	1703	1.3%	962	1.0%	2674	1.2%	78.0%
Assyrian & Chaldean <sup>3</sup>	1373	1.1%	1167	1.2%	2554	1.1%	79.1%
Thai	1397	1.1%	1103	1.1%	2510	1.1%	80.2%
Persian (excluding Dari)/Farsi	1304	1.0%	1098	1.1%	2411	1.1%	81.3%
Khmer	1239	1.0%	1055	1.1%	2302	1.0%	82.3%
Dari	1001	0.8%	1212	1.2%	2223	1.0%	83.3%
Maori (New Zealand)	1183	0.9%	903	0.9%	2097	0.9%	84.2%
Russian	1290	1.0%	657	0.7%	1951	0.9%	85.0%
Croatian	948	0.7%	742	0.8%	1698	0.7%	85.8%
Sinhalese	928	0.7%	702	0.7%	1636	0.7%	86.5%
Gujarati	1189	0.9%	418	0.4%	1607	0.7%	87.2%
Portuguese	1018	0.8%	566	0.6%	1592	0.7%	87.9%
Fijian	829	0.6%	642	0.7%	1480	0.6%	88.5%
Dutch	867	0.7%	479	0.5%	1347	0.6%	89.1%
Nepali	822	0.6%	410	0.4%	1233	0.5%	89.7%
Afrikaans	683	0.5%	480	0.5%	1168	0.5%	90.2%
Maltese	667	0.5%	472	0.5%	1145	0.5%	90.7%
Maori (Cook Island)	621	0.5%	480	0.5%	1106	0.5%	91.2%
Lao	578	0.4%	475	0.5%	1059	0.5%	91.6%
Telugu	702	0.5%	313	0.3%	1016	0.4%	92.1%
<i>Other language groups</i>	10991	8.5%	7113	7.3%	18199	7.9%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL LBOTE</b>	<b>129805</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>98048</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>229106</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

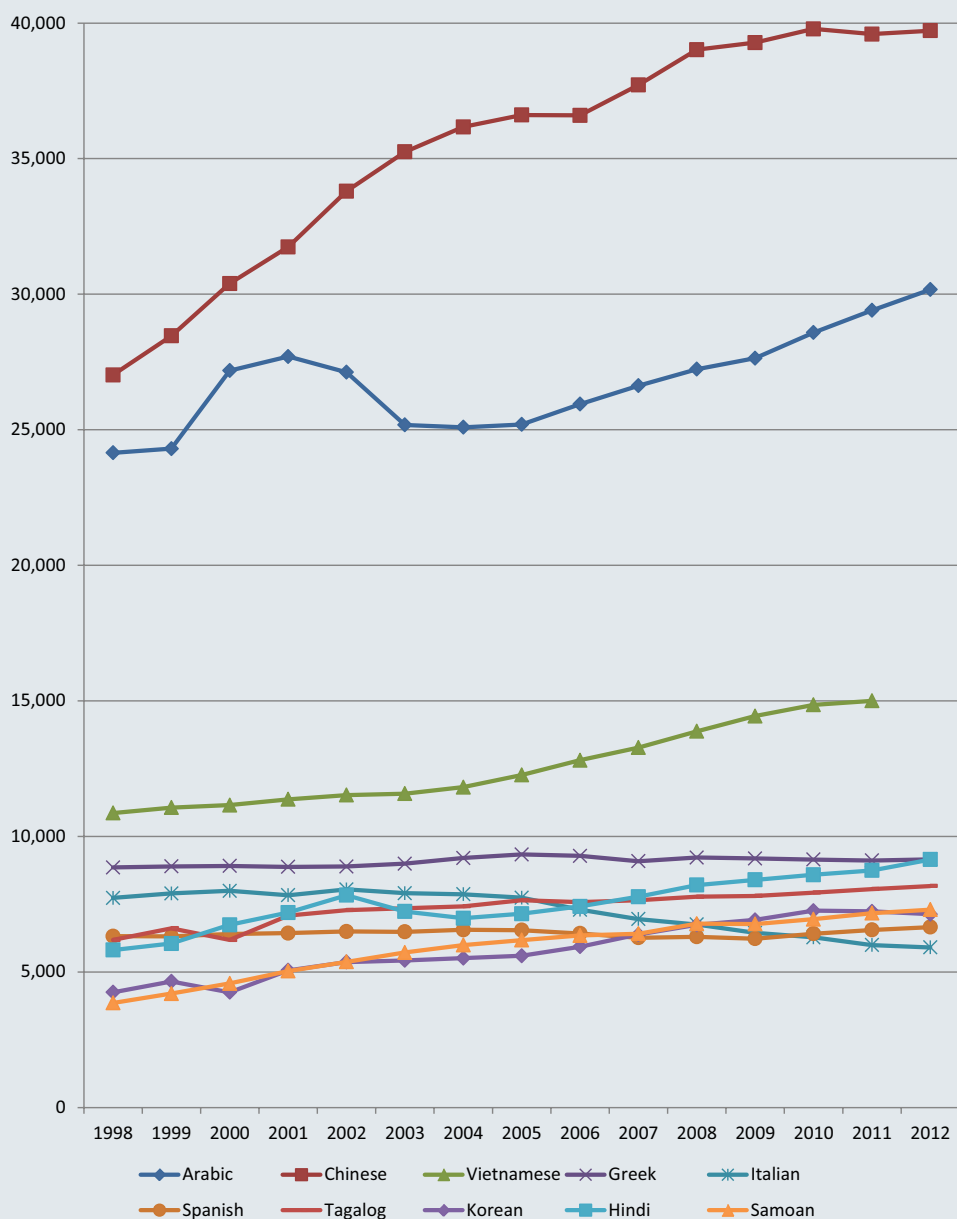
## Notes:

- Table is ordered by largest language groups for language groups with 1000 or more students. Language groups with fewer than 1000 students in 2012 are included in 'Other language groups'.
- All LBOTE students includes SSP students not included in primary or secondary student numbers
- In 2012 this group includes Assyrian Neo-Aramaic (ASCL 4206), Chaldean Neo-Aramaic (ASCL 4207) and Assyrian (ASCL 4203 which was deleted from ASCL in 2011)

## Trends for the largest language groups over the period 1998 to 2012

The percentage of LBOTE students in NSW government schools rose 0.6 percentage points from 2011 to 30.2% in 2012. The percentage of primary students increased 0.3 percentage points to 29.5% and in secondary schools the percentage increased 0.9 percentage points to 31.2% in 2012.

**Figure 3**  
Students of language background other than English – 1998 to 2012



## Where are the students?

The 4 metropolitan regions (Northern Sydney, South Western Sydney, Sydney and Western Sydney) enrol over 55 percent of all students in NSW government schools. These four regions enrol over 90 percent of the students who have a language background other than English.

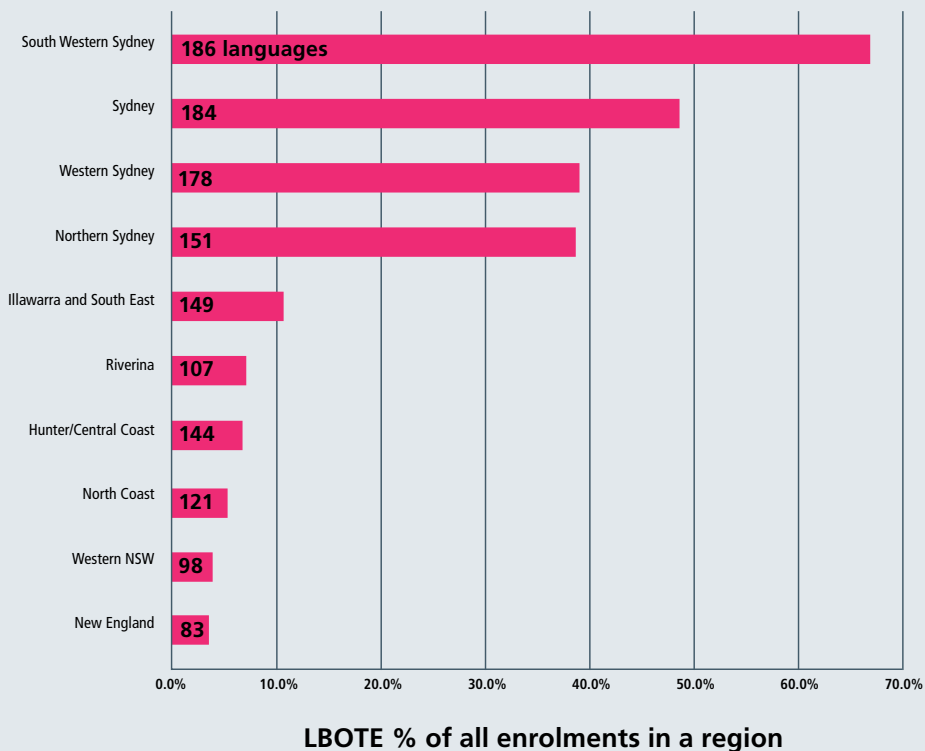
South Western Sydney has the highest LBOTE student enrolments (86,638). New England has the lowest LBOTE student enrolments (728).

Assyrian, Khmer and Lao were the languages with the highest concentration in one region (South Western Sydney).

There is a larger proportion of LBOTE students enrolled in NSW government high schools than in primary schools (see Table 2B). LBOTE student enrolments represented 29.5 percent of all primary enrolments and 31.2 percent of all secondary enrolments in government schools. Across NSW, the proportion of LBOTE enrolments is highest in Year 12 at 35%.

**Figure 4**

**Percentage of students with language background other than English by region – 2012**



**Table 2A****Enrolments of students of language background other than English, by region and level of schooling, March 2012**

Region Name	Primary			Secondary			SSP			All Students		
	LBOTE Students	All Students	LBOTE as % of enrolment	LBOTE Students	All Students	LBOTE as % of enrolment	LBOTE Students	All Students	LBOTE as % of enrolment	LBOTE Students	All Students	LBOTE as % of enrolment
Hunter/Central Coast	4019	61517	6.5%	3110	46615	6.7%	56	722	7.8%	7185	108854	6.6%
Illawarra and South East	4484	39819	11.3%	3224	29670	10.9%	35	356	9.8%	7743	69845	11.1%
New England	468	12652	3.7%	256	9862	2.6%	4	97	4.1%	728	22611	3.2%
North Coast	1768	35758	4.9%	1309	30031	4.4%	1	142	0.7%	3078	65931	4.7%
Northern Sydney	18958	56367	33.6%	15748	33678	46.8%	108	581	18.6%	34814	90626	38.4%
Riverina	1364	18572	7.3%	849	14087	6.0%	12	270	4.4%	2225	32929	6.8%
South Western Sydney	50122	75947	66.0%	35873	53939	66.5%	643	1452	44.3%	86638	131338	66.0%
Sydney	24086	54191	44.4%	20086	37156	54.1%	159	655	24.3%	44331	92002	48.2%
Western NSW	768	21734	3.5%	533	17386	3.1%	6	249	2.4%	1307	39369	3.3%
Western Sydney	23768	63120	37.7%	17060	41757	40.9%	229	1046	21.9%	41057	105923	38.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129805</b>	<b>439677</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>98048</b>	<b>314181</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>1253</b>	<b>5570</b>	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>229106</b>	<b>759428</b>	<b>30.2%</b>

**Notes:**

LBOTE enrolments 2012 are compared to enrolments (headcount) estimated in February 2012.

February enrolment data differs from Mid-year Census data collected in the first week in August each year (published annually in the National School Statistics Collection). It is used in these tables as it is closer in time to the LBOTE collection (March each year).

**Table 2B****Enrolments of students of language background other than English, by region and level of schooling, March 2012**

Region	Primary									SSP
	Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Support	Total	Total
Hunter/Central Coast	617	583	548	536	575	550	565	45	4019	56
Illawarra and South East	623	637	638	633	589	645	654	65	4484	35
New England	71	83	69	54	60	66	63	2	468	4
North Coast	291	261	253	242	218	246	248	9	1768	1
Northern Sydney	2892	2819	2701	2552	2644	2557	2722	71	18958	108
Riverina	215	207	180	202	178	183	189	10	1364	12
South Western Sydney	7536	7168	6967	6951	6926	6672	7057	845	50122	643
Sydney	3660	3475	3433	3292	3320	3238	3468	200	24086	159
Western NSW	119	118	100	108	101	103	109	10	768	6
Western Sydney	3751	3507	3375	3303	3182	3164	3182	304	23768	229
<b>State</b>	<b>19775</b>	<b>18858</b>	<b>18264</b>	<b>17873</b>	<b>17793</b>	<b>17424</b>	<b>18257</b>	<b>1561</b>	<b>129805</b>	<b>1253</b>
<i>As % Enrolments</i>	<i>29.3%</i>	<i>29.1%</i>	<i>29.4%</i>	<i>29.4%</i>	<i>29.9%</i>	<i>29.6%</i>	<i>30.5%</i>	<i>25.4%</i>	<i>29.5%</i>	<i>22.5%</i>

Region	Secondary								Region Total	As % Region
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Support	Total		
Hunter/Central Coast	518	550	527	540	499	417	59	3110	7185	6.6%
Illawarra and South East	497	576	569	567	451	447	117	3224	7743	11.1%
New England	53	40	40	36	37	48	2	256	728	3.2%
North Coast	235	228	224	218	193	191	20	1309	3078	4.7%
Northern Sydney	2376	2383	2481	2650	2866	2637	355	15748	34814	38.4%
Riverina	140	163	152	115	146	128	5	849	2225	6.8%
South Western Sydney	5437	5351	5739	6171	6111	5452	1612	35873	86638	66.0%
Sydney	3150	3118	3240	3413	3475	3092	598	20086	44331	48.2%
Western NSW	86	98	103	76	101	59	10	533	1307	3.3%
Western Sydney	2773	2718	2784	2820	2956	2558	451	17060	41057	38.8%
<b>State</b>	<b>15265</b>	<b>15225</b>	<b>15859</b>	<b>16606</b>	<b>16835</b>	<b>15029</b>	<b>3229</b>	<b>98048</b>	<b>229106</b>	<b>30.2%</b>
<i>As % Enrolments</i>	<i>29.9%</i>	<i>29.6%</i>	<i>30.1%</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>32.0%</i>	<i>35.0%</i>	<i>32.4%</i>	<i>31.2%</i>	<i>30.2%</i>	

## Notes:

LBOTE enrolments 2012 are compared to enrolments (headcount) estimated in February 2012.

February enrolment data differs from Mid-year Census data collected in the first week in August each year (published annually in the National School Statistics Collection). It is used in these tables as it is closer in time to the LBOTE collection (March each year).

**Table 3**
**LBOTE enrolments by language, region and number of language groups – March 2012**

Language	Hunter/ Central Coast	Illawarra and South East	New England	North Coast	Northern Sydney	Riverina	South Western Sydney	Sydney	Western NSW	Western Sydney	State Total	As a % of Total LBOTE
Chinese	605	405	54	148	11808	94	9828	11516	67	5194	39719	17.3%
<i>Mandarin</i>	295	216	25	54	6537	37	3483	5909	39	2734	19329	8.4%
<i>Cantonese</i>	277	164	26	75	4999	46	5065	5299	24	2293	18268	8.0%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	33	25	3	19	272	11	1280	308	4	167	2122	0.9%
Arabic	288	450	47	55	808	106	20801	4578	67	2971	30171	13.2%
Vietnamese	124	163	18	40	475	11	11824	2007	13	534	15209	6.6%
Greek	319	368	5	60	700	50	1695	5196	36	728	9157	4.0%
Hindi	186	90	15	27	1264	46	3269	728	41	3480	9146	4.0%
Filipino/Tagalog	545	361	83	211	858	132	1624	1104	125	3130	8173	3.6%
Samoan	250	75	10	28	72	185	4124	342	21	2192	7299	3.2%
Korean	148	51	4	14	3322	1	1540	927	12	1111	7130	3.1%
Spanish	371	450	24	175	983	52	2227	1408	37	927	6654	2.9%
Italian	309	464	15	99	956	236	1741	1413	65	610	5908	2.6%
Macedonian	270	1142	2	4	97	6	1037	1393	14	117	4082	1.8%
Tongan	184	96	5	35	257	104	1647	569	33	1073	4003	1.7%
Turkish	46	214	4	10	230	29	1648	626	21	1124	3952	1.7%
Tamil	51	20	4	9	571	15	848	261	11	1922	3712	1.6%
Indonesian	174	131	17	70	632	20	877	1199	10	479	3609	1.6%
Serbian	99	330	3	8	330	16	1757	442	20	343	3348	1.5%
Urdu	44	57	10	6	300	38	1397	306	17	1146	3321	1.4%
German	343	316	32	302	937	40	176	584	49	275	3054	1.3%
Bengali	62	16	21	3	221	26	1184	818	6	610	2967	1.3%
Punjabi	46	38	7	187	299	131	489	145	6	1427	2775	1.2%
French	218	166	29	218	899	28	276	593	20	262	2709	1.2%
Japanese	126	85	17	142	1274	15	152	681	16	166	2674	1.2%
Assyrian & Chaldean	7	10	0	2	19	0	2350	83	3	80	2554	1.1%
Thai	213	183	11	129	477	31	533	642	39	252	2510	1.1%
Persian (excluding Dari)/Farsi	37	45	2	6	850	3	499	125	9	835	2411	1.1%
Khmer	42	18		6	36	1	2052	60	3	84	2302	1.0%
Dari	15	7	2		139	16	990	30	4	1020	2223	1.0%
Maori (New Zealand)	144	127	18	73	93	66	581	458	51	486	2097	0.9%
Russian	85	49	7	26	429	8	274	825	23	225	1951	0.9%
Croatian	84	183	1	13	239	6	536	289	19	328	1698	0.7%
Sinhalese	45	44	7	12	553	27	172	120	17	639	1636	0.7%
Gujarati	25	23	1	3	195	32	192	157	2	977	1607	0.7%
Portuguese	63	165	18	56	297	6	309	521	4	153	1592	0.7%
Fijian	85	33	19	14	69	113	580	280	27	260	1480	0.6%
Dutch	157	110	18	96	453	29	67	241	22	154	1347	0.6%
Nepali	27	9	12	1	152	79	270	385	8	290	1233	0.5%
Afrikaans	131	50	25	37	402	63	119	114	46	181	1168	0.5%
Maltese	76	96	5	18	30		310	70	8	532	1145	0.5%
Maori (Cook Islands)	26	93	5	10	19	84	410	174	7	278	1106	0.5%
Lao	14	11	7	10	25	22	917	26	2	25	1059	0.5%
Telugu	20	14	4	2	167	3	226	79	5	496	1016	0.4%
<i>Other Languages</i>	1081	985	140	713	2877	255	5090	2816	301	3941	18199	7.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7185</b>	<b>7743</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>3078</b>	<b>34814</b>	<b>2225</b>	<b>86638</b>	<b>44331</b>	<b>1307</b>	<b>41057</b>	<b>229106</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Number of different language groups*

144

149

83

121

151

107

186

184

98

178



## 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 2011 was 6,574.

**Table 4**  
**Main languages spoken by new arrival students 2007 to 2011**

2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
Language	Students	Language	Students	Language	Students	Language	Students	Language	Students
Mandarin	1027	Mandarin	1061	Mandarin	1227	Mandarin	840	Mandarin	940
Korean	744	Korean	725	Arabic	793	Arabic	643	Arabic	746
Arabic	561	Arabic	714	Korean	625	Korean	478	Korean	352
Cantonese	415	Filipino (Tagalog)	405	Cantonese	403	Filipino (Tagalog)	317	Filipino (Tagalog)	334
Filipino (Tagalog)	299	Cantonese	365	Vietnamese	357	Cantonese	293	Cantonese	296
Vietnamese	289	Vietnamese	290	Filipino (Tagalog)	332	Vietnamese	227	Vietnamese	251
Hindi	253	Hindi	279	Hindi	213	Hindi	203	Samoan	235
Dari	234	Samoan	169	Assyrian	197	Samoan	177	Hindi	208
Samoan	159	Indonesian	159	Thai	179	Dari	168	Tamil	159
Urdu	137	Spanish	155	Nepalese	149	Indonesian	152	Persian (excluding Dari)/Farsi	151
Persian (excluding Dari)/Farsi	135	Dari	148	Spanish	148	Nepalese	151	Spanish	142
Punjabi	135	Thai	134	German	143	Urdu	147	Nepalese	140
Thai	130	German	122	Indonesian	133	Spanish	142	Indonesian	140
German	127	Assyrian	116	Punjabi	132	Thai	133	Urdu	132
Indonesian	123	Tamil	111	Dari	116	Tamil	122	Thai	116
Spanish	110	French	110	Gujarati	112	Assyrian	109	Japanese	115
Japanese	107	Urdu	107	Samoan	112	Japanese	106	Dari	105
Dinka	106	German	122	Tamil	110	Bengali	98	Bengali	93
Others	2145	Others	2281	Others	2072	Others	1999	Others	1919
<b>Total</b>	<b>7326</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>7573</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>7553</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6505</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6574</b>

### Notes:

- 1 New arrival students include only those who have enrolled in school in the 6 months prior to the 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).
- 2 The student count in this table 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.

### Source:

Multicultural Education Unit, NSW Department of Education and Communities, ESL/New Arrivals Program Surveys 2007 to 2011

## What language backgrounds do preschool students come from?

Government preschools enrolled 1808 students of language background other than English in 2012, representing 42 percent of all government preschool enrolments.

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

**Table 5**  
**Enrolments of government preschool<sup>1</sup> students of language background other than English – largest language groups – March 2012**

Language	Students	As a % of all preschool LBOTE <sup>2</sup>
Arabic	320	17.7%
Vietnamese	275	15.2%
Chinese	178	9.8%
<i>Cantonese</i>	88	4.9%
<i>Mandarin</i>	53	2.9%
<i>Chinese other</i>	37	2.0%
Samoan	86	4.8%
Hindi	72	4.0%
Urdu	70	3.9%
Khmer	61	3.4%
Bengali	47	2.6%
Spanish	45	2.5%
Punjabi	43	2.4%
Filipino/Tagalog	53	2.9%
Tongan	37	2.0%
Italian	36	2.0%
Macedonian	32	1.8%
Korean	29	1.6%
Greek	27	1.5%
Indonesian	27	1.5%
Gujurati	26	1.4%
Dari	22	1.2%
Turkish	22	1.2%
Thai	21	1.2%
Tamil	19	1.1%
Assyrian & Chaldean	16	0.9%
Japanese	15	0.8%
Serbian	14	0.8%
Maori (New Zealand)	13	0.7%
Croatian	10	0.6%
Maori (Cook Islands)	10	0.6%
<i>Other language groups</i> <sup>3</sup>	182	10.1%
<b>Total LBOTE</b>	<b>1808</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>LBOTE as a % of preschool enrolment<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>42%</b>	

**Notes:**

- 1 Preschools includes the 99 preschools attached to government schools and the John Brotchie Nursery School
- 2 LBOTE as a % of preschool enrolment uses February 2012 enrolment data
- 3 Other language groups includes 91 language groups

## Notes

The census of students from language backgrounds other than English (LBOTE) was taken on 12 March 2012 in all NSW government schools, including pre-schools, intensive English centres and distance education centres.

Since 1996, information on LBOTE students has been collected in the first half of the school year, with comparative enrolment information extracted from the School Entitlement System (February enrolment data).

Table 4 (main languages spoken by newly arriving students (2007 to 2011)) is a new table sourced from the Multicultural Education Unit analysis of data collected in three New Arrivals 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.

This year 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.

Several of smaller language groupings have changed with the release of a revised Australian Standard Classification of Languages (1267.0) by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in August 2011. For information on languages, refer to Australian Standard Classification of Languages, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ASCL catalogue 1267.0).



## Definitions

### LBOTE

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

### 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.

### For further information, please contact:

Statistics Unit  
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation  
Office of Education  
NSW Department of Education and Communities  
GPO Box 33, Sydney 2001  
T (02) 9561 8342  
F (02) 9561 8055

Statistical publications produced by the Department of Education and Communities can be obtained on the Internet at:

<https://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/statistics-and-research/key-statistics-and-reports>



GPO Box 33  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Australia  
T 9561 8000  
[www.dec.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)

September 2012  
NSW Department of Education and Communities

