



LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 2009

This bulletin reports the results of the census of students of language background other than English in New South Wales government schools undertaken by the NSW Department of Education and Training on Friday, 6th March 2009. A student of language background other than English is defined as one in whose home a language other than English is spoken

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INTRODUCTION

In March 2009, 215,788 students enrolled at government schools were identified as being of Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE). This represented 28.8 percent of all government school enrolments compared to 28.4 percent in 2008.

TABLES 1 & 2 ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION AND LEVEL/YEAR OF SCHOOLING, MARCH 2009

LBOTE student enrolments represented 28.6 percent of all primary enrolments and 29.2 percent of all secondary enrolments in government schools. From 1998 to 2003 enrolments were reported by District. In 2004 the reporting unit was changed to School Education Area (SEA), and to Region in 2005.

TABLE 3A & 3B ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, MARCH 2009

Chinese, with 39,279 students in 2009, has been the most common language background other than English in government schools since 1997. This year information on Cantonese and Mandarin language backgrounds has again been reported in addition to those students whose Chinese language background is not further resolved. Students from the Chinese language group background represented 18.2 percent of all LBOTE students in 2009, compared to 18.4 percentage in 2008. Arabic, with 27,639 students in 2009, was the most common language background from 1988 to 1996. The proportion of LBOTE students of Arabic background was 12.8 percent in 2009 (same as in 2008).

TABLES 3C ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MARCH 2009

LBOTE enrolments less than 1,000 were included in "Other". Since 2008, Farsi and Dari have been reported separately.

TABLE 4 ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION AND LANGUAGE, MARCH 2009

South Western Sydney has the highest LBOTE student enrolments (83,214). New England has the lowest LBOTE student enrolments (510). Khmer and Lao were the languages with the highest concentration in one Region.

TABLE 5 ENROLMENTS OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MARCH 2009

Government preschools enrolled 1,761 students of Language Background Other Than English in 2009, representing 42.5 percent of all government preschool enrolments. (Percentage of LBOTE Preschool students 2009 was based on head count. Attendance Patterns of LBOTE Preschool students 2009 were not collected).

FIGURE 1 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION, MARCH 2009

FIGURE 2 STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 1997-2009: SELECTED LANGUAGE BACKGROUNDS

NOTES:

From 1996, information on LBOTE students has been collected in May with comparative enrolment information extracted from the School Entitlement System. In prior years, LBOTE information was collected in the midyear census, with comparative enrolment information collected at the same time.

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

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Statistical publications produced by the Department of Education and Training can be obtained on the Internet at:
http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/reports_stats/stats

TABLE 1
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
REGION AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, MARCH 2009

REGION	Primary		Secondary		SSP		Total	
	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment
Hunter/Central Coast	3,503	5.7%	2829	6.1%	38	5.5%	6,370	5.9%
Illawarra and South East	4,402	11.0%	2952	9.8%	32	10.2%	7,386	10.5%
New England	306	2.5%	201	2.1%	3	3.6%	510	2.3%
North Coast	1,580	4.3%	1130	3.7%		0.0%	2,710	4.0%
Northern Sydney	17,260	33.4%	14421	44.0%	97	17.8%	31,778	37.4%
Riverina	1,134	6.0%	756	5.2%	15	6.5%	1,905	5.7%
South Western Sydney	48,380	64.6%	34244	63.4%	590	46.2%	83,214	63.9%
Sydney	23,659	46.2%	19232	51.6%	153	24.6%	43,044	48.3%
Western NSW	727	3.3%	473	2.7%	3	1.3%	1,203	3.0%
Western Sydney	21,899	36.1%	15586	37.7%	183	21.5%	37,668	36.7%
State	122,850	28.6%	91,824	29.2%	1,114	22.5%	215,788	28.8%

TABLE 2
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
REGION AND YEAR OF SCHOOLING, MARCH 2009

REGION	Primary								SSP	
	Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Support	Total	Total
Hunter/Central Coast	495	489	483	518	482	504	499	33	3,503	38
Illawarra and South Coast	584	578	620	616	607	684	666	47	4,402	32
New England	43	38	46	45	42	45	45	2	306	3
North Coast	231	219	216	213	237	232	223	9	1,580	
Northern Sydney	2,263	2,364	2,351	2,527	2,578	2,533	2,556	88	17,260	97
Riverina	150	168	179	172	146	165	151	3	1,134	15
South Western Sydney	6,746	6,804	6,703	6,938	6,926	6,652	6,897	714	48,380	590
Sydney	3,363	3,261	3,262	3,426	3,401	3,364	3,385	197	23,659	153
Western NSW	96	78	100	112	107	96	122	16	727	3
Western Sydney	3,010	3,040	3,016	3,037	3,212	3,141	3,146	297	21,899	183
State	16,981	17,039	16,976	17,604	17,738	17,416	17,690	1,406	122,850	1,114
As % of Enrolment	27.3%	28.1%	28.1%	29.0%	29.3%	29.2%	29.6%	25.0%	28.6%	22.5%

REGION	Secondary								Region Total	As % of Region
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Support	Total		
Hunter/Central Coast	451	493	483	485	471	412	34	2,829	6,370	5.9%
Illawarra and South Coast	551	416	475	466	511	432	101	2,952	7,386	10.5%
New England	32	29	31	40	40	29		201	510	2.3%
North Coast	188	169	172	201	209	178	13	1,130	2,710	4.0%
Northern Sydney	2,302	2,244	2,261	2,369	2,609	2,324	312	14,421	31,778	37.4%
Riverina	112	138	118	140	141	102	5	756	1,905	5.7%
South Western Sydney	5,492	5,266	5,644	5,702	5,624	4,845	1,671	34,244	83,214	63.9%
Sydney	3,145	2,964	2,951	3,079	3,441	2,988	664	19,232	43,044	48.3%
Western NSW	70	109	76	70	78	67	3	473	1,203	3.0%
Western Sydney	2,611	2,451	2,444	2,510	2,794	2,346	430	15,586	37,668	36.7%
State	14,954	14,279	14,655	15,062	15,918	13,723	3,233	91,824	215,788	28.8%
As % of Enrolment	28.3%	26.6%	26.7%	27.6%	31.9%	35.0%	35.6%	29.2%	28.8%	

TABLE 3A
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
LANGUAGE AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, MARCH 2009

Language	Primary		Secondary		SSP		Total	
	Students	As % of Primary LBOTE	Students	As % of Secondary LBOTE	Students	As % of SSP LBOTE	Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Arabic	15,684	12.8%	11,670	12.7%	285	25.6%	27,639	12.8%
Chinese	19,900	16.2%	19,265	21.0%	114	10.2%	39,279	18.2%
Cantonese	9,566	7.8%	10,424	11.4%	69	6.2%	20,059	9.3%
Mandarin	9,236	7.5%	7,817	8.5%	37	3.3%	17,090	7.9%
Other Chinese	1,098	0.9%	1,024	1.1%	8	0.7%	2,130	1.0%
Croatian	1,089	0.9%	754	0.8%	9	0.8%	1,852	0.9%
DARI	917	0.7%	1,249	1.4%	7	0.6%	2,173	1.0%
Dutch	819	0.7%	510	0.6%	1	0.1%	1,330	0.6%
FARSI	1,128	0.9%	1,058	1.2%	9	0.8%	2,195	1.0%
Fijian	834	0.7%	549	0.6%	9	0.8%	1,392	0.6%
French	1,739	1.4%	939	1.0%	7	0.6%	2,685	1.2%
German	1,896	1.5%	1,224	1.3%	7	0.6%	3,127	1.4%
Greek	6,339	5.2%	2,796	3.0%	53	4.8%	9,188	4.3%
Hindi	5,026	4.1%	3,337	3.6%	36	3.2%	8,399	3.9%
Indonesian	1,860	1.5%	1,269	1.4%	17	1.5%	3,146	1.5%
Italian	4,131	3.4%	2,281	2.5%	28	2.5%	6,440	3.0%
Japanese	1,522	1.2%	802	0.9%	9	0.8%	2,333	1.1%
Khmer	1,162	0.9%	964	1.0%	3	0.3%	2,129	1.0%
Korean	3,688	3.0%	3,219	3.5%	15	1.3%	6,922	3.2%
Lao	597	0.5%	529	0.6%	5	0.4%	1,131	0.5%
Macedonian	2,549	2.1%	1,678	1.8%	18	1.6%	4,245	2.0%
Malay	339	0.3%	248	0.3%	3	0.3%	590	0.3%
Maltese	900	0.7%	501	0.5%	7	0.6%	1,408	0.7%
Polish	503	0.4%	495	0.5%	2	0.2%	1,000	0.5%
Portugese	944	0.8%	498	0.5%	11	1.0%	1,453	0.7%
Punjabi	1,418	1.2%	880	1.0%	5	0.4%	2,303	1.1%
Russian	1,117	0.9%	615	0.7%	5	0.4%	1,737	0.8%
Samoan	3,907	3.2%	2,828	3.1%	32	2.9%	6,767	3.1%
Serbian	2,079	1.7%	1,602	1.7%	7	0.6%	3,688	1.7%
Sinhalese	831	0.7%	634	0.7%	3	0.3%	1,468	0.7%
Slovenian	73	0.1%	48	0.1%	0	0.0%	121	0.1%
Spanish	3,712	3.0%	2,477	2.7%	40	3.6%	6,229	2.9%
TAGALOG (FILIPINO)	4,276	3.5%	3,464	3.8%	64	5.7%	7,804	3.6%
Tamil	1,792	1.5%	1,320	1.4%	12	1.1%	3,124	1.4%
Tongan	2,279	1.9%	1,535	1.7%	24	2.2%	3,838	1.8%
Turkish	2,242	1.8%	1,839	2.0%	20	1.8%	4,101	1.9%
Urdu	1,785	1.5%	896	1.0%	12	1.1%	2,693	1.2%
Vietnamese	7,521	6.1%	6,813	7.4%	104	9.3%	14,438	6.7%
OTHERS	16,252	13.2%	11,038	12.0%	131	11.8%	27,421	12.7%
Total LBOTE	122,850		91,824		1,114		215,788	

TABLE 3B
CHANGING ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, 2008-2009

Language	2008		2009	
	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Chinese	39,017	18.4%	39,279	18.2%
<i>Cantonese</i>	20,028	9.4%	20,059	9.3%
<i>Mandarin</i>	15,949	7.5%	17,090	7.9%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	3,040	1.4%	2,130	1.0%
Arabic	27,235	12.8%	27,639	12.8%
Vietnamese	13,878	6.5%	14,438	6.7%
Greek	9,221	4.3%	9,188	4.3%
Hindi	8,204	3.9%	8,399	3.9%
TAGALOG (FILIPINO)	7,773	3.7%	7,804	3.6%
Samoan	6,782	3.2%	6,767	3.1%
Italian	6,753	3.2%	6,440	3.0%
Korean	6,738	3.2%	6,922	3.2%
Spanish	6,297	3.0%	6,229	2.9%
Macedonian	4,331	2.0%	4,245	2.0%
Turkish	4,264	2.0%	4,101	1.9%
Serbian	3,933	1.9%	3,688	1.7%
Tongan	3,829	1.8%	3,838	1.8%
German	3,211	1.5%	3,127	1.4%
Tamil	3,009	1.4%	3,124	1.4%
Indonesian	3,005	1.4%	3,146	1.5%
French	2,639	1.2%	2,685	1.2%
Urdu	2,474	1.2%	2,693	1.2%
FARSI	2,349	1.1%	2,195	1.0%
Japanese	2,263	1.1%	2,333	1.1%
DARI	2,171	1.0%	2,173	1.0%
Punjabi	2,117	1.0%	2,303	1.1%
Khmer	2,110	1.0%	2,129	1.0%
Croatian	1,980	0.9%	1,852	0.9%
Russian	1,677	0.8%	1,737	0.8%
Maltese	1,538	0.7%	1,408	0.7%
Portugese	1,439	0.7%	1,453	0.7%
Sinhalese	1,435	0.7%	1,468	0.7%
Dutch	1,362	0.6%	1,330	0.6%
Fijian	1,361	0.6%	1,392	0.6%
Lao	1,158	0.5%	1,131	0.5%
Polish	1,062	0.5%	1,000	0.5%
Malay	603	0.3%	590	0.3%
Slovenian	131	0.1%	121	0.1%
OTHERS	25,180	11.8%	27,421	12.7%
TOTAL	212,529		215,788	

TABLE 3C
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
LANGUAGE, 2009 - LARGEST LANGUAGE GROUPS

Language	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE	Language	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Chinese	39,279	18.2%	Assyrian	2,459	1.1%
<i>Cantonese</i>	20,059	9.3%	Bengali	2,443	1.1%
<i>Mandarin</i>	17,090	7.9%	Japanese	2,333	1.1%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	2,130	1.0%	Punjabi	2,303	1.1%
Arabic	27,639	12.8%	Farsi	2,195	1.0%
Vietnamese	14,438	6.7%	Thai	2,181	1.0%
Greek	9,188	4.3%	Dari	2,173	1.0%
Hindi	8,399	3.9%	Khmer	2,129	1.0%
Tagalog (Filipino)	7,804	3.6%	Maori (New Zealand)	1,918	0.9%
Korean	6,922	3.2%	Croatian	1,852	0.9%
Samoan	6,767	3.1%	Russian	1,737	0.8%
Italian	6,440	3.0%	Sinhalese	1,468	0.7%
Spanish	6,229	2.9%	Portugese	1,453	0.7%
Macedonian	4,245	2.0%	Maltese	1,408	0.7%
Turkish	4,101	1.9%	Fijian	1,392	0.6%
Tongan	3,838	1.8%	Dutch	1,330	0.6%
Serbian	3,688	1.7%	Lao	1,131	0.5%
Indonesian	3,146	1.5%	Afrikaans	1,099	0.5%
German	3,127	1.4%	Maori (Cook Island)	1,082	0.5%
Tamil	3,124	1.4%	Polish	1,000	0.5%
Urdu	2,693	1.2%	OTHERS	16,950	7.9%
French	2,685	1.2%	Total LBOTE	215,788	

Note: Languages with enrolments less than 1000 were included in OTHERS.

TABLE 4
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
LANGUAGE AND REGION, MARCH 2009

Language	Hunter/ Central Coast	Illawarra and South Coast	New England	North Coast	Northern Sydney	Riverina	South Western Sydney	Sydney	Western NSW	Western Sydney	State Totals	As % of Total LBOTE
Arabic	240	373	17	52	755	87	18,841	4,358	69	2,847	27,639	12.8%
Chinese	530	388	65	132	10,767	85	10,681	11,559	61	5,011	39,279	18.2%
<i>Cantonese</i>	264	194	27	80	5,287	50	5,790	5,777	31	2,559	20,059	9.3%
<i>Mandarin</i>	236	174	37	39	5,200	26	3,636	5,418	27	2,297	17,090	7.9%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	30	20	1	13	280	9	1,255	364	3	155	2,130	1.0%
Croatian	104	187	3	20	243	17	597	289	20	372	1,852	0.9%
DARI	3	8			163	49	935	30	8	977	2,173	1.0%
Dutch	174	140	16	94	395	23	76	189	38	185	1,330	0.6%
FARSI	22	42		10	735	16	437	138	8	787	2,195	1.0%
Fijian	81	40	11	16	70	82	547	242	24	279	1,392	0.6%
French	217	174	19	212	847	32	322	547	26	289	2,685	1.2%
German	322	348	39	306	910	55	209	584	57	297	3,127	1.4%
Greek	364	364	5	56	726	51	1,831	5,015	40	736	9,188	4.3%
Hindi	140	85	15	37	1,078	38	3,217	731	34	3,024	8,399	3.9%
Indonesian	175	117	12	86	531	13	724	1,067	9	412	3,146	1.5%
Italian	361	551	11	104	1,009	313	1,872	1,424	79	716	6,440	3.0%
Japanese	110	70	13	103	1,160	3	131	591	11	141	2,333	1.1%
Khmer	27	18	1	2	40	1	1,915	44		81	2,129	1.0%
Korean	80	48	1	5	3,258	3	1,450	1,031	1	1,045	6,922	3.2%
Lao	15	15	9	10	22	15	989	33	2	21	1,131	0.5%
Macedonian	290	1,154		9	97	2	1,139	1,418	12	124	4,245	2.0%
Malay	29	32	3	13	137	1	111	141	5	118	590	0.3%
Maltese	68	106	4	29	38	2	359	95	6	701	1,408	0.7%
Polish	84	64	2	17	202	2	220	221	10	178	1,000	0.5%
Portugese	54	175	14	24	216	12	304	507	6	141	1,453	0.7%
Punjabi	17	12	2	209	254	107	397	129	8	1,168	2,303	1.1%
Russian	70	52	9	26	329	6	255	756	33	201	1,737	0.8%
Samoan	215	53	7	18	77	118	3,886	336	14	2,043	6,767	3.1%
Serbian	111	365		9	398	13	1,867	508	19	398	3,688	1.7%
Sinhalese	42	35	1	6	509	9	150	120	13	583	1,468	0.7%
Slovenian	7	12		6	22	1	27	24	4	18	121	0.1%
Spanish	338	428	19	140	809	48	2,286	1,250	31	880	6,229	2.9%
TAGALOG (FILIPINO)	490	341	46	197	728	98	1,664	1,060	103	3,077	7,804	3.6%
Tamil	27	16		4	510	13	815	241	18	1,480	3,124	1.4%
Tongan	141	72	4	27	267	96	1,622	609	30	970	3,838	1.8%
Turkish	50	229	3	15	221	36	1,676	641	19	1,211	4,101	1.9%
Urdu	46	33	6	7	228	25	1,128	253	13	954	2,693	1.2%
Vietnamese	91	148	9	38	407	5	11,254	1,968	5	513	14,438	6.7%
OTHERS	1,235	1,091	144	671	3,620	428	9,280	4,895	367	5,690	27,421	12.7%
Total	6,370	7,386	510	2,710	31,778	1,905	83,214	43,044	1,203	37,668	215,788	

TABLE 5
ENROLMENTS OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN
ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MARCH 2009

Language	Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Arabic	269	15.3%
Chinese	216	12.3%
<i>Cantonese</i>	106	6.0%
<i>Mandarin</i>	68	3.9%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	42	2.4%
Croatian	14	0.8%
DARI	12	0.7%
Dutch	5	0.3%
FARSI	3	0.2%
Fijian	9	0.5%
French	9	0.5%
German	12	0.7%
Greek	26	1.5%
Hindi	86	4.9%
Indonesian	34	1.9%
Italian	26	1.5%
Japanese	15	0.9%
Khmer	46	2.6%
Korean	26	1.5%
Lao	14	0.8%
Macedonian	31	1.8%
Malay	2	0.1%
Maltese	9	0.5%
OTHERS	192	10.9%
Polish	6	0.3%
Portugese	6	0.3%
Punjabi	38	2.2%
Russian	4	0.2%
Samoan	102	5.8%
Serbian	9	0.5%
Sinhalese	10	0.6%
Spanish	42	2.4%
TAGALOG (FILIPINO)	68	3.9%
Tamil	35	2.0%
Tongan	27	1.5%
Turkish	21	1.2%
Urdu	27	1.5%
Vietnamese	310	17.6%
Total LBOTE	1,761	
LBOTE as % of Enrolment	42.5%	

Note: Attendance pattern not collected this year.
Percentage of LBOTE for Preschools used different method from previous years.

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION, 2009

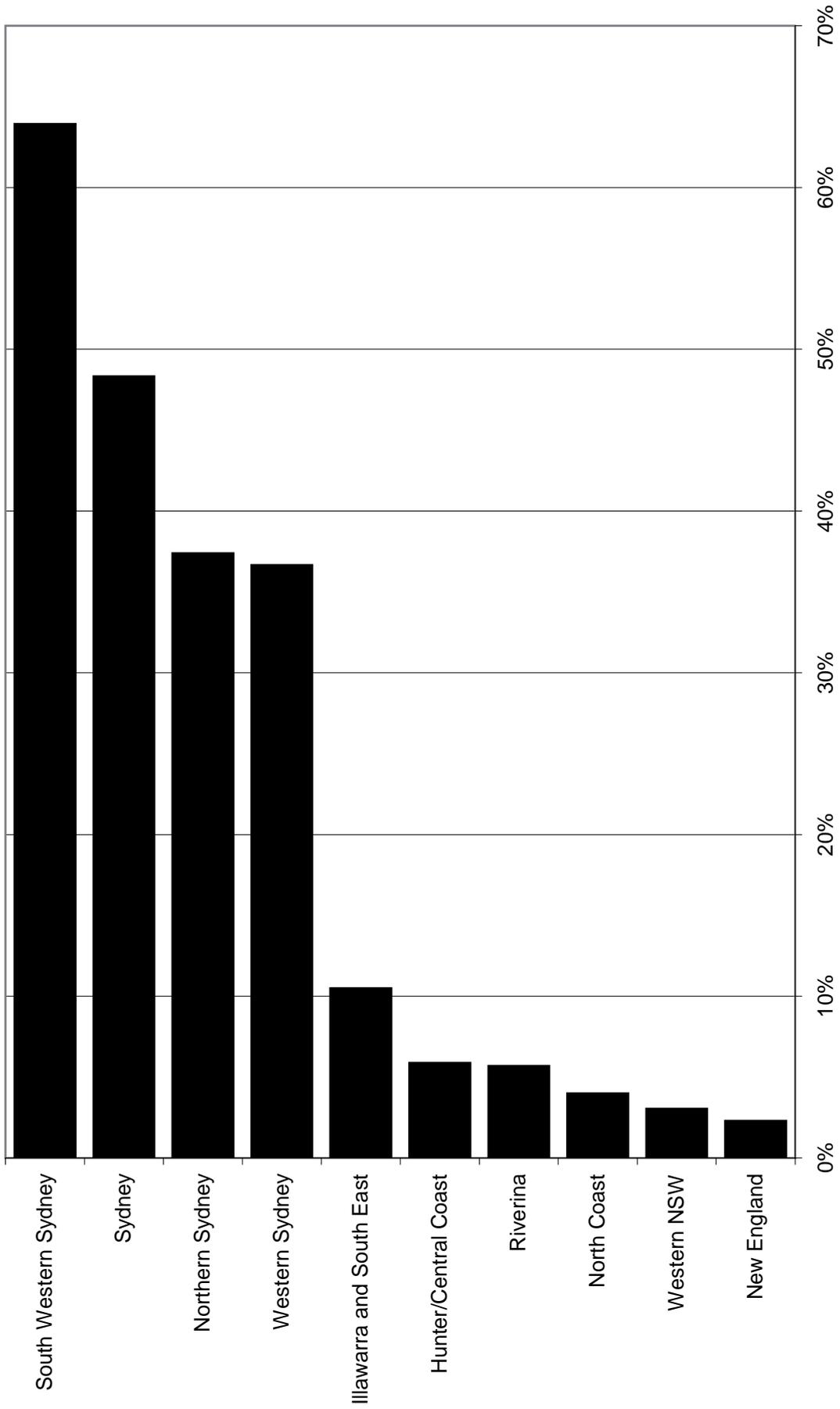
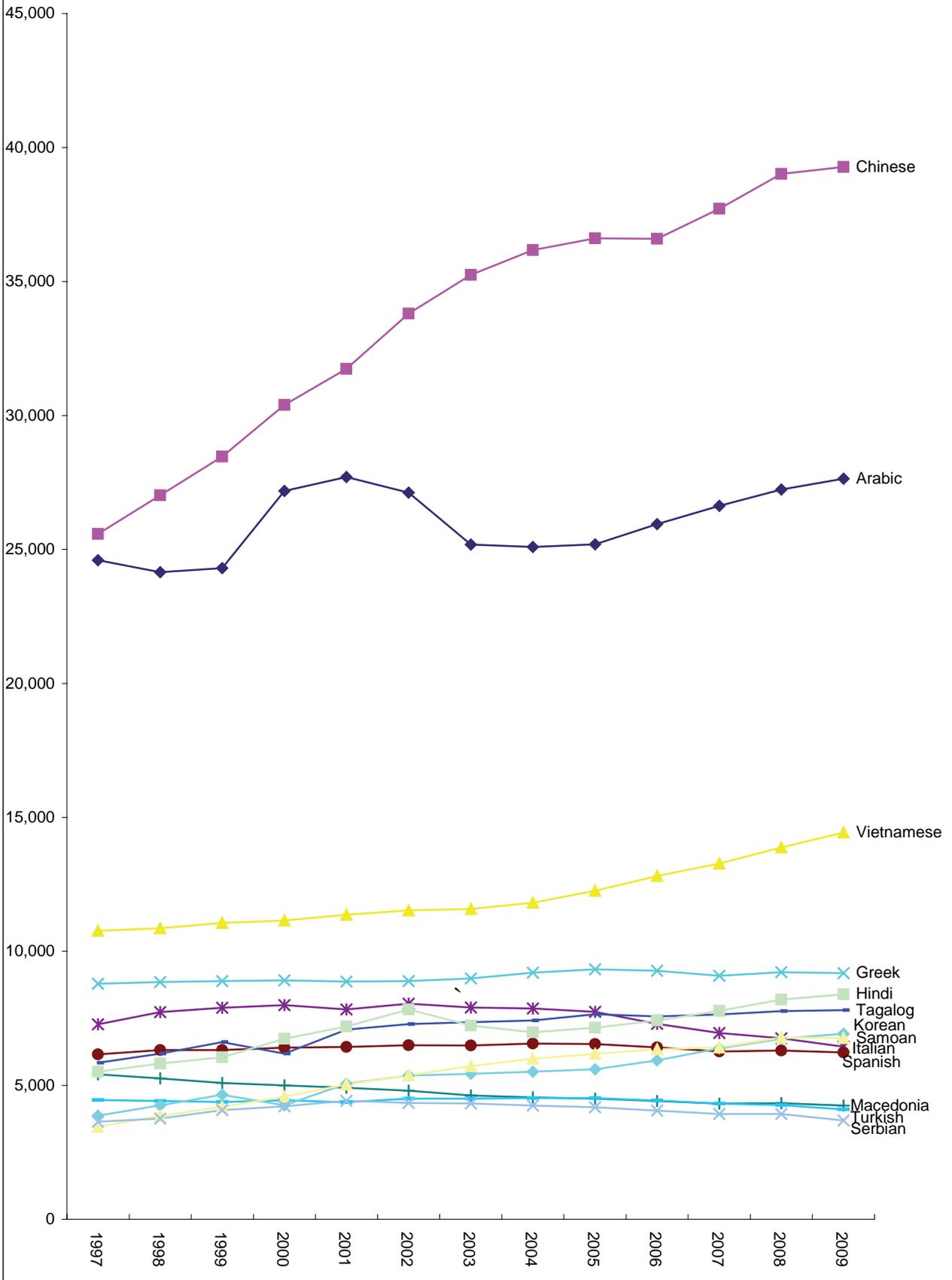


FIGURE 2. STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 1997-2009



Note: Chinese includes all languages of that group including Mandarin and Cantonese.