



LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 2008

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 16th May 2008. 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 May 2008, 212,529 students enrolled at government schools were identified as being of Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE). This represented 28.4 percent of all government school enrolments compared to 27.6 percent in 2007.

TABLES 1 & 2

ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION AND LEVEL/YEAR OF SCHOOLING, MAY 2008

LBOTE student enrolments represented 28.6 percent of all primary enrolments and 28.1 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, MAY 2008

Chinese, with 39,017 students in 2008, 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 18.4 percent of all LBOTE students in 2008, compared to 18.2 percentage in 2007. Arabic, with 27,235 students in 2008, was the most common language background from 1988 to 1996. The proportion of LBOTE students of Arabic background decreased from 12.9 percent in 2007 to 12.8 percent in 2008.

TABLES 3C

ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MAY 2008

LBOTE enrolments less than 1,000 were included in "Other". For the first time, Farsi and Dari have been reported separately.

TABLE 4

ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION AND LANGUAGE, MAY 2008

South Western Sydney has the highest LBOTE student enrolments (82,488). New England has the lowest LBOTE student enrolments (482). 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, MAY 2008

Government preschools enrolled 1,781 of students of Language Background Other Than English in 2008, representing 43.4 percent of all government preschool enrolments. (Percentage of LBOTE Preschool students 2008 was based on head count. Attendance Patterns of LBOTE Preschool students 2008 were not collected).

FIGURE 1
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE
BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION, MAY
2008

FIGURE 2
STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER
THAN ENGLISH, 1990-2008: 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, MAY 2008

REGION	Primary		Secondary		SSP		Total	
	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment
Hunter/Central Coast	3,516	5.7%	2790	6.0%	40	6.0%	6,346	5.8%
Illawarra and South East	4,482	11.1%	2892	9.6%	27	7.6%	7,401	10.4%
New England	276	2.2%	203	2.0%	3	3.8%	482	2.2%
North Coast	1,519	4.1%	1116	3.6%		0.0%	2,635	3.8%
Northern Sydney	17,251	34.1%	14015	43.2%	90	16.7%	31,356	37.6%
Riverina	1,115	5.9%	749	5.1%	16	6.8%	1,880	5.5%
South Western Sydney	48,747	65.0%	33169	61.5%	572	45.8%	82,488	63.4%
Sydney	23,633	47.0%	18340	49.3%	162	26.6%	42,135	47.8%
Western NSW	628	2.8%	447	2.5%	2	0.8%	1,077	2.7%
Western Sydney	21,496	35.9%	15043	36.6%	190	22.0%	36,729	36.0%
State	122,663	28.6%	88,764	28.1%	1,102	22.3%	212,529	28.4%

TABLE 2
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
REGION AND YEAR OF SCHOOLING, MAY 2008

REGION	Primary								SSP	
	Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Support	Total	Total
Hunter/Central Coast	530	473	501	473	485	490	513	51	3,516	40
Illawarra and South Coast	563	608	607	626	680	672	697	29	4,482	27
New England	35	45	41	39	39	46	30	1	276	3
North Coast	208	214	206	224	208	225	225	9	1,519	
Northern Sydney	2,302	2,273	2,486	2,533	2,501	2,545	2,522	89	17,251	90
Riverina	167	174	167	147	168	149	138	5	1,115	16
South Western Sydney	6,900	6,718	6,956	6,951	6,739	6,887	7,144	452	48,747	572
Sydney	3,243	3,265	3,478	3,444	3,320	3,411	3,346	126	23,633	162
Western NSW	77	82	100	92	87	112	76	2	628	2
Western Sydney	2,975	2,930	2,971	3,118	3,056	3,152	3,081	213	21,496	190
State	17,000	16,782	17,513	17,647	17,283	17,689	17,772	977	122,663	1,102
As % of Enrolment	27.9%	27.7%	28.7%	29.1%	28.9%	29.5%	29.6%	17.9%	28.6%	22.3%

REGION	Secondary									
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Support	Total	Region Total	As % of Region
Hunter/Central Coast	450	480	484	489	467	407	13	2,790	6,346	5.8%
Illawarra and South Coast	417	477	456	542	494	410	96	2,892	7,401	10.4%
New England	28	33	36	34	38	34		203	482	2.2%
North Coast	164	181	196	198	198	177	2	1,116	2,635	3.8%
Northern Sydney	2,158	2,205	2,259	2,319	2,510	2,296	268	14,015	31,356	37.6%
Riverina	136	117	129	139	130	96	2	749	1,880	5.5%
South Western Sydney	5,007	5,503	5,551	5,843	5,389	4,596	1,280	33,169	82,488	63.4%
Sydney	2,844	2,864	2,919	3,175	3,218	2,880	440	18,340	42,135	47.8%
Western NSW	87	62	67	79	77	71	4	447	1,077	2.7%
Western Sydney	2,397	2,383	2,452	2,656	2,503	2,362	290	15,043	36,729	36.0%
State	13,688	14,305	14,549	15,474	15,024	13,329	2,395	88,764	212,529	28.4%
As % of Enrolment	25.5%	26.1%	26.3%	28.1%	31.0%	34.0%	26.6%	28.1%	28.4%	

TABLE 3A
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
LANGUAGE AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, MAY 2008

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	15,458	12.6%	11,481	12.9%	296	26.9%	27,235	12.8%
Chinese	20,786	16.9%	18,115	20.4%	116	10.5%	39,017	18.4%
<i>Cantonese</i>	10,120	8.3%	9,843	11.1%	65	5.9%	20,028	9.4%
<i>Mandarin</i>	9,120	7.4%	6,796	7.7%	33	3.0%	15,949	7.5%
<i>Other Chinesees</i>	1,546	1.3%	1,476	1.7%	18	1.6%	3,040	1.4%
Croatian	1,187	1.0%	783	0.9%	10	0.9%	1,980	0.9%
DARI	962	0.8%	1,202	1.4%	7	0.6%	2,171	1.0%
Dutch	851	0.7%	509	0.6%	2	0.2%	1,362	0.6%
FARSI	1,208	1.0%	1,134	1.3%	7	0.6%	2,349	1.1%
Fijian	838	0.7%	515	0.6%	8	0.7%	1,361	0.6%
French	1,687	1.4%	945	1.1%	7	0.6%	2,639	1.2%
German	1,986	1.6%	1,217	1.4%	8	0.7%	3,211	1.5%
Greek	6,412	5.2%	2,758	3.1%	51	4.6%	9,221	4.3%
Hindi	4,964	4.0%	3,211	3.6%	29	2.6%	8,204	3.9%
Indonesian	1,807	1.5%	1,183	1.3%	15	1.4%	3,005	1.4%
Italian	4,407	3.6%	2,319	2.6%	27	2.5%	6,753	3.2%
Japanese	1,463	1.2%	791	0.9%	9	0.8%	2,263	1.1%
Khmer	1,114	0.9%	994	1.1%	2	0.2%	2,110	1.0%
Korean	3,496	2.9%	3,225	3.6%	17	1.5%	6,738	3.2%
Lao	619	0.5%	534	0.6%	5	0.5%	1,158	0.5%
Macedonian	2,576	2.1%	1,737	2.0%	18	1.6%	4,331	2.0%
Malay	352	0.3%	248	0.3%	3	0.3%	603	0.3%
Maltese	998	0.8%	530	0.6%	10	0.9%	1,538	0.7%
Polish	572	0.5%	486	0.5%	4	0.4%	1,062	0.5%
Portugese	919	0.7%	509	0.6%	11	1.0%	1,439	0.7%
Punjabi	1,321	1.1%	791	0.9%	5	0.5%	2,117	1.0%
Russian	1,026	0.8%	646	0.7%	5	0.5%	1,677	0.8%
Samoan	4,029	3.3%	2,723	3.1%	30	2.7%	6,782	3.2%
Serbian	2,260	1.8%	1,663	1.9%	10	0.9%	3,933	1.9%
Sinhalese	828	0.7%	604	0.7%	3	0.3%	1,435	0.7%
Slovenian	73	0.1%	58	0.1%	0	0.0%	131	0.1%
Spanish	3,770	3.1%	2,489	2.8%	38	3.4%	6,297	3.0%
TAGALOG (FILIPINO)	4,310	3.5%	3,396	3.8%	67	6.1%	7,773	3.7%
Tamil	1,708	1.4%	1,291	1.5%	10	0.9%	3,009	1.4%
Tongan	2,334	1.9%	1,467	1.7%	28	2.5%	3,829	1.8%
Turkish	2,406	2.0%	1,835	2.1%	23	2.1%	4,264	2.0%
Urdu	1,663	1.4%	800	0.9%	11	1.0%	2,474	1.2%
Vietnamese	7,493	6.1%	6,287	7.1%	98	8.9%	13,878	6.5%
OTHERS	14,780	12.0%	10,288	11.6%	112	10.2%	25,180	11.8%
Total LBOTE	122,663		88,764		1,102		212,529	

TABLE 3B
CHANGING ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN
ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, 2007-2008

Language	2008		2007	
	Total	As % of	Total	As % of
	Students	Total	Students	Total
		LBOTE		LBOTE
Chinese	39,017	18.4%	37,716	18.2%
<i>Cantonese</i>	20,028	9.4%	20,116	9.7%
<i>Mandarin</i>	15,949	7.5%	15,090	7.3%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	3,040	1.4%	2,510	1.2%
Arabic	27,235	12.8%	26,626	12.9%
Vietnamese	13,878	6.5%	13,275	6.4%
Greek	9,221	4.3%	9,085	4.4%
Hindi	8,204	3.9%	7,774	3.8%
TAGALOG (FILIPINO)	7,773	3.7%	7,645	3.7%
Samoa	6,782	3.2%	6,413	3.1%
Italian	6,753	3.2%	6,952	3.4%
Korean	6,738	3.2%	6,381	3.1%
Spanish	6,297	3.0%	6,265	3.0%
FARSI/DARI	4,520	2.1%	4,624	2.2%
Macedonian	4,331	2.0%	4,318	2.1%
Turkish	4,264	2.0%	4,311	2.1%
Serbian	3,933	1.9%	3,925	1.9%
Tongan	3,829	1.8%	3,702	1.8%
German	3,211	1.5%	3,207	1.5%
Tamil	3,009	1.4%	2,914	1.4%
Indonesian	3,005	1.4%	2,828	1.4%
French	2,639	1.2%	2,525	1.2%
Urdu	2,474	1.2%	2,259	1.1%
Japanese	2,263	1.1%	2,133	1.0%
Punjabi	2,117	1.0%	1,967	1.0%
Khmer	2,110	1.0%	2,166	1.0%
Croatian	1,980	0.9%	2,023	1.0%
Russian	1,677	0.8%	1,685	0.8%
Maltese	1,538	0.7%	1,649	0.8%
Portugese	1,439	0.7%	1,358	0.7%
Sinhalese	1,435	0.7%	1,323	0.6%
Dutch	1,362	0.6%	1,370	0.7%
Fijian	1,361	0.6%	1,341	0.6%
Lao	1,158	0.5%	1,122	0.5%
Polish	1,062	0.5%	1,091	0.5%
Malay	603	0.3%	591	0.3%
Slovenian	131	0.1%	184	0.1%
OTHERS	25,180	11.8%	24,283	11.7%
Total LBOTE	212,529		207,031	

TABLE 3C
ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY
LANGUAGE, 2008 - LARGEST LANGUAGE GROUPS

Language	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE	Language	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Chinese	39,017	18.4%	Urdu	2,474	1.2%
<i>Cantonese</i>	20,028	9.4%	Farsi	2,349	1.1%
<i>Mandarin</i>	15,949	7.5%	Bengali	2,278	1.1%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	3,040	1.4%	Japanese	2,263	1.1%
Arabic	27,235	12.8%	Dari	2,171	1.0%
Vietnamese	13,878	6.5%	Punjabi	2,117	1.0%
Greek	9,221	4.3%	Khmer	2,110	1.0%
Hindi	8,204	3.9%	Thai	2,071	1.0%
Tagalog (Filipino)	7,773	3.7%	Croatian	1,980	0.9%
Samoa	6,782	3.2%	Russian	1,677	0.8%
Italian	6,753	3.2%	Maori (New Zealand)	1,607	0.8%
Korean	6,738	3.2%	Maltese	1,538	0.7%
Spanish	6,297	3.0%	Portuguese	1,439	0.7%
Macedonian	4,331	2.0%	Sinhalese	1,435	0.7%
Turkish	4,264	2.0%	Dutch	1,362	0.6%
Serbian	3,933	1.9%	Fijian	1,361	0.6%
Tongan	3,829	1.8%	Lao	1,158	0.5%
German	3,211	1.5%	Afrikaans	1,112	0.5%
Tamil	3,009	1.4%	Polish	1,062	0.5%
Indonesian	3,005	1.4%	Maori (Cook Island)	1,059	0.5%
French	2,639	1.2%	Others	15,262	7.2%
Assyrian	2,525	1.2%	Total LBOTE	212,529	

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, MAY 2008

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	245	381	18	50	781	90	18,441	4,362	52	2,815	27,235	12.8%
Chinese	502	371	67	135	10,603	86	10,770	11,420	55	5,008	39,017	18.4%
<i>Cantonese</i>	254	175	27	71	5,312	46	5,810	5,686	26	2,621	20,028	9.4%
<i>Mandarin</i>	190	146	28	36	4,790	28	3,557	5,042	10	2,122	15,949	7.5%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	58	50	12	28	501	12	1,403	692	19	265	3,040	1.4%
Croatian	117	188	3	21	264	18	654	311	25	379	1,980	0.9%
DARI	2	5	2		168	64	962	14	8	946	2,171	1.0%
Dutch	178	144	16	111	377	26	83	187	42	198	1,362	0.6%
FARSI	22	41		9	766	13	506	137	8	847	2,349	1.1%
Fijian	72	36	10	17	81	73	544	220	26	282	1,361	0.6%
French	218	161	19	208	848	32	321	514	26	292	2,639	1.2%
German	326	359	35	318	929	55	225	582	69	313	3,211	1.5%
Greek	388	362	9	56	707	47	1,859	5,006	35	752	9,221	4.3%
Hindi	139	59	12	37	1,078	38	3,179	712	33	2,917	8,204	3.9%
Indonesian	167	109	14	91	500	9	706	1,006	7	396	3,005	1.4%
Italian	409	592	19	104	1,095	335	1,945	1,428	69	757	6,753	3.2%
Japanese	105	72	15	93	1,141	4	132	551	17	133	2,263	1.1%
Khmer	22	20	1	2	38	1	1,905	46		75	2,110	1.0%
Korean	81	55	1	7	3,171	3	1,403	989	2	1,026	6,738	3.2%
Lao	9	10	9	11	25	20	1,020	33	2	19	1,158	0.5%
Macedonian	294	1,189		10	109	4	1,165	1,409	13	138	4,331	2.0%
Malay	30	26	3	8	143	1	119	139	5	129	603	0.3%
Maltese	80	110	6	34	42	2	385	106	10	763	1,538	0.7%
Polish	83	70	2	12	233	6	246	221	10	179	1,062	0.5%
Portugese	45	185	5	24	204	6	293	534	7	136	1,439	0.7%
Punjabi	15	7	2	202	248	100	357	128	9	1,049	2,117	1.0%
Russian	75	52	11	24	336	2	256	698	34	189	1,677	0.8%
Samoan	209	57	8	13	76	117	3,866	349	11	2,076	6,782	3.2%
Serbian	128	386		5	414	12	1,972	569	18	429	3,933	1.9%
Sinhalese	44	30	4	7	470	8	146	139	11	576	1,435	0.7%
Slovenian	7	12		5	22	1	30	31	3	20	131	0.1%
Spanish	336	444	19	121	789	59	2,360	1,237	39	893	6,297	3.0%
Tagalog (Filipino)	497	356	43	208	716	97	1,685	1,060	86	3,025	7,773	3.7%
Tamil	27	18	1	4	519	14	817	248	17	1,344	3,009	1.4%
Tongan	129	72	4	26	260	95	1,658	609	37	939	3,829	1.8%
Turkish	53	247	2	10	227	49	1,772	649	26	1,229	4,264	2.0%
Urdu	41	33	5	7	222	23	1,040	227	16	860	2,474	1.2%
Vietnamese	89	138	5	39	374	7	10,855	1,850	4	517	13,878	6.5%
Others	1,162	1,004	112	606	3,380	363	8,811	4,414	245	5,083	25,180	11.8%
Total	6,346	7,401	482	2,635	31,356	1,880	82,488	42,135	1,077	36,729	212,529	

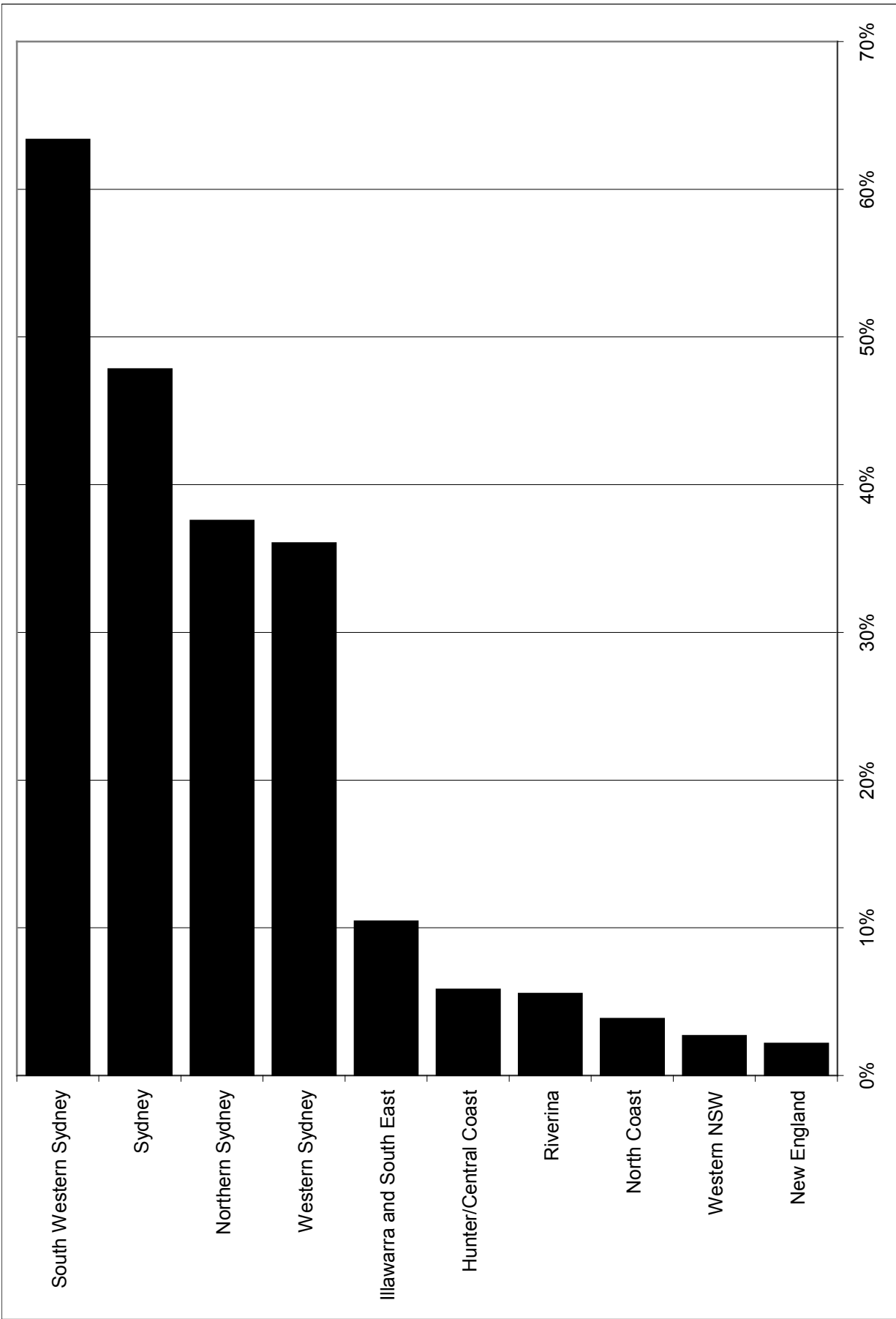
TABLE 5
ENROLMENTS OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN
ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MAY 2008

Language	Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Arabic	277	15.6%
Chinese	217	12.2%
<i>Cantonese</i>	106	6.0%
<i>Mandarin</i>	55	3.1%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	56	3.1%
Croatian	12	0.7%
DARI	14	0.8%
Dutch	5	0.3%
FARSI	6	0.3%
Fijian	13	0.7%
French	5	0.3%
German	10	0.6%
Greek	34	1.9%
Hindi	80	4.5%
Indonesian	25	1.4%
Italian	44	2.5%
Japanese	11	0.6%
Khmer	30	1.7%
Korean	13	0.7%
Lao	7	0.4%
Macedonian	28	1.6%
Malay	2	0.1%
Maltese	13	0.7%
OTHERS	210	11.8%
Polish	9	0.5%
Portugese	10	0.6%
Punjabi	27	1.5%
Russian	4	0.2%
Samoan	97	5.4%
Serbian	13	0.7%
Sinhalese	9	0.5%
Slovenian	1	0.1%
Spanish	34	1.9%
TAGALOG (FILIPINO)	78	4.4%
Tamil	29	1.6%
Tongan	21	1.2%
Turkish	25	1.4%
Urdu	39	2.2%
Vietnamese	329	18.5%
Total LBOTE	1,781	
LBOTE as % of Enrolment	43.4%	

Note: Attendance pattern not collected this year.

Percentage of LBOTE for Preschools used different methode from previous years.

**FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER
THAN ENGLISH BY REGION, MAY 2008**



**FIGURE 2. STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 1992-2008:
SELECTED LANGUAGE BACKGROUNDS**

