



# LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 2005

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, 4 March 2005. A student of language background other than English is defined as one in whose home a language other than English is spoken.

STRATEGIC INFORMATION AND PLANNING

ISSN 1039-0405

## INTRODUCTION

In Term 1 2005, 203,378 students enrolled at government schools were identified as being of Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE). This represented 27.0 percent of all government school enrolments compared to 26.4 percent in 2004.

### **TABLES 1 AND 2: ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION AND LEVEL/YEAR OF SCHOOLING, TERM 1 2005**

LBOTE student enrolments represented 27.2 percent of all primary enrolments and 26.8 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. Regions varied widely in the number and percentage of LBOTE students. South Western Sydney Region had the highest enrolment with 79,381 LBOTE students, representing 61.1 percent of the Region enrolment. Sydney Region had the second highest LBOTE students with 40,821 or 47.8 percent of Region enrolment. Western Sydney Region enrolled 34,280 LBOTE students, 34.1 percent of Region enrolment. Northern Sydney Region had 29,130 LBOTE students, 36.5 percent of Region enrolment. Illawarra and South Coast Region had 7,650 LBOTE students, 10.5 percent of Region enrolment. Hunter/Centre Coast, New England, North Coast, Riverina and Western NSW Regions, LBOTE students represented less than 10 percent of Region enrolments.

The largest increases in the number of LBOTE enrolments occurred in Western Sydney and Northern Sydney Regions:

- In Western Sydney Region, the LBOTE enrolment increased 3 percent from 32,293 students in 2004 to 34,280 students in 2005.
- In Northern Sydney Region, the LBOTE enrolment increased 2.4 percent from 28,452 students in 2004 to 29,130 students in 2005.
- In New England, the LBOTE increased 11.8 percent from 416 students in 2004 to 465 students in 2005.

Year 11 (30.5%) and Year 12 (32.7%) had the greatest proportions of LBOTE enrolments. Of the 2,652 LBOTE students in secondary support classes, 64.1 percent were enrolled at Intensive English Centres.

Year 11 was the year of schooling with the greatest increase in the proportion of LBOTE enrolments, from 29.2 percent in 2004 to 30.5 percent in 2005.

### **TABLE 3: ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, TERM 1 2005**

Chinese, with 36,610 students in 2005, 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 been reported in addition to those students whose Chinese language background is not further resolved. Students from the Chinese language group background represented 18 percent of all LBOTE students in 2005, the same percentage as in 2004.

Arabic, with 25,194 students in 2005, was the most common language background from 1988 to 1996. The proportion of LBOTE students of Arabic background decreased from 12.5 percent in 2004 to 12.4 percent in 2005. Urdu, increased from 1,883 in 2004 to 2,010 in 2005, an increase of 9.8 percent, the largest percentage increase. Farsi, increased from 3,772 in 2004 to 4,006 in 2005, an increase of 6.7 percent.

The number of students of Japanese language background increased from 1,810 in 2004 to 1,960 in 2005, an increase of 4.8 percent. The number of students of Vietnamese language background increased from 11,819 in 2004 to 12,268 in 2005, an increase of 3.8 percent. The number of students of Polish language background decreased from 1,405 in 2004 to 1,322 in 2005, a decrease of 5.9 percent. The number of students of Maltese language background decreased from 2,045 in 2004 to 1,955 in 2005, a decrease of 4.4 percent.

**TABLE 4:**  
**ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE**  
**BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY**  
**REGION AND LANGUAGE, TERM 1 2005**

There were high numbers of students from particular language backgrounds in the following Regions.

- South Western Sydney: Arabic (16,536), Chinese (10,725), Vietnamese (9,675), Hindi (2,890), Italian (2,337), Samoan (3,557), Croatian (762), Fijian (530), Khmer (1,996), Lao (1,006), Polish (311), Serbian (2,109), Spanish (2,613), Tongan (1,581), Turkish (1,988), Urdu (817).
- Sydney Region: Arabic (4,378), Chinese (10,519), Russian (678), Greek (4,738), Vietnamese (1,589).
- Northern Sydney Region: Chinese (9,554), Dutch (383), French (822), German (873), Japanese (1,000), Korean (2,406).

Khmer and Lao were the languages with the highest concentration in one Region, with 90.6 percent of students of Khmer language background and 88.4 percent of students of Lao language background in schools in South Western Sydney Region.

**TABLE 5**  
**ENROLMENTS OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS OF**  
**LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN**  
**ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, TERM 1 2005**

Government preschools enrolled the equivalent of 975.2 full-time students of Language Background Other Than English in 2005, representing 39.3 percent of all government preschool enrolments, compared with 38.8 percent in 2004. Vietnamese, Arabic and Cantonese were the most common language backgrounds, representing 16.5 percent, 16.0 percent and 9.6 percent respectively, of all Language Background Other Than English preschool students.

The following graphs can be found after the tables:

**FIGURE 1:**  
**PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE**  
**BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY**  
**REGION, TERM 1 2005**

**FIGURE 2:**  
**STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND**  
**OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 1988-2005: SELECTED**  
**LANGUAGE BACKGROUNDS**

*Notes:*

From 1996, information on LBOTE students has been collected in Term 1 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).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,**  
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**Table 1. Enrolments of Students of Language Background Other than English by Region  
and Level of Schooling, Term 1 2005**

REGION	Primary		Secondary		SSP		Total	
	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment
Hunter/Central Coast	3,547	5.5%	2,901	6.1%	14	-	6,462	5.7%
Illawarra and South Coast	4,570	10.9%	3,046	9.9%	34	-	7,650	10.5%
New England	246	1.9%	219	2.1%		0.0%	465	2.0%
North Coast	1,375	3.5%	1,118	3.4%	1	1.1%	2,494	3.5%
Northern Sydney	16,372	34.0%	12,671	40.8%	87	-	29,130	36.5%
Riverina	983	4.9%	723	4.8%	6	-	1,712	4.8%
South Western Sydney	47,563	62.3%	31,414	59.8%	404	34.5%	79,381	61.1%
Sydney	23,115	47.4%	17,577	48.7%	129	21.3%	40,821	47.8%
Western NSW	573	2.4%	407	2.2%	3	1.6%	983	2.3%
Western Sydney	19,948	33.4%	14,215	35.5%	117	-	34,280	34.1%
<b>State</b>	<b>118,292</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>84,291</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>203,378</b>	<b>27.0%</b>

Notes: Enrolments are based on February intake every year sourced from DET Personnel Directorate.

**Table 2. Enrolments of Students of Language Background Other than English by Region  
and Year of Schooling, Term 1 2005**

REGION	Primary								SSP	
	Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Support	Total	Total
Hunter/Central Coast	493	508	467	494	511	508	527	39	3,547	14
Illawarra and South Coas	591	670	664	694	617	641	662	31	4,570	34
New England	30	38	38	25	34	40	39	2	246	
North Coast	211	209	196	192	179	183	201	4	1,375	1
Northern Sydney	2,320	2,356	2,325	2,319	2,403	2,305	2,260	84	16,372	87
Riverina	129	157	160	125	126	129	153	4	983	6
South Western Sydney	6,658	6,574	6,746	6,900	6,638	6,729	6,586	732	47,563	404
Sydney	3,457	3,386	3,376	3,258	3,196	3,195	3,056	191	23,115	129
Western NSW	79	89	93	73	91	78	67	3	573	3
Western Sydney	2,787	2,827	2,897	2,899	2,781	2,803	2,720	234	19,948	117
<b>State</b>	<b>16,755</b>	<b>16,814</b>	<b>16,962</b>	<b>16,979</b>	<b>16,576</b>	<b>16,611</b>	<b>16,271</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>118,292</b>	<b>795</b>
<b>As % of Enrolment</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>27.7%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>26.4%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>

REGION	Secondary								Region	
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Support	Total	Total	As % of Region
Hunter/Central Coast	437	527	545	523	447	403	19	2,901	6,462	5.7%
Illawarra and South Coas	479	521	502	589	454	430	71	3,046	7,650	10.5%
New England	25	38	40	38	42	36		219	465	2.0%
North Coast	185	184	184	192	202	164	7	1,118	2,494	3.5%
Northern Sydney	1,877	1,922	2,036	2,082	2,397	2,105	252	12,671	29,130	36.5%
Riverina	136	134	124	138	101	87	3	723	1,712	4.8%
South Western Sydney	4,909	5,087	5,129	5,355	5,197	4,333	1,404	31,414	79,381	61.1%
Sydney	2,758	2,648	2,795	2,893	3,158	2,801	524	17,577	40,821	47.8%
Western NSW	76	56	76	55	82	58	4	407	983	2.3%
Western Sydney	2,322	2,245	2,408	2,292	2,420	2,160	368	14,215	34,280	34.1%
<b>State</b>	<b>13,204</b>	<b>13,362</b>	<b>13,839</b>	<b>14,157</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>12,577</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>84,291</b>	<b>203,378</b>	<b>27.0%</b>
<b>As % of Enrolment</b>	<b>23.8%</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	

Notes: Enrolments are based on February intake every year sourced from DET Personnel Directorate.

**Table 3. Enrolments of Students of Language Background Other than English by Language and Level of Schooling, Term 1 2005**

Language	Primary		Secondary		SSP		Total	
	As % of Total		As % of Total		As % of Total		As % of Total	
	Students	LBOTE	Students	LBOTE	Students	LBOTE	Students	LBOTE
Arabic	14,281	12.1%	10,713	12.7%	200	25.2%	25,194	12.4%
Cantonese	10,817	9.1%	8,243	9.8%	50	6.3%	19,110	9.4%
Chinese	2,306	1.9%	2,600	3.1%	16	2.0%	4,922	2.4%
Croatian	1,303	1.1%	872	1.0%	10	1.3%	2,185	1.1%
Dutch	941	0.8%	638	0.8%	2	0.3%	1,581	0.8%
Farsi	1,944	1.6%	2,050	2.4%	12	1.5%	4,006	2.0%
Fijian	782	0.7%	553	0.7%	7	0.9%	1,342	0.7%
French	1,660	1.4%	972	1.2%	7	0.9%	2,639	1.3%
German	2,143	1.8%	1,406	1.7%	7	0.9%	3,556	1.7%
Greek	6,425	5.4%	2,875	3.4%	34	4.3%	9,334	4.6%
Hindi	4,427	3.7%	2,698	3.2%	22	2.8%	7,147	3.5%
Indonesian	1,612	1.4%	1,081	1.3%	12	1.5%	2,705	1.3%
Italian	5,029	4.3%	2,687	3.2%	22	2.8%	7,738	3.8%
Japanese	1,298	1.1%	659	0.8%	3	0.4%	1,960	1.0%
Khmer	1,175	1.0%	1,025	1.2%	3	0.4%	2,203	1.1%
Korean	2,775	2.3%	2,807	3.3%	16	2.0%	5,598	2.8%
Lao	624	0.5%	511	0.6%	3	0.4%	1,138	0.6%
Macedonian	2,637	2.2%	1,852	2.2%	15	1.9%	4,504	2.2%
Malay	322	0.3%	272	0.3%	2	0.3%	596	0.3%
Maltese	1,225	1.0%	720	0.9%	10	1.3%	1,955	1.0%
Mandarin	7,402	6.3%	5,154	6.1%	22	2.8%	12,578	6.2%
Polish	676	0.6%	642	0.8%	4	0.5%	1,322	0.7%
Portuguese	891	0.8%	557	0.7%	7	0.9%	1,455	0.7%
Punjabi	1,009	0.9%	706	0.8%	3	0.4%	1,718	0.8%
Russian	907	0.8%	728	0.9%	4	0.5%	1,639	0.8%
Samoan	3,777	3.2%	2,382	2.8%	16	2.0%	6,175	3.0%
Serbian	2,286	1.9%	1,893	2.2%	4	0.5%	4,183	2.1%
Sinhalese	703	0.6%	532	0.6%	3	0.4%	1,238	0.6%
Slovenian	134	0.1%	74	0.1%		0.0%	208	0.1%
Spanish	3,944	3.3%	2,562	3.0%	34	4.3%	6,540	3.2%
Tagalog	4,083	3.5%	3,511	4.2%	55	6.9%	7,649	3.8%
Tamil	1,532	1.3%	1,215	1.4%	11	1.4%	2,758	1.4%
Tongan	2,221	1.9%	1,491	1.8%	23	2.9%	3,735	1.8%
Turkish	2,654	2.2%	1,858	2.2%	12	1.5%	4,524	2.2%
Urdu	1,249	1.1%	755	0.9%	6	0.8%	2,010	1.0%
Vietnamese	7,219	6.1%	4,980	5.9%	69	8.7%	12,268	6.0%
Others	13,879	11.7%	10,017	11.9%	69	8.7%	23,965	11.8%
<b>Total LBOTE</b>	<b>118,292</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>84,291</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>203,378</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

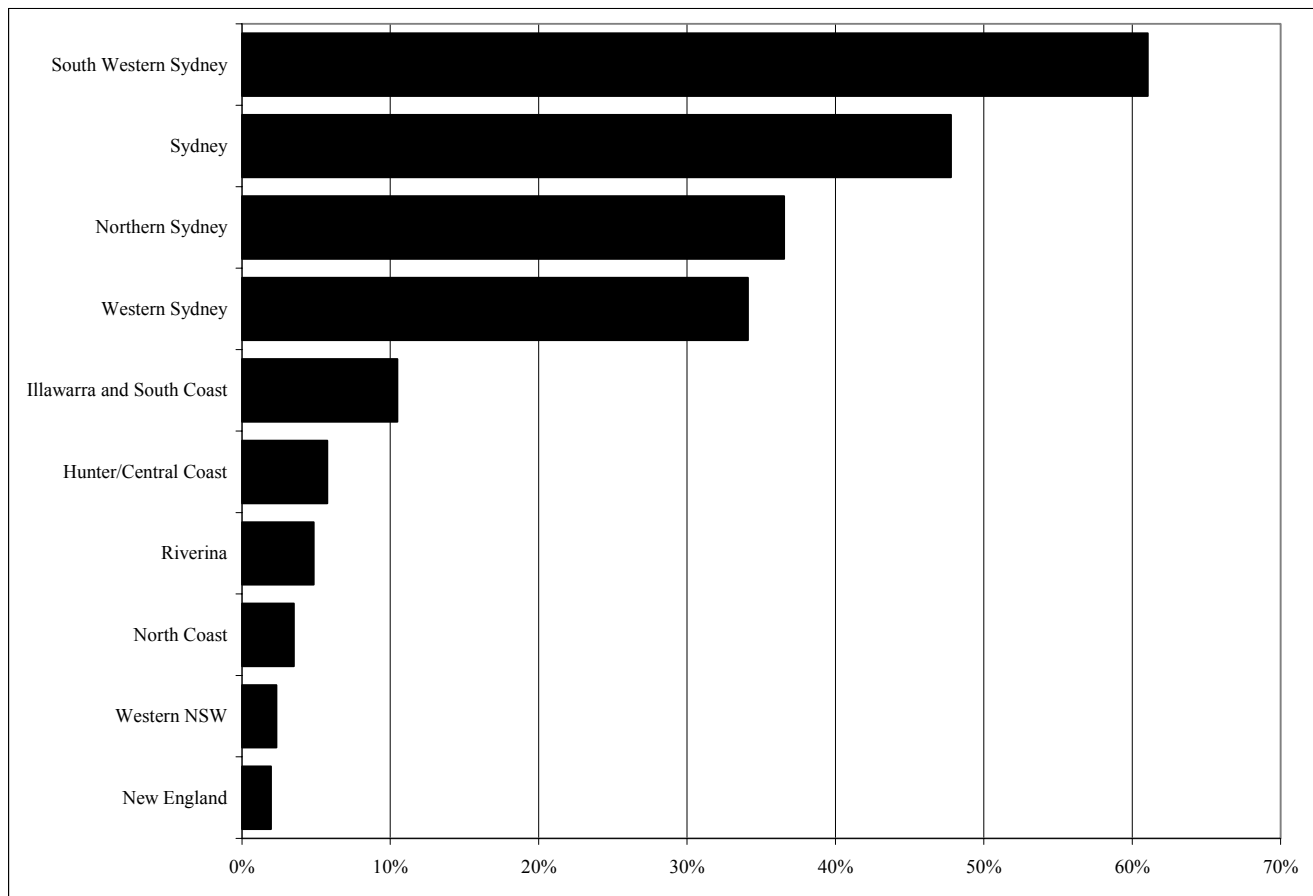
**Table 4. Enrolments of Students of Language Background Other than English by Region and Language, Term 1 2005**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>Hunter/Central Coast</b>	<b>Illawarra and South Coast</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>North Coast</b>	<b>Northern Sydney</b>	<b>Riverina</b>	<b>South Western Sydney</b>	<b>Sydney</b>	<b>Western NSW</b>	<b>Western Sydney</b>	<b>State Totals</b>	<b>As % of Total LBOTE</b>
Arabic	239	385	12	58	777	103	16,536	4,378	65	2,641	<b>25,194</b>	12.4%
Cantonese	241	181	29	68	5,036	38	5,655	5,360	24	2,478	<b>19,110</b>	9.4%
Chinese	90	46	26	14	1,041	13	1,754	1,161	5	772	<b>4,922</b>	2.4%
Croatian	119	224	8	26	250	17	762	310	31	438	<b>2,185</b>	1.1%
Dutch	252	171	13	138	383	37	110	190	46	241	<b>1,581</b>	0.8%
Farsi	34	51	3	14	1,020	44	1,028	172	9	1,631	<b>4,006</b>	2.0%
Fijian	78	42	7	18	63	70	530	250	25	259	<b>1,342</b>	0.7%
French	239	156	21	184	822	32	342	579	17	247	<b>2,639</b>	1.3%
German	410	460	41	345	873	60	333	590	73	371	<b>3,556</b>	1.7%
Greek	416	408	11	44	723	56	2,029	4,738	34	875	<b>9,334</b>	4.6%
Hindi	94	61	11	31	960	33	2,890	689	19	2,359	<b>7,147</b>	3.5%
Indonesian	159	76	17	84	438	1	593	978	11	348	<b>2,705</b>	1.3%
Italian	466	674	13	154	1,206	359	2,337	1,539	74	916	<b>7,738</b>	3.8%
Japanese	87	68	13	75	1,000	5	131	486	9	86	<b>1,960</b>	1.0%
Khmer	13	14		2	35	1	1,996	66	1	75	<b>2,203</b>	1.1%
Korean	43	35	3	8	2,406		1,185	910	5	1,003	<b>5,598</b>	2.8%
Lao	12	13	11	8	30	19	1,006	20	1	18	<b>1,138</b>	0.6%
Macedonian	313	1,229		9	104	4	1,230	1,459	10	146	<b>4,504</b>	2.2%
Malay	30	17	7	16	166	1	105	139	2	113	<b>596</b>	0.3%
Maltese	115	135	5	37	49	2	519	136	6	951	<b>1,955</b>	1.0%
Mandarin	118	103	17	16	3,474	10	3,316	3,998	10	1,516	<b>12,578</b>	6.2%
Polish	111	100	2	16	284	6	311	227	13	252	<b>1,322</b>	0.7%
Portuguese	52	219	3	27	170	6	324	510	6	138	<b>1,455</b>	0.7%
Punjabi	15	6	3	199	202	91	299	105	4	794	<b>1,718</b>	0.8%
Russian	69	49	10	24	333	5	267	678	31	173	<b>1,639</b>	0.8%
Samoan	199	37	5	10	75	111	3,557	297	6	1,878	<b>6,175</b>	3.0%
Serbian	147	433		10	438	17	2,109	569	15	445	<b>4,183</b>	2.1%
Sinhalese	18	28	3	8	407	14	139	119	13	489	<b>1,238</b>	0.6%
Slovenian	18	13		6	46	4	43	47	4	27	<b>208</b>	0.1%
Spanish	339	490	7	101	730	63	2,613	1,262	35	900	<b>6,540</b>	3.2%
Tagalog	518	367	40	207	744	78	1,773	978	100	2,844	<b>7,649</b>	3.8%
Tamil	38	19	7	5	525	15	852	255	11	1,031	<b>2,758</b>	1.4%
Tongan	130	67	1	21	287	68	1,581	644	28	908	<b>3,735</b>	1.8%
Turkish	47	292	3	9	205	56	1,988	711	25	1,188	<b>4,524</b>	2.2%
Urdu	37	25	7	6	197	17	817	225	17	662	<b>2,010</b>	1.0%
Vietnamese	68	128	6	26	303	5	9,675	1,589	2	466	<b>12,268</b>	6.0%
Others	1,088	828	100	470	3,328	251	8,646	4,457	196	4,601	<b>23,965</b>	11.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,462</b>	<b>7,650</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>2,494</b>	<b>29,130</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>79,381</b>	<b>40,821</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>34,280</b>	<b>203,378</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 5. Enrolments of Preschool Students of Language Background Other than English by Language, Term 1 2005**

Language	Preschool Students		As % of Total LBOTE
	Students	FTE	
Arabic	293	156.4	16.0%
Cantonese	175	93.5	9.6%
Chinese	43	22.5	2.3%
Croatian	10	5.1	0.5%
Dutch	9	4.0	0.4%
Farsi	14	7.0	0.7%
Fijian	4	1.7	0.2%
French	4	3.4	0.3%
German	11	6.7	0.7%
Greek	41	28.1	2.9%
Hindi	74	40.6	4.2%
Indonesian	28	19.3	2.0%
Italian	40	22.0	2.3%
Japanese	9	8.0	0.8%
Khmer	26	12.8	1.3%
Korean	12	6.0	0.6%
Lao	9	4.3	0.4%
Macedonian	32	16.5	1.7%
Malay	1	0.4	0.0%
Maltese	25	10.8	1.1%
Mandarin	53	30.9	3.2%
Polish	7	4.2	0.4%
Portuguese	9	5.9	0.6%
Punjabi	21	11.2	1.1%
Russian	7	4.3	0.4%
Samoan	111	74.1	7.6%
Serbian	17	10.0	1.0%
Singhalese	15	7.3	0.7%
Spanish	35	21.0	2.2%
Tagalog	68	36.5	3.7%
Tamil	27	13.7	1.4%
Tongan	31	17.1	1.8%
Turkish	20	12.9	1.3%
Urdu	30	15.5	1.6%
Vietnamese	305	161.1	16.5%
Others	136	80.4	8.2%
<b>Total LBOTE</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>975.2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>FTE LBOTE as % of FTE Enrolment</b>		<b>39.3%</b>	

**Figure 1. Percentage of Students of Language Background Other than English by Region,  
Term 1 2005**



**Figure 2. Students of Language Background Other than English, 1988-2005:  
Selected Language Backgrounds**

