



# LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 2010

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, 15th March 2010. A student of language background other than English is defined as one in whose home a language other than English is spoken.

PLANNING & INNOVATION DIRECTORATE

ISSN 1039-0405

## INTRODUCTION

In March 2010, 220,837 students enrolled at government schools were identified as being of Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE). This represented 29.4 percent of all government school enrolments compared to 28.8 percent in 2009.

### TABLES 1 & 2 ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION AND LEVEL/YEAR OF SCHOOLING, MARCH 2010

LBOTE student enrolments represented 28.9 percent of all primary enrolments and 30.1 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, MARCH 2010

Chinese, with 39,785 students in 2010, 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 18.0 percent of all LBOTE students in 2010, compared to 18.2 percentage in 2009. Arabic, with 28,586 students in 2010, was the most common language background from 1988 to 1996. The proportion of LBOTE students of Arabic background was 12.9 percent in 2010, compared to 12.8 percentage in 2009.

### TABLES 3C ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MARCH 2010

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 2010

South Western Sydney has the highest LBOTE student enrolments (84,603). New England has the lowest LBOTE student enrolments (568). 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 2010

Government preschools enrolled 1,769 students of Language Background Other Than English in 2010, representing 40.9 percent of all government preschool enrolments. (Percentage of LBOTE Preschool students 2010 was based on head count. Attendance Patterns of LBOTE Preschool students 2010 were not collected).

### FIGURE 1 PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY REGION, MARCH 2010

### FIGURE 2 STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH, 1998-2010: SELECTED LANGUAGE BACKGROUNDS

#### NOTES:

From 1996, information on LBOTE students has been collected in the first half of the year 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, please contact:

Project Officer

Data Collection Unit

Planning and Innovation Directorate

NSW Department of Education and Training

GPO Box 33, Sydney 2001

Telephone (02) 9561 8342

Fax (02) 9561 8055

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](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 2010**

REGION	Primary		Secondary		SSP		Total	
	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment	Students	Enrolment	Students	As % of Enrolment
Hunter/Central Coast	3,649	6.0%	2845	6.1%	52	7.4%	6,546	6.0%
Illawarra and South East	4,366	10.9%	3061	10.2%	32	9.6%	7,459	10.6%
New England	334	2.7%	229	2.3%	5	6.2%	568	2.6%
North Coast	1,664	4.6%	1184	3.9%	1	0.8%	2,849	4.3%
Northern Sydney	17,693	33.3%	15023	45.3%	98	18.2%	32,814	37.8%
Riverina	1,206	6.5%	794	5.5%	12	4.8%	2,012	6.0%
South Western Sydney	48,693	65.3%	35286	64.3%	624	46.1%	84,603	64.7%
Sydney	23,724	45.6%	19860	53.3%	153	24.6%	43,737	48.6%
Western NSW	726	3.4%	508	2.9%	2	0.8%	1,236	3.1%
Western Sydney	22,476	36.6%	16311	39.1%	226	24.2%	39,013	37.5%
<b>State</b>	<b>124,531</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>95,101</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>23.2%</b>	<b>220,837</b>	<b>29.4%</b>

**TABLE 2**  
**ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY**  
**REGION AND YEAR OF SCHOOLING, MARCH 2010**

REGION	Primary								SSP	
	Kinder	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Support	Total	Total
Hunter/Central Coast	548	476	515	507	533	520	506	44	3,649	52
Illawarra and South Coast	593	612	581	629	621	610	672	48	4,366	32
New England	55	50	48	44	42	48	43	4	334	5
North Coast	241	252	214	221	228	260	236	12	1,664	1
Northern Sydney	2,490	2,374	2,491	2,396	2,621	2,656	2,601	64	17,693	98
Riverina	165	167	177	176	183	157	175	6	1,206	12
South Western Sydney	6,878	6,883	6,854	6,659	7,022	6,882	6,719	796	48,693	624
Sydney	3,400	3,349	3,281	3,226	3,423	3,495	3,346	204	23,724	153
Western NSW	100	96	88	102	119	109	104	8	726	2
Western Sydney	3,218	3,163	3,145	3,057	3,118	3,303	3,174	298	22,476	226
<b>State</b>	<b>17,688</b>	<b>17,422</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>17,017</b>	<b>17,910</b>	<b>18,040</b>	<b>17,576</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>124,531</b>	<b>1,205</b>
<b>As % of Enrolment</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>28.7%</b>	<b>28.5%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>23.2%</b>

REGION	Secondary								Region Total	As % of Region
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Support	Total		
Hunter/Central Coast	484	503	487	472	471	386	42	2,845	<b>6,546</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Illawarra and South Coast	560	552	424	512	458	447	108	3,061	<b>7,459</b>	<b>10.6%</b>
New England	39	36	34	35	43	41	1	229	<b>568</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
North Coast	220	186	184	190	208	178	18	1,184	<b>2,849</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
Northern Sydney	2,343	2,406	2,349	2,432	2,701	2,474	318	15,023	<b>32,814</b>	<b>37.8%</b>
Riverina	162	106	126	125	156	116	3	794	<b>2,012</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
South Western Sydney	5,405	5,710	5,483	6,009	5,843	5,051	1,785	35,286	<b>84,603</b>	<b>64.7%</b>
Sydney	3,131	3,225	3,078	3,085	3,387	3,321	633	19,860	<b>43,737</b>	<b>48.6%</b>
Western NSW	112	70	100	81	71	69	5	508	<b>1,236</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
Western Sydney	2,699	2,695	2,548	2,541	2,797	2,591	440	16,311	<b>39,013</b>	<b>37.5%</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>15,155</b>	<b>15,489</b>	<b>14,813</b>	<b>15,482</b>	<b>16,135</b>	<b>14,674</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>95,101</b>	<b>220,837</b>	<b>29.4%</b>
<b>As % of Enrolment</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>29.1%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>31.6%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	

**TABLE 3A**  
**ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY**  
**LANGUAGE AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, MARCH 2010**

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	16,316	13.1%	11,975	12.6%	295	24.5%	28,586	12.9%
Chinese	19,336	15.5%	20,328	21.4%	121	10.0%	39,785	18.0%
Cantonese	9,010	7.2%	10,557	11.1%	70	5.8%	19,637	8.9%
Mandarin	9,259	7.4%	8,711	9.2%	42	3.5%	18,012	8.2%
Other Chinese	1,067	0.9%	1,060	1.1%	9	0.7%	2,136	1.0%
Croatian	1,035	0.8%	748	0.8%	12	1.0%	1,795	0.8%
Dari	913	0.7%	1,253	1.3%	9	0.7%	2,175	1.0%
Dutch	835	0.7%	489	0.5%	1	0.1%	1,325	0.6%
Farsi	1,131	0.9%	1,080	1.1%	9	0.7%	2,220	1.0%
Fijian	833	0.7%	592	0.6%	9	0.7%	1,434	0.6%
French	1,670	1.3%	923	1.0%	9	0.7%	2,602	1.2%
German	1,837	1.5%	1,211	1.3%	9	0.7%	3,057	1.4%
Greek	6,226	5.0%	2,867	3.0%	55	4.6%	9,148	4.1%
Hindi	5,146	4.1%	3,400	3.6%	39	3.2%	8,585	3.9%
Indonesian	1,966	1.6%	1,304	1.4%	18	1.5%	3,288	1.5%
Italian	3,911	3.1%	2,333	2.5%	33	2.7%	6,277	2.8%
Japanese	1,557	1.3%	833	0.9%	11	0.9%	2,401	1.1%
Khmer	1,202	1.0%	1,000	1.1%	6	0.5%	2,208	1.0%
Korean	3,907	3.1%	3,337	3.5%	17	1.4%	7,261	3.3%
Lao	593	0.5%	507	0.5%	5	0.4%	1,105	0.5%
Macedonian	2,525	2.0%	1,645	1.7%	17	1.4%	4,187	1.9%
Malay	322	0.3%	256	0.3%	2	0.2%	580	0.3%
Maltese	787	0.6%	485	0.5%	11	0.9%	1,283	0.6%
Polish	525	0.4%	431	0.5%	3	0.2%	959	0.4%
Portugese	968	0.8%	529	0.6%	9	0.7%	1,506	0.7%
Punjabi	1,549	1.2%	911	1.0%	4	0.3%	2,464	1.1%
Russian	1,148	0.9%	637	0.7%	3	0.2%	1,788	0.8%
Samoan	3,920	3.1%	2,987	3.1%	40	3.3%	6,947	3.1%
Serbian	1,912	1.5%	1,581	1.7%	8	0.7%	3,501	1.6%
Sinhalese	851	0.7%	674	0.7%	5	0.4%	1,530	0.7%
Slovenian	68	0.1%	37	0.0%	0	0.0%	105	0.0%
Spanish	3,796	3.0%	2,571	2.7%	42	3.5%	6,409	2.9%
Tagalog	4,270	3.4%	3,594	3.8%	64	5.3%	7,928	3.6%
Tamil	1,948	1.6%	1,408	1.5%	14	1.2%	3,370	1.5%
Tongan	2,318	1.9%	1,595	1.7%	31	2.6%	3,944	1.8%
Turkish	2,200	1.8%	1,802	1.9%	20	1.7%	4,022	1.8%
Urdu	1,838	1.5%	1,007	1.1%	18	1.5%	2,863	1.3%
Vietnamese	7,632	6.1%	7,110	7.5%	112	9.3%	14,854	6.7%
OTHERS	17,540	14.1%	11,661	12.3%	144	12.0%	29,345	13.3%
<b>Total LBOTE</b>	<b>124,531</b>		<b>95,101</b>		<b>1,205</b>		<b>220,837</b>	

**TABLE 3B**  
**CHANGING ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, 2009-2010**

Language	2009		2010	
	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE	Total Students	As % of Total LBOTE
Chinese	39,279	18.2%	39,785	18.0%
<i>Cantonese</i>	20,059	9.3%	19,637	8.9%
<i>Mandarin</i>	17,090	7.9%	18,012	8.2%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	2,130	1.0%	2,136	1.0%
Arabic	27,639	12.8%	28,586	12.9%
Vietnamese	14,438	6.7%	14,854	6.7%
Greek	9,188	4.3%	9,148	4.1%
Hindi	8,399	3.9%	8,585	3.9%
Tagalog	7,804	3.6%	7,928	3.6%
Korean	6,922	3.2%	7,261	3.3%
Samoan	6,767	3.1%	6,947	3.1%
Spanish	6,229	2.9%	6,409	2.9%
Italian	6,440	3.0%	6,277	2.8%
Macedonian	4,245	2.0%	4,187	1.9%
Turkish	4,101	1.9%	4,022	1.8%
Tongan	3,838	1.8%	3,944	1.8%
Serbian	3,688	1.7%	3,501	1.6%
Tamil	3,124	1.4%	3,370	1.5%
Indonesian	3,146	1.5%	3,288	1.5%
German	3,127	1.4%	3,057	1.4%
Urdu	2,693	1.2%	2,863	1.3%
French	2,685	1.2%	2,602	1.2%
Punjabi	2,303	1.1%	2,464	1.1%
Japanese	2,333	1.1%	2,401	1.1%
Farsi	2,195	1.0%	2,220	1.0%
Khmer	2,129	1.0%	2,208	1.0%
Dari	2,173	1.0%	2,175	1.0%
Croatian	1,852	0.9%	1,795	0.8%
Russian	1,737	0.8%	1,788	0.8%
Sinhalese	1,468	0.7%	1,530	0.7%
Portugese	1,453	0.7%	1,506	0.7%
Fijian	1,392	0.6%	1,434	0.6%
Dutch	1,330	0.6%	1,325	0.6%
Maltese	1,408	0.7%	1,283	0.6%
Lao	1,131	0.5%	1,105	0.5%
Polish	1,000	0.5%	959	0.4%
Malay	590	0.3%	580	0.3%
Slovenian	121	0.1%	105	0.0%
OTHERS	27,421	12.7%	29,345	13.3%
<b>Total LBOTE</b>	<b>215,788</b>		<b>220,837</b>	

**TABLE 3C**  
**ENROLMENTS OF STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY**  
**LANGUAGE, 2010 - LARGEST LANGUAGE GROUPS**

<b>Language</b>	<b>Total Students</b>	<b>As % of Total LBOTE</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Total Students</b>	<b>As % of Total LBOTE</b>
Chinese	39,785	18.0%	French	2,602	1.2%
<i>Cantonese</i>	19,637	8.9%	Assyrian	2,508	1.1%
<i>Mandarin</i>	18,012	8.2%	Punjabi	2,464	1.1%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	2,136	1.0%	Japanese	2,401	1.1%
Arabic	28,586	12.9%	Thai	2,284	1.0%
Vietnamese	14,854	6.7%	Farsi	2,220	1.0%
Greek	9,148	4.1%	Khmer	2,208	1.0%
Hindi	8,585	3.9%	Dari	2,175	1.0%
Tagalog	7,928	3.6%	Maori (New Zealand)	1,981	0.9%
Korean	7,261	3.3%	Croatian	1,795	0.8%
Samoan	6,947	3.1%	Russian	1,788	0.8%
Spanish	6,409	2.9%	Sinhalese	1,530	0.7%
Italian	6,277	2.8%	Portuguese	1,506	0.7%
Macedonian	4,187	1.9%	Fijian	1,434	0.6%
Turkish	4,022	1.8%	Dutch	1,325	0.6%
Tongan	3,944	1.8%	Maltese	1,283	0.6%
Serbian	3,501	1.6%	Gujarati	1,199	0.5%
Tamil	3,370	1.5%	Afrikaans	1,107	0.5%
Indonesian	3,288	1.5%	Lao	1,105	0.5%
German	3,057	1.4%	Maori (Cook Island)	1,063	0.5%
Urdu	2,863	1.3%	OTHERS	18,213	8.2%
Bengali	2,634	1.2%	<b>Total LBOTE</b>	<b>220,837</b>	

*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 2010**

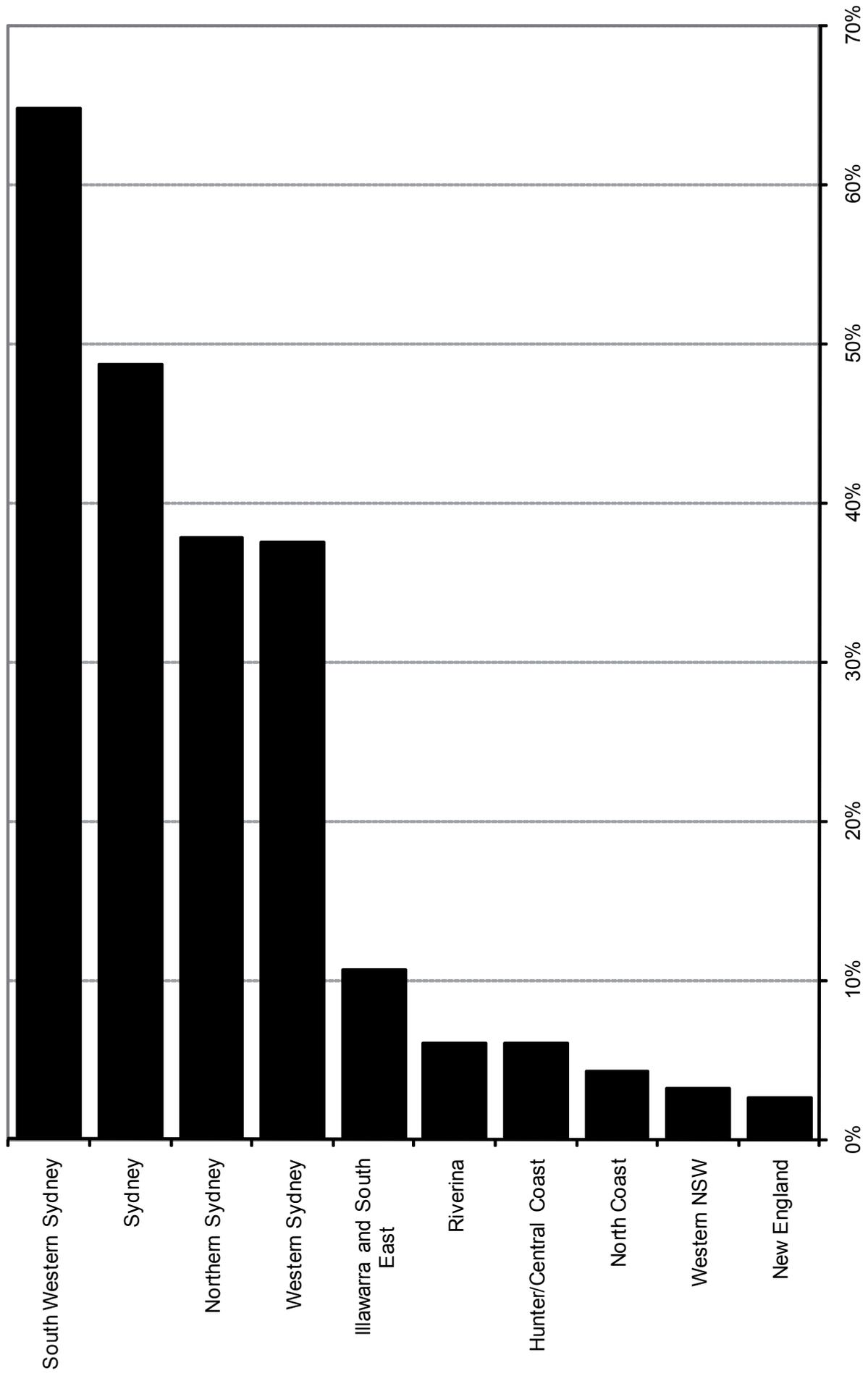
Language	Hunter/ Central Coast	Illawarra and South Coast	New England	North Coast	Northern Sydney	Riverina	South Western Sydney	Sydney	Western NSW	Western Sydney	State Totals	As % of Total LBOTE
Arabic	273	389	22	58	794	94	19,515	4,477	63	2,901	28,586	12.9%
Chinese	535	385	57	140	11,117	81	10,460	11,861	63	5,086	39,785	18.0%
<i>Cantonese</i>	274	175	25	80	5,205	52	5,611	5,719	27	2,469	19,637	8.9%
<i>Mandarin</i>	233	190	30	50	5,643	19	3,581	5,798	34	2,434	18,012	8.2%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	28	20	2	10	269	10	1,268	344	2	183	2,136	1.0%
Croatian	90	186	2	22	236	14	575	294	20	356	1,795	0.8%
Dari	9	9			173	23	912	34	10	1,005	2,175	1.0%
Dutch	175	122	12	90	426	22	73	191	32	182	1,325	0.6%
Farsi	24	37	1	7	771	11	420	148	8	793	2,220	1.0%
Fijian	84	38	16	17	72	89	582	249	27	260	1,434	0.6%
French	204	183	23	219	804	30	286	557	20	276	2,602	1.2%
German	301	321	37	276	920	54	191	597	62	298	3,057	1.4%
Greek	340	348	6	56	680	45	1,807	5,075	35	756	9,148	4.1%
Hindi	162	85	15	33	1,118	38	3,243	714	33	3,144	8,585	3.9%
Indonesian	173	118	12	93	565	18	742	1,136	15	416	3,288	1.5%
Italian	331	544	10	105	1,000	292	1,840	1,404	73	678	6,277	2.8%
Japanese	115	68	9	110	1,176	8	136	619	9	151	2,401	1.1%
Khmer	27	20	2	1	35	1	1,990	53	2	77	2,208	1.0%
Korean	111	50	1	6	3,407	4	1,551	1,057	1	1,073	7,261	3.3%
Lao	13	12	8	11	22	20	962	32	3	22	1,105	0.5%
Macedonian	275	1,135		8	104	2	1,124	1,407	14	118	4,187	1.9%
Malay	33	41	3	10	115	5	118	146	3	106	580	0.3%
Maltese	55	101	4	27	33	3	319	81	9	651	1,283	0.6%
Polish	78	64	3	16	196	4	195	222	8	173	959	0.4%
Portugese	53	176	26	32	243	9	296	515	8	148	1,506	0.7%
Punjabi	28	18	2	191	266	123	427	128	4	1,277	2,464	1.1%
Russian	70	50	5	23	364	8	261	781	30	196	1,788	0.8%
Samoan	228	51	6	20	72	151	3,923	321	13	2,162	6,947	3.1%
Serbian	105	337		8	372	14	1,793	478	18	376	3,501	1.6%
Sinhalese	33	37	2	8	537	14	166	117	16	600	1,530	0.7%
Slovenian	9	10		6	16	1	22	22	3	16	105	0.0%
Spanish	359	438	27	143	846	48	2,267	1,305	31	945	6,409	2.9%
Tagalog	503	356	51	196	771	118	1,626	1,084	114	3,109	7,928	3.6%
Tamil	31	16	2	6	544	19	854	241	13	1,644	3,370	1.5%
Tongan	185	75	4	28	264	99	1,624	589	35	1,041	3,944	1.8%
Turkish	48	217	5	12	230	32	1,633	629	22	1,194	4,022	1.8%
Urdu	37	50	7	7	232	16	1,213	267	16	1,018	2,863	1.3%
Vietnamese	90	158	13	35	422	7	11,612	1,985	5	527	14,854	6.7%
OTHERS	1,359	1,214	175	829	3,871	495	9,845	4,921	398	6,238	29,345	13.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,546</b>	<b>7,459</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>2,849</b>	<b>32,814</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>84,603</b>	<b>43,737</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>39,013</b>	<b>220,837</b>	

**TABLE 5**  
**ENROLMENTS OF PRESCHOOL STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN ENGLISH BY LANGUAGE, MARCH 2010**

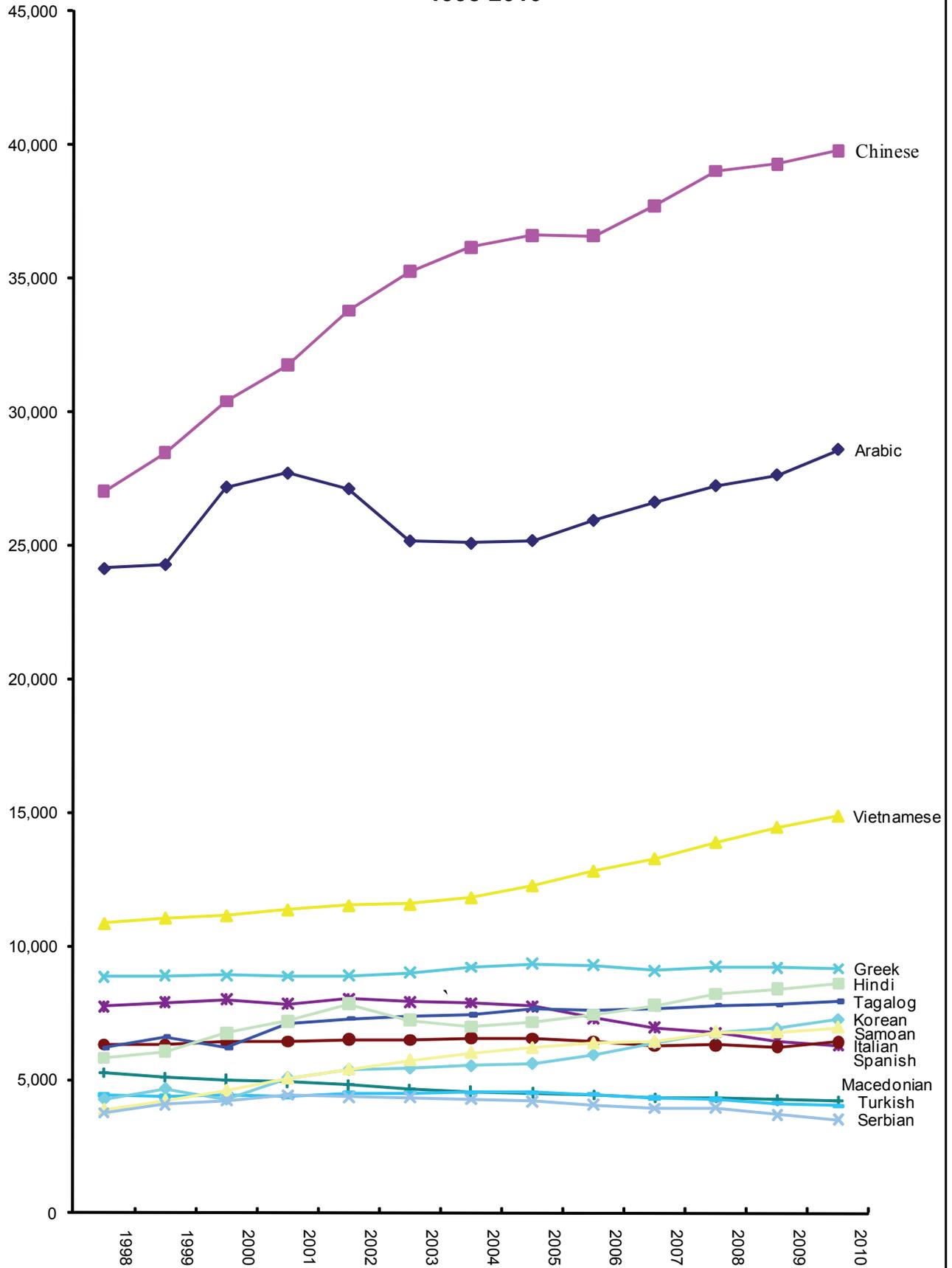
<b>Language</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>As % of Total LBOTE</b>
Arabic	307	17.4%
Chinese	183	10.3%
<i>Cantonese</i>	88	5.0%
<i>Mandarin</i>	61	3.4%
<i>Other Chinese</i>	34	1.9%
Croatian	10	0.6%
Darsi	13	0.7%
Dutch	4	0.2%
Farsi	5	0.3%
Fijian	6	0.3%
French	6	0.3%
German	8	0.5%
Greek	27	1.5%
Hindi	80	4.5%
Indonesian	34	1.9%
Italian	22	1.2%
Japanese	19	1.1%
Khmer	54	3.1%
Korean	28	1.6%
Lao	10	0.6%
Macedonian	24	1.4%
Malay	2	0.1%
Maltese	10	0.6%
Polish	7	0.4%
Portugese	14	0.8%
Punjabi	36	2.0%
Russian	7	0.4%
Samoan	93	5.3%
Serbian	14	0.8%
Sinhalese	6	0.3%
Spanish	40	2.3%
Tagalog	58	3.3%
Tamil	25	1.4%
Tongan	23	1.3%
Turkish	12	0.7%
Urdu	41	2.3%
Vietnamese	283	16.0%
OTHERS	258	14.6%
<b>Total LBOTE</b>	<b>1,769</b>	
<b>LBOTE as % of Enrolment</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	

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, 2010**



**Figure 2. Students of Language Background Other Than English, 1998-2010**



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