Adult and community education

Adult and community education is provided by community groups, secondary schools and tertiary education providers. In 2010, the national priorities for adult and community education were reduced from five to the following three priorities:

▲ engaging learners whose initial learning was not successful
▲ improving the literacy, language and numeracy of individuals and whānau, and
▲ strengthening social cohesion.

In 2010, adult and community education included ACE networks; English language services to adult migrant and refugee New Zealanders from non-English-speaking backgrounds; rural education activities programmes; some community-based groups funded indirectly through schools, and adult education through other government initiatives, including health and prisoner education.

ACE IN SCHOOLS

Secondary schools provide community education programmes for adults in addition to their regular daytime curriculum. In 2009, the government announced that significant cuts in government funding for this provision would come into effect in 2010. It was agreed that the remaining funding would be allocated through a contestable funding round targeting priority areas of provision (English language, literacy and numeracy, New Zealand Sign Language and Te Reo Māori).

In 2010, there were 20,561 enrolments in funded school community education programmes compared to 154,000 enrolments in 2009.

Sixty-nine percent of enrolments in community education in schools were by women and 57 percent of students had English as a second language. The participation by New Zealand Europeans fell from 83 percent in 2009 to 30 percent in 2010, due to an increase in Asian participation (28 percent in 2010, compared to 8.5 percent in 2009), as well as increases in both Māori participation (12 percent in 2010 and 5.7 percent in 2009) and Pasifika participation (9 percent in 2010 and 2.4 percent in 2009).

ACE IN TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

In 2010, 70,600 students enrolled in community education programmes, down 13 percent on 2009. Enrolments represented 4,340 equivalent full-time students, down by 3.5 percent from 2009. Since 2004, the number of students enrolled in community education at tertiary education institutions decreased due to a shift from demand-led funding to capped funding.

Sixty-four percent of domestic ACE students were enrolled at polytechnics and 33 percent at universities. There were also 3,680 international students enrolled at tertiary education institutions, representing 5.1 percent of total ACE enrolments at public providers. Sixty-two percent of international ACE students were enrolled at universities and 38 percent at polytechnics.

Overall, 63 percent of students in 2010 were European, 16 percent were Māori, 11 percent Asian, 4.7 percent Pasifika and 4.9 percent identified with other ethnic groups.

Women made up 56 percent of students and those aged 25 years and over made up 76 percent. The most common fields of study were society and culture, management and commerce, and creative arts. Courses were provided by all 20 polytechnics, 7 universities and 1 wānanga. In 2010, 72 percent of these students were subsidised through student achievement-component funding.

ACE IN COMMUNITIES

In 2010, a total of 55 organisations provided ACE courses in communities with a government subsidy of $11.8 million. In 2009, the number of community ACE providers and government funding was the same. In 2010, community ACE courses were provided by 30 community education providers, 5 private training establishments, 13 rural education activities programme providers and 7 other tertiary education providers.
Adult literacy, language and numeracy

Adult literacy, language and numeracy are delivered through formal and non-formal education in workplaces and through providers.

In 2010, provision commenced under the Intensive Literacy, Language and Numeracy Fund, which replaced funding under the Foundation Learning Pool. The new fund provides support for the intensive provision of quality literacy and numeracy learning, which is delivered in an appropriate, structured context with strong community links. Provision is intended for learners with very low literacy and numeracy. In 2010, 44 providers received a total of $12.8 million in funding. Intensive literacy programmes were provided at polytechnics, universities, private training establishments, other tertiary education providers, rural education activity programmes and schools.

The Workplace Literacy fund provides support for employees to increase their literacy, language and numeracy skills. In 2010, workplace literacy programmes were delivered by 25 providers and 10 employers. A total of $15 million was provided in funding.

English Language Partners New Zealand\(^1\) provided services to 7,950 learners who were recent migrants and refugees in 2010. The number of learners was down from 8,390 in 2009. Services were provided by 3,200 volunteers and 1,030 new volunteers were trained to certificate level during 2010, down from 1,100 the previous year.

As signalled in 2009, government funding for English as a Second or Other Language Assessment Services ceased in 2010.

---

\(^1\) Formerly known as the National Association of English as a Second or Other Language Home Tutors.