Chapter 10: Non-formal education

Adult and community education

The government funds community groups, secondary schools and public tertiary education institutions to provide adult and community education – which is highlighted in the following sections.

Adult and community education funded and provided through community groups in 2007 included:

- the Federation of Workers Education Associations, which provided courses for around 5,000 students in 2007 in seven regions, and distance learning for around 8,000 learners
- Rural Education Activities Programmes, which worked with around 14,000 learners
- community-based groups funded indirectly through schools, and
- adult education through other government initiatives, including health and prisoner education.

Community education in schools

Secondary schools provide community education programmes for adults in addition to their regular daytime curriculum.

In 2007, there were 162,000 enrolments in school community education programmes, an increase of 8.8 percent on 2006, when enrolments numbered 149,000.

Seventy-seven percent of the enrolments in community education at schools were women. The majority of students (84 percent) were European, 8.9 percent were Asian, 5.2 percent were Māori and 2.1 percent Pasifika. Forty-two percent of those enrolled were aged between 30 and 49 years.

The two most common subjects for all students were art, music and crafts, and fitness, sport and recreation. The next most common subject for women was home management and maintenance. For men the next most common subject was languages (other than Māori and English).

Community education in tertiary education institutions

After peaking in 2004, the number of students enrolled in community education at tertiary education providers has continued to decrease.

The decrease is due to a shift from demand-led funding to a capped funding pool in 2006.

In 2007, 88,700 students enrolled in community education programmes, down 19 percent on 2006.

Just over half of the students (57 percent) were enrolled at polytechnics and 40 percent at universities.

Enrolments represented 4,730 equivalent full-time students (down 33 percent on 2006).

Just over two-thirds of students in 2007 were European, 14 percent were Māori, 11 percent were Asian, 4.9 percent were Pasifika and 4.9 percent identified with other ethnic groups.

The proportion of women enrolled was 60 percent and those aged 25 years and over accounted for 79 percent. The most common fields of study were society and culture, management and commerce, and creative arts. Courses were provided by all 20 polytechnics, seven universities, seven private training establishments and one wānanga.

Figure 10.1: Students in community education in schools

Analytical tables: An associated set of tables on learners in non-formal tertiary education on the Education Counts website, Tables ACE1-4.
Adult literacy, language and numeracy are delivered through both non-formal and formal education. Formal provision was highlighted in chapter 7.

In 2007, the Foundation Learning Pool funded 137 projects, valued at $3.7 million. The fund has been significantly expanded to $16.9 million for 2008.

Workplace literacy programmes were delivered by 26 providers to around 1,250 learners in 2007, with funding of $4.6 million.

English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) Home Tutors Scheme provided services to around 5,650 learners, who were recent migrants and refugees. The number of learners was slightly down from 5,740 in 2006.

Home tutoring was provided by 2,990 volunteers and 934 new volunteers were trained to certificate level during 2007. These numbers were similar in 2006.

There were 1,530 migrants assessed by the ESOL Advisory Services in 2007, up from 1,360 in 2006. Seventy-nine providers were contracted to provide English for Migrant programmes, with 16,607 migrants registered for programmes since the programme’s inception (up from 16,100 in 2006).