Adult and community education

Adult and community education is provided by community groups, secondary schools and tertiary education providers.

Adult and community education funded and provided through community groups in 2009 included:

- the Federation of Workers’ Educational Associations, which provided regional courses and distance learning
- Rural Education Activities Programmes
- 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 2009, the government announced significant cuts in government funding for this provision, to come into effect in 2010. This appears to have resulted in an upsurge in enrolments during 2009, as people took advantage of provision while it was still subsidised.

In 2009, there were 154,000 enrolments in school community education programmes, an increase of 10 percent on 2008, when enrolments numbered 140,000.

Seventy-seven percent of enrolments in community education in schools were by women. The majority of students (83 percent) were European, 8.5 percent were Asian, 5.7 percent Māori and 2.4 percent Pasifika. Forty-two percent were aged between 30 and 49 years.

The two most common subjects for all students were fitness, sport and recreation, and art, music and crafts. 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). The most common subject for Asian students was English for speakers of other languages.

Community education in tertiary education providers

After peaking in 2004, the number of students enrolled in community education at tertiary education providers decreased. The decrease was due to a shift from demand-led funding to a capped funding pool between 2004 and 2006.

In 2009, 82,300 students enrolled in community education programmes, down 1.4 percent on 2008. Enrolments represented 4,740 equivalent full-time students, almost exactly the same as in 2008.

Seventy-six percent of students were subsidised through the student achievement fund. Six percent were international students. Fifty-eight percent of students were enrolled at polytechnics and 39 percent at universities.

Sixty-three percent of students in 2009 were European, 16 percent were Māori, 10 percent Asian, 5.2 percent Pasifika and 4.8 percent identified with other ethnic groups.
Women made up 57 percent of students and those aged 25 years and over made up 78 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 10.2: Students in community education in tertiary education providers

![Graph showing students and equivalent full-time students from 2004 to 2009.]

**Adult literacy, language and numeracy**

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

In 2009, the Intensive Literacy and Numeracy fund was established, superseding the Foundation Learning Pool. The 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 2009, the fund provided $17.2 million to 466 projects run across 100 providers. Providers included 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 linked to workplace requirements. In 2009, workplace literacy programmes were delivered by 39 providers and 13 employers, involving 222 workplace projects. A total of $16.8 million was provided in funding.

English Language Partners New Zealand\(^1\) provided services to 8,390 learners who were recent migrants and refugees in 2009. The number of learners was up from 7,200 in 2008. Services were provided by 3,160 volunteers and 1,095 new volunteers were trained to certificate level during 2009, up from 945 the previous year.

There were 1,390 migrants and refugees assessed by the English as a Second or Other Language Assessment Services in 2009, down from 1,580 in 2008. Twenty-eight providers (down from 80 in 2008) were contracted to provide English for Migrants programmes, with 2,320 migrants registered for programmes in 2008, up from 730 the previous year.

**2010 year**

The 2009 Budget included significant cuts to funding for community education in schools and tertiary education providers. Funding for adult and community education in schools was reduced by 80 percent in 2010, with funding to be focused on priority areas of literacy, language and numeracy. Funding for other community-based adult education remained unchanged. Funding for tertiary providers will be reduced by about 50 percent in 2011.

Funding for English as a Second or Other Language Assessment Services will also cease in 2010. This decision was made in the 2009 Budget.

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