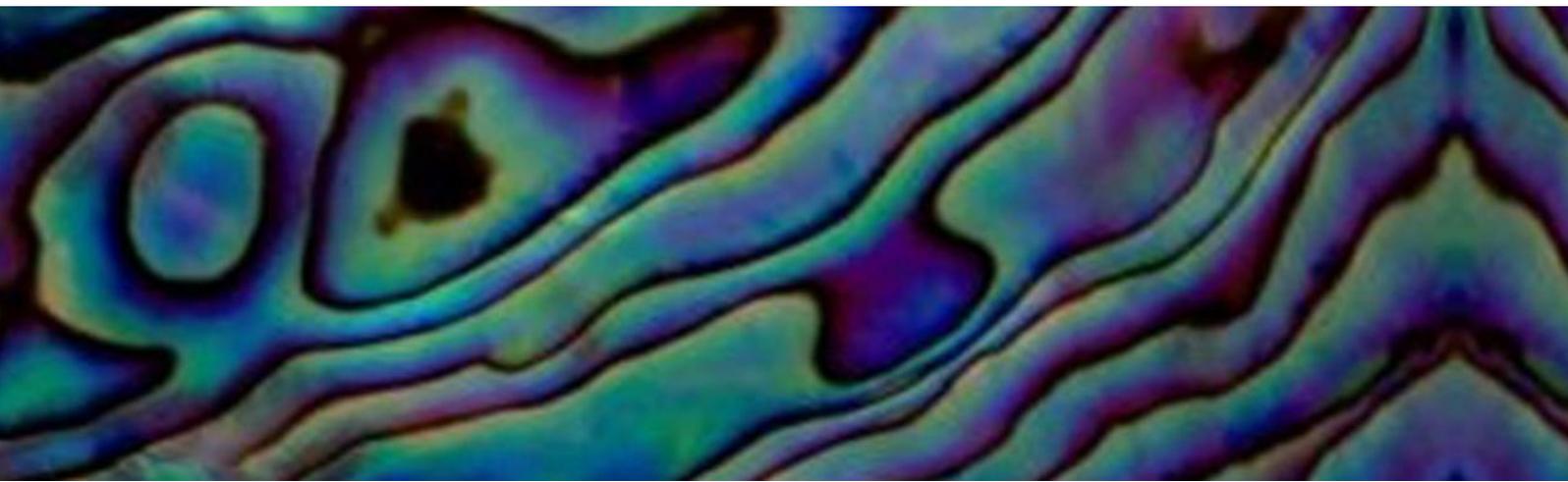


**Strategy for Languages in Education in  
Aotearoa New Zealand  
2019 - 2033**

**Auckland Languages Strategy Working Group  
August 2018**



## Comment from the lead authors

This document outlines a proposal for strengthening languages education in Aotearoa New Zealand in the context of the current education setting. It builds on the work of various groups and organisations in this space and incorporates key points from several documents listed in the references.

Our aim in producing this document is to show what an achievable national strategy for languages education in schools could look like. The intended audience for this document are politicians, Ministry of Education officials, other relevant government departments, as well as interested groups and individuals.

The strategy is being developed in the context of a range of major changes and proposed changes in education and language policy in 2018. It is not intended to replace or delay key policy changes that are in process currently including the recognition of Pacific Languages and legislation to establish a Pacific Language Commission.

In writing this document we are aware that language learning in schools on its own cannot ensure the health of our nation's languages. Any language learning strategy needs to be seen as one strand of a wider initiative to support the recognition, maintenance, learning and use of Aotearoa New Zealand's diverse languages across multiple functions, sectors and government agencies.

Our hope is that the importance of languages will be highlighted, and that language learning will be taken out of the 'too hard basket' and instead seen as an integral piece of our education system and of our society as a whole.

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## Introduction

### Vision of the strategy

A multilingual Aotearoa New Zealand that benefits socially, culturally and economically from an increasing number of young New Zealanders communicating in more than one language, beginning with te reo Māori.

By 2020 all Year 1 students are learning te reo Māori in schools. Further to this, by 2033 all high school graduates will be able to converse in more than one language.

### Purpose of the strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to contribute to creating a multilingual Aotearoa New Zealand, by ultimately enabling every young New Zealander to learn and use te reo Māori as of right, throughout their schooling, and to be supported to further strengthen and use their first or heritage family languages, and/or to learn a community or world language.

Evidence shows that action on languages needs to include four interlinking areas:

- Valuing
- Maintenance
- Learning
- Use

This strategy sets out a 15-year plan to support the third area, noting that in order to reach the vision of a bilingual/multilingual Aotearoa New Zealand, the strategy needs to sit within a wider national languages policy that sets out goals and actions in all four areas.

The New Zealand Curriculum recognises the value of language learning through the inclusion of Learning Languages as one of the eight essential learning areas important for a broad, general education. However, more needs to be done to position Aotearoa New Zealand for the future, educationally, economically and socially. In particular, we need to:

- engage New Zealanders to recognise the personal, group and national benefits and rationale for language learning
- recognise the different goals and needs of diverse language learners, for example to strengthen first language, revitalise heritage language or learn a second or subsequent language
- increase the number of students maintaining their own family and heritage languages
- increase the numbers of students learning languages and raise their language and intercultural skills
- deliberately attracting fluent speakers of diverse languages to the teaching profession especially those who speak their own family or heritage language

- improve the quality of intercultural language teaching and learning through researched and proven modern pedagogy to fit the New Zealand context
- find innovative, effective and engaging ways to address shortages of qualified language teachers
- improve pathways for language learning and use between different parts of the education system
- get better information and share evidence on what works for language use, teaching and learning in New Zealand
- normalise the use of multiple languages in the wider community

This strategy is designed to address each of these areas. It is necessarily a long-term strategy as sustainable change will take time.

The first part of this document outlines why language acquisition, use and learning is important for Aotearoa New Zealand and what the strategy aims to achieve. It also provides information about the current state of language education in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The second part of the strategy introduces specific actions in five-year blocks for the period 2019 – 2033. These are designed to achieve key outcomes for language use and learning. Many of the actions build on existing structures and activities which are working well. One important component is a research and evaluation programme which will provide information for future action.

### **Definition of language learning**

This document refers to both language learning and Learning Languages; the following defines how both are being used throughout the strategy.

Learning Languages is one of the eight essential learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum which provides the framework for the teaching and learning of languages that are additional to the language of instruction in New Zealand schools<sup>1</sup>. The main focus of this curriculum area is communication with underpinning strands of language and cultural knowledge. The learning area is currently designed for second language learning, not for maintenance or use.

Language learning is the process of language acquisition, use and maintenance. It is through exposure to the language and meaningful communication that language is acquired and learnt. In this strategy it is assumed that all learners can and should be part of language learning whether as a native, heritage or community speaker as well as second language learner.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum/Learning-languages>

In Learning Languages and intercultural language learning the importance of language and culture being interwoven and interdependent is essential.

## **Background**

In the last ten years, Aotearoa New Zealand has experienced a 18.5% decrease in the number of secondary students learning languages as a subject at school.<sup>2</sup> At the same time, trends would suggest that there is also a decrease in the number of students continuing to use and learn their own family heritage languages.

This has direct implications for the achievement and well-being of many of our students. In addition, it means that not enough New Zealanders have the language skills necessary to support our current and future trade and international relationships which are particularly important for Aotearoa New Zealand as a small, geographically isolated country.

Compared to many European and Asian countries, Aotearoa New Zealand is starting from a relatively low base of languages education and use of languages in learning and in the community. Consequently, there are limits to how rapidly expansion can occur without affecting quality. Therefore, the first phase of the strategy focuses on developing te reo Māori within schools, and rapidly increasing the number of quality advisers, educators and trainers to build the pool of teachers able to teach languages. The early childhood and tertiary sectors also have an important role in supporting language use and learning, as do families and communities. The strategy includes some initial actions in these areas, which will build links across the system and identify where future developments should focus.

## **Why is language learning acquisition and use important?**

### ***Benefits of language use and learning***

The benefits of learning and using languages can be seen at three levels:

#### ***Personal***

Individual students have their overall learning and hauora enhanced through the cognitive benefits of maintaining their own languages and language learning, for example in making connections in their learning. Learning or strengthening their heritage or first language strengthens identity, inclusion and wellbeing. Learning a language provides insights into cultures and ways of thinking and expressing ideas which improves intercultural understanding. Language learning also strengthens the use of students' first languages and develops their capacity to learn further languages. Students' employment prospects are advantaged by competency in two or more languages. Learning other curriculum knowledge through languages is now recognised as having many benefits for language minority peoples and other students.

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<sup>2</sup> Statistics obtained from the Education Counts website [www.educationcounts.govt.nz](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz). Secondary students learning languages: 2007- 97,190. 2017 - 79,224. Figures exclude students learning English, English (Remedial), English as a second language, or in Māori Medium or Pasifika Medium.

Where students are not able to maintain their heritage language, the language loss can lead to issues related to identity, family connections, mental health and academic achievement.

### ***Family and community***

Students maintaining and learning languages which are spoken in the local community have greater opportunities to interact across diverse groups and are able to interact more effectively across generations in immigrant families creating greater family cohesion. Students should also gain a greater appreciation of the role that language plays in the identity of Māori as tangata whenua and as a New Zealander.

### ***National***

Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole benefits educationally, socially, linguistically and economically as more people can interact effectively across cultures within Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. There are direct benefits in terms of enhancing educational outcomes, national identity, tourism and trade, and enabling New Zealanders to act as constructive, engaged global citizens.

At all three levels, there is an increased sophistication and strengthened sense of confidence, identity and engagement in Aotearoa New Zealand society.

### ***Commitments, obligations and aspirations***

A range of commitments, obligations and community aspirations make language learning, acquisition and use important. Aotearoa New Zealand has three official languages – English, te reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) with five proposed official community Pacific languages.

Te reo Māori is the indigenous language of Aotearoa New Zealand and has been recognised as an official national language since 1987. Government is committed under Te Tiriti o Waitangi to protecting and promoting the use of te reo Māori as a taonga and a living language for Māori. As an official language in our country, te reo Māori offers significant personal, academic, cultural, educational, economic, social and linguistic benefits for all New Zealanders, which in turn supports the development and celebration of our national identity, protects the distinctiveness of our indigenous people, and contributes to the success of and engagement with the economy.

The New Zealand Sign Language Act 2006 permits the use of NZSL in legal proceedings, facilitates competency standards for its interpretation and guides government departments in its promotion and use. To date, there has been little promotion or support for teaching and learning New Zealand sign language in the community, in schools or in initial teacher education.

Pasifika people have strong geographical, political, cultural and historical ties and relationships with Aotearoa New Zealand. Aotearoa New Zealand has particular responsibility for the legal Realm of New Zealand made up of Tokelau as a territory of Aotearoa New Zealand, and the Cook Islands and Niue as self-governing states in free association with Aotearoa New Zealand. Close links remain with Samoa through the Treaty of Friendship as well as with other Pacific nations such as Tonga. For many Pacific nations,

a significant proportion of their population reside in Aotearoa New Zealand. Maintenance of language and culture is of central interest to many within Pacific communities. The Tokelauan, Cook Islands Māori and Niuean languages in particular are facing intergenerational extinction because of low numbers of speakers in the early childhood and school age years.

The Ministry of Pacific Peoples is currently preparing a proposal to recognise five Pacific languages from nations and territories where Aotearoa New Zealand has significant long term special relationships. This bill is expected to be put to Cabinet later in 2018.

Aotearoa New Zealand society also includes a wide range of other ethnic groups. In 2013, more than 160 different languages were spoken in Aotearoa New Zealand. Some of these communities are large and well-established, while others are smaller widely dispersed, and have arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand more recently. Each community has aspirations in terms of maintenance and promotion of their languages and family cultures.

## **Current situation of languages in education**

How language learning, teaching and use is organised and resourced depends on the environment in which different parts of our education sector operate. This means that what is appropriate in one community setting, or for one group of learners, will not necessarily be feasible or effective in other situations.

### **Early Childhood Education**

The early childhood sector is made up of a wide range of different types of providers, some led by teachers and paid staff, others by parents or whanau. Providers include education and care centres, kindergartens, kōhanga reo, NZ playcentres, home-based care and playgroups.

In order to receive government funding, providers must be licensed and meet the specific requirements for their service type. In contrast to schools, early childhood providers are not part of the state sector, with most in 2018 being privately owned, owned by a trust, or community-based. The Ministry of Education assists community groups to set up early childhood services which meet community needs, including language-based services where the medium of instruction is the community language. In this respect there is a strong overlap with community education.

A recent ERO Report (*Responding to Language Diversity in Auckland*, April 2018, page 47) identified that only 37% of the early learning services surveyed intentionally promoted learning by using children's home language or cultural lens. This implies that children entering the remaining 63% of early learning centres with a first language other than English may not be optimally benefitting from making use of their language strengths for learning. Some infants, toddlers and young children may be spending up to 30 hours per week in English medium centres, and not have the chance to hear or use their community language for communication and learning.

In addition to kōhanga reo which offer Māori immersion education, there are also a number of Māori immersion education and care centres, and Pasifika bilingual and immersion centres. A wide range of community language playgroups also operate in different parts of New Zealand, some of which are run by qualified and registered early childhood teachers, others by parents.

For some children, language-based immersion and dual medium services serve to maintain and develop their first or heritage language where that is not English. Others are learning a language other than English as an additional language, which may or may not be spoken at home. To qualify as a Pasifika early childhood education centre, a Pasifika language must be used by staff 50% or more of the time that they are interacting with children and staff.

Language-based immersion and dual medium early learning services can only function if they have access to sufficient staff with expertise in three areas - early childhood education qualifications and expertise; fluency in the language of the centre; and knowledge and expertise in teaching in a bilingual environment. A number of established centres are currently at risk because the increased English language requirements for migrant teachers are limiting the supply of teachers able to operate in a bilingual setting. This issue is especially acute for Pasifika early learning services.

The greatest benefits of bilingual learning are seen when children have access to quality learning through the language for at least six years. This means that ideally, children need to be able to transition from a bilingual or immersion ECE into a school offering bilingual or immersion learning in the same language. However, the number of centres providing learning through languages other than English are significantly greater in early childhood than in schooling. This creates an issue for families wanting their children to continue in bilingual or immersion learning on transition to school. This issue is exacerbated by the geographical locations of language-based ECE in relation to kura or bilingual units in schools. The transition issue is exacerbated by the broad goals of Te Whāriki which recognise language and culture more effectively as opposed to the narrow goals of the New Zealand Curriculum.

### **Schools**

As part of the New Zealand Curriculum, schools are expected to work towards providing opportunities for students to learn languages for at least Years 7-10. This is not a mandatory requirement. Within a self-managing context, schools select which languages they wish to teach or use as a medium of instruction based on the skill base of their teachers and the interests of their school community.

The New Zealand Curriculum has one double sided page that outlines the expectations of the essential learning area that is Learning Languages. This learning area has 8 curriculum levels as per other essential learning areas however, the levels are paired for Learning Languages i.e. Levels 1 and 2 are combined. The nature of the curriculum is such that great freedom and flexibility is allowed to schools and teachers to design a curriculum that suits the school community. This broadness and lack of specific detail does not provide the necessary support for teachers who are not trained specialists in working in Learning

Languages (such as primary and intermediate teachers) or those who are recent graduates or arrivals to the New Zealand teaching scene.

For children arriving at school with a first language other than English, including those transitioning from bilingual or immersion early learning centres, there are limited opportunities to use their first language to support learning. ERO (*Responding to Language Diversity in Auckland*, April 2018, page 47) identified that only 58% of the Auckland schools surveyed intentionally promoted learning by using children's home language or cultural lens.

While evidence shows that learning in and through a first or heritage language results in improved long-term learning outcomes, there is nevertheless very limited support for immersion or bilingual education in languages other than Te Reo Māori, and insufficient support even for that. There is an urgent need for greater financial and practical support (for example learning materials, assessments and tailored professional development) for schools wanting to maintain or establish bilingual or immersion learning.

There are numerous examples of high-quality language learning, teaching and use occurring in different educational settings around Aotearoa New Zealand. The relative number of students sitting language standards for the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) however, is small.

A limited range of support is currently available to schools and teachers. This includes Ministry of Education funded professional development opportunities, curriculum guidelines and the Learning Languages website on Te Kete Ipurangi (TKI). Funding is also available for some language teachers and students to improve their language proficiency through immersion learning experiences overseas. Similar provisions should be available for Maori and Pasifika immersion teachers and students.

Overseas governments also provide some funding for learning languages in Aotearoa New Zealand through financially supporting National Language Advisers, Language Assistants and professional learning and development opportunities. One example is the 147 Mandarin Language Assistants (MLAs) currently working in schools throughout New Zealand. The New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement allows MLAs to temporarily work in New Zealand.

The following tables show the number of students learning languages in primary and secondary schools in New Zealand as at 1 July 2017.

**Table 1: Learning languages in primary schools**

*Primary language enrolments by Language, Year level, & Hours per year- 1 July 2017*

Language		Group						Total	No. of Schools
		Year 1 to Year 6			Year 7 and Year 8				
		Up to 15 hours	15-30 hours	More than 30 hours	Up to 15 hours	15-30 hours	More than 30 hours		
Pasifika Languages	Samoan	994	272	946	1,090	482	446	4,230	60
	Cook Island Māori	25	52	69	330	17	35	528	9
	Tongan	51	307	105	185	191	35	874	12
	Niuean			25		50	31	106	3
	Tokelauan				140			140	1
	Other Pasifika	29		30	153	53	11	276	5
European Languages	French	1,998	462	2,089	7,057	7,608	4,287	23,501	271
	German	254	81	166	2,866	1,295	665	5,327	88
	Spanish	1,479	1,013	1,300	6,260	7,163	4,116	21,331	242
	Russian	64			8			72	2
Asian Languages	Japanese	1,355	597	789	7,053	5,636	1,331	16,761	165
	Chinese Languages	18,434	12,507	7,163	9,215	12,250	5,305	64,874	354
	Indonesian					3		3	1
Other	Other Languages	2,244	588	578	2,836	1,865	824	8,935	104
Total		26,927	15,879	13,260	37,193	36,613	17,086	146,958	1,317

Primary language learning data does not include Te reo Māori, for information on Te reo Māori see [http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/july\\_school\\_roll\\_returns/6040/](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/july_school_roll_returns/6040/)  
 Pasifika Languages exclude students enrolled in Pasifika medium education. For more information see [http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/july\\_school\\_roll\\_returns/6044/](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/july_school_roll_returns/6044/)  
 Students who take multiple languages are counted once in every language they are enrolled, summing across languages will double count some students. Source: Indicators and Reporting Unit, Ministry of Education

Source: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/subject-enrolment>

**Table 2: Learning languages in secondary schools**  
*Secondary Subject Roll by Learning Year Level & Subject Name – 1 July 2017*

Secondary Subject - Languages	Level 9		10		Level 11		Level 12		Level 13		Total		Grand Total	No. Schs
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Chinese	1,136	1,267	667	622	320	10	281	362	395	415	2,799	3,021	5,820	99
Communication skills	79	98	52	87	139	141	99	105	35	117	404	548	952	26
Cook Island Maori	55	37	47	43	12	8	19	10	18	16	151	114	265	5
English	27,536	26,534	27,120	26,482	26,492	26,258	24,010	24,516	11,231	14,305	116,389	118,095	234,484	513
English (Remedial)	735	607	368	315	254	252	213	232	71	80	1,641	1,486	3,127	105
English as a second language	677	602	830	800	1,548	1,617	1,663	1,438	950	1,068	5,668	5,525	11,193	248
French	3,325	5,293	1,382	2,951	474	1,327	268	784	204	626	5,653	10,981	16,634	187
German	577	771	420	472	173	250	138	158	116	147	1,424	1,798	3,222	79
Japanese	2,486	2,367	1,383	1,558	714	788	449	565	342	401	5,374	5,679	11,053	172
Korean	2	5	17	8		7	18	19	21	12	58	51	109	11
Latin	557	203	251	121	60	58	10	48	23	31	901	461	1,362	22
Niuean	12	14					3	8	6	5	21	27	48	1
Other languages	46	134	67	116	1	25	29	37	30	84	173	396	569	17
Pacific Language studies	15				7	12	2	3	28	8	52	23	75	5
Russian									8	8	8	8	16	1
Samoan	342	345	210	269	176	246	137	221	136	195	1,001	1,276	2,277	43
Spanish	2,831	2,852	1,588	1,859	500	836	335	547	228	393	5,482	6,487	11,969	153
Te Reo Maori	5,233	4,986	2,900	3,026	1,457	1,970	772	1,151	512	917	10,874	12,050	22,924	411
Te Reo Rangatira	105	54	104	54	166	180	193	203	117	134	685	625	1,310	48
Tongan	88	86	37	72	66	72	36	75	19	68	246	373	619	15

Funding Year level refers to the number of years a student has been at school. Instructional Year level refers to level at which the material is taught. Students who take multiple subjects are counted once in every subject they are enrolled, summing across subjects will double count students. Schools that offer multiple subjects and are counted once for every subject they have students enrolled in. Pasifika Languages exclude students doing Pasifika medium. Te Reo Māori and Te Reo Rangatira exclude students doing Māori Medium who are not taught the languages as a separate subject. Source: Indicators and Reporting Unit, Ministry of Education

Source: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/subject-enrolment>

### **Maori language in schools**

The following tables provide a snapshot of Māori language learning in schools as at 1 July 2017. They report on the three levels of Māori language in Education: Māori-medium, Māori Language in English medium, and Students not involved in Māori language in education.

<b>Table 3: Number of Students in Māori Medium by Māori Language Immersion Level (2012-2017)</b>							
<b>Māori Language Immersion Level</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Change 2016-17</b>
Level 1: 81-100%	11,816	12,028	12,704	12,958	13,473	14,373	900
Level 2: 51-80%	4,976	5,315	5,009	4,884	4,971	5,065	94
<b>Māori Medium Total</b>	<b>16,792</b>	<b>17,343</b>	<b>17,713</b>	<b>17,842</b>	<b>18,444</b>	<b>19,438</b>	<b>994</b>

Source: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/6040>

<b>Table 4: Number of Students in Māori Language in English Medium by Māori Language Immersion Level (2012-2017)</b>							
<b>Māori Language Immersion Level</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Change 2016-17</b>
Level 3: 31-50%	4,936	4,843	4,884	5,819	6,885	6,695	-190
Level 4(a): up to 30%	5,537	5,718	5,723	5,950	6,229	6,539	310
Level 4(b): At least 3 hours	21,245	21,141	22,249	21,208	20,236	23,423	3,187
Level 5: Less than 3 Hours	109,405	109,352	114,667	121,745	128,031	128,944	913
<b>Māori Language in English Medium Total</b>	<b>140,943</b>	<b>141,054</b>	<b>147,523</b>	<b>154,722</b>	<b>161,381</b>	<b>165,601</b>	<b>4,220</b>

Source: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/6040>

<b>Table 5: Number of students not enrolled in Māori Language in Education by Māori Language Immersion Level (2012-2017)</b>							
<b>Immersion Level</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Change 2016-17</b>
Level 6: Taha Māori	340,324	342,284	338,797	339,975	343,610	348,365	4,755
No Māori language learning	251,495	247,858	248,379	248,293	246,641	247,646	1,005
Not eligible for MLP Funding	10,406	13,861	14,851	15,983	17,884	19,284	1,400
<b>No Māori Language in Education Total</b>	<b>602,225</b>	<b>604,003</b>	<b>602,027</b>	<b>604,251</b>	<b>608,135</b>	<b>615,295</b>	<b>7,160</b>

Source: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/6040>

### ***Pasifika languages in schools***

The following tables provide a snapshot of Pasifika language learning in Aotearoa New Zealand schools as at 1 July 2017. They report on the two levels of Pasifika language learning: Pasifika-medium education and Pasifika Language as a separate subject.

There were 3,277 students enrolled in Pacific medium education in 2017 and a further 6,441 students studied a Pacific language as a separate subject. This is an increase of 188 students (6.1%) in Pacific medium education, and an increase of 314 students (5.1%) in Pacific language as a separate subject since July 2016.

**Table 6: Number of schools offering a Pacific Language by Immersion Level and Language as at July 2017**

Highest Level of Learning <sup>1</sup>	Samoan	Tongan	Cook Island Māori	Niuean	Other	Total <sup>1</sup>
Level 1: 81-100%	15	1	0	0	1	16
Level 2: 51-80%	7	3	0	1	0	7
Level 3: 31-50%	4	1	0	0	0	5
Level 4: 12-30%	10	4	2	1	2	15
Level 5: As a separate subject	51	18	8	3	7	62
<b>Pacific Language in Education</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>105</b>

Notes:

1. Where a school offers multiple levels in a particular Pacific language, it is only counted at its highest level.
2. Where a school offers more than one language it has been counted once in each language but only once in total.
3. Level 5: As a separate subject for Years 1-8 is for a minimum of 15 hours a year, and Years 9 and above for a minimum of 20 hours a year.

Immersion Level	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change 2016-17	
						Number	Percentage
Level 1: 81-100%	464	477	732	513	546	33	6.4%
Level 2: 51-80%	778	785	866	896	1,048	152	17.0%
Level 3: 31-50%	581	590	503	501	400	-101	-20.2%
Level 4: 12-30%	1,215	1,170	1,177	1,179	1,283	104	8.8%
Level 5: As a separate subject	5,548	7,360	5,032	6,127	6,441	314	5.1%
<b>Pacific Language in Education</b>	<b>8,586</b>	<b>10,382</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>9,718</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>5.4%</b>

Source: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/6044>

## **Tertiary sector**

The tertiary sector comprises a wide variety of institutions including universities, polytechnics, Private Training Institutions (PTEs) and Wānanga. Language use and learning and teaching occurs in all these settings.

The tertiary sector is an important setting for language learning and teaching for the following reasons:

- while language learning at school provides solid foundations, it is not sufficient on its own to produce 'expert' second language speakers, with skills sufficient to support New Zealand's international relationships, trade and diplomatic relationships
- in 2018, limited training of language teachers for schools occurs through tertiary institutions
- initial teacher education institutions are vitally important for selection of bilingual teachers and can raise the status of bilingualism and multilingualism by according all student teachers' opportunities to take up te reo Māori and to have their fluency levels increased whilst at the institution
- the tertiary sector is an important provider of adult and community education in languages, offering a wide variety of languages than those taught at degree or diploma level

Low numbers in some tertiary language courses have meant they have been vulnerable to shifts in institutional priorities and funding. Once disestablished, it can be difficult to re-establish language courses and departments. Greater sustainable support from government is required.

## **Adult, Community and Other Education**

Aotearoa New Zealand's ethnic communities provide an important source of expert speakers of many different languages. Their skills are a significant resource for Aotearoa New Zealand educationally, socially and economically. Community education (such as after-school or weekend language classes for children) plays an important role in developing and maintaining language skills within communities. At the same time, community education is also an important setting for adults choosing to learn an additional language or strengthen their heritage language.

## **Strategic priorities**

For Aotearoa New Zealand to achieve and fully benefit from a multilingual society, there are a number of areas where we need to do better. These are outlined below:

### **Engaging New Zealanders**

There is a need to raise the status of language learning and fully utilise the language resources that are already abundant in Aotearoa New Zealand. Employers, educators, parents and the community are not always aware of the benefits of maintaining students' language skills; some having the perception that 'the rest of the world is learning English, so we don't need to learn other languages' which discourages some students from taking up or continuing their own language and developing language study. This overlooks the value of intercultural competence and goodwill created through having even a basic knowledge of international partners' culture and language and risks isolating Aotearoa New Zealand and reducing our future opportunities. This may partly be because language study has traditionally not often been linked with other practical or vocational areas where language skills are advantageous, such as in business, the media and education.

As yet, the education council does not record fluency levels in languages other than te reo Māori and English. By doing so they would raise the status of multilingualism. As part of teacher registration and practicing certificates, competencies in languages should be recorded as a signal of expertise and resources. Experience with NZSL must also be included and documented on registration.

Many educators are not aware of the potential identity and engagement benefits from maintaining and strengthening a first or heritage language. Moreover, valuable language skills which exist among ethnic groups in the community are often not well utilised by government and employers, despite Aotearoa New Zealand being a multicultural society increasing trade with a range of countries and multicultural society.

### **Meeting needs of diverse language learners**

Language learning in Aotearoa New Zealand is often referred to only in the context of learning a second language rather than recognising the different goals and needs of diverse language learners, for example to strengthen a student's first language or heritage language(s). A broader view of languages is required for New Zealand to fully benefit from investing in language learning and acquisition. Methods proven through research and practice to be successful and sustainable such as CLIL (content and language integrated learning) and TBLT (task-based language teaching) should form the basis of language teaching and learning for all learners.

### **Increasing numbers learning languages**

As our indigenous and national language, te reo Māori can provide a platform for all languages to flourish. Over the next few years we recommend working towards making te reo Māori learning and use available to all children from Year 1. This would need to be done in partnership with local iwi and recognising that learning goals for Māori learners may be different from learning goals for other students learning te reo Māori as an additional language.

There is a dire need to address the low numbers of students learning languages as typified by the continuing decline in secondary students learning languages and using languages for learning at school. However, the New Zealand Curriculum offers great flexibility in the delivery of content. In depth support is required for schools and educators to remove the silo that exists around teaching languages as a subject and increase competence in teaching curriculum content through languages. Statistics from 2012-2013 show that 90% of students in the European Union were learning a foreign language as opposed to only 27% of New Zealand students. Urgent action, combined with a long-term strategy, is required to reverse this trend in a pragmatic and sustainable manner.

### **Improving the quality of language learning**

High quality examples of language teaching and learning readily exist, particularly within well-established language and medium programmes such as those that have had regular and ongoing support available through Ministry of Education professional learning and development contracts, language departments with experienced teachers of languages leading, schools where senior leadership understand and support Learning Languages as a valuable and equitable learning area of the New Zealand Curriculum and schools where the teacher of a language is highly passionate and dedicated.

Teaching within newer language programmes and/or those where native speakers become teachers of languages without formal training relating to the pedagogy of teaching and learning languages can be variable as teachers can lack the range of resources and professional knowledge found in more established programmes. Much needs to be done to provide the resources, professional development and support to gain the consistency of quality language learning that students deserve. Supporting documents to the Learning Languages area of the New Zealand curriculum must be designed to support teachers new to the essential learning area.

National assessment (NCEA) through NZQA in the Learning Languages curriculum area is currently varied across languages. Issues such as some languages being verified subjects while other languages are not; inconsistencies in NCEA vocabulary lists (within and across languages); lack of and prohibitive costs for accessing ongoing support for delivering NCEA internal and external assessment are just three examples of areas which need immediate attention to ensure greater equity is provided within this essential learning area at a national assessment level.

### **Increasing the number of skilled teachers**

The decline in the number of students learning languages, particularly at secondary schools and tertiary, has resulted in less demand for language teachers. As a consequence, there are less skilled teachers now available for a future increase in language learning. Innovative ways are required to address this shortage of qualified language teachers and suggestions are included in the following section 'Achieving the Strategic Priorities'.

## **Providing pathways for language learners**

There is a need to improve pathways for language learning between different parts of the education system. Examples of current issues include secondary schools not offering languages currently taught by contributing primary schools and bilingual immersion pathways, and a lack of language requirement for students seeking admission to university. An education sector-wide approach is required to avoid continuing transition issues.

## **Commissioning research**

We need better information and evidence on what works well for language teaching and learning and use in Aotearoa New Zealand. An important component for sustainable development of languages is a research and evaluation programme which provides information for future action.

It would also be useful to investigate models for language learning, maintenance and use in other countries, for example the Community Language Schools programme in Victoria, Australia.

## **National languages policy**

In order for language learning, maintenance and use to be effective and sustainable in education, it needs to be supported by broader policy across government agencies. The development of a national languages policy would enable recognition and support for all languages in Aotearoa New Zealand and would guide coherence across sectors.

During his visit in August 2017, Professor Joseph Lo Bianco recommended that the first step towards developing a national languages policy for Aotearoa New Zealand would be to conduct a national consultation on languages and language issues that a policy would need to support and address. Such a consultation would need to explicitly engage with iwi, Māori language experts, Pasifika leaders and leaders from other significant language communities in Aotearoa New Zealand, and with a balance of community, officials and language experts.

## **Achieving the strategy priorities**

To achieve the strategic priorities, we have identified a number of specific actions for 2019–2033. These fall into four phases: phases 2-4 have a five-year timeframe each and cover aspects of the education sector.

### **Phase 1: Immediate actions 2018**

A number of important changes already in happening in 2018 will provide a valuable platform for the 15-year strategy set out below. These include:

- the Pasifika Languages Framework which is currently being completed by MPP
- legislation to give effect to that framework, including:
  - Recognition of five Pasifika languages as community languages of Aotearoa New Zealand
  - Establishing a Pacific Languages Commission
- review of Ka Hikitia and the Pasifika Education Plan
- review of NCEA

- discussions towards a national consultation to assist in shaping a cross-agency national languages policy

We recommend that all these actions, especially the first and second bullet points, be progressed with urgency.

## **Phase 2: Strategic actions 2019-2023**

### ***Early Childhood Education***

In the first five years, this strategy will provide more equitable funding for kōhanga reo, Abga Fa'a Samoa, Akoteu (Tongan) and Punanga Reo to ensure that all whanau who wish to access such facilities will have the ability to do so.

Immediate review of IELTS requirements to support, train and facilitate community language experts becoming ECE teachers with language expertise.

Support the development and sharing of language resources to encourage children and their whānau to use and maintain their home languages.

### ***Primary education***

Review and revise the New Zealand Curriculum with particular focus on the Learning Languages curriculum area to provide language use as a medium of instruction as well as second language acquisition. This should include increased support for bilingual and immersion settings, including greater provision of learning resources, tailored professional development and assessments.

Provisions to begin delivery of te reo Māori for all Year 1 students from 2020 onwards with this cohort leading the delivery of te reo through the primary and intermediate sector and into secondary education over time. The numbers of Resource Teachers of te reo Māori could be expanded as one way to support this move.

Starting in 2019, the MoE will provide expanded professional learning and development contracts to support upskilling of teachers of te reo Māori in primary schools, particularly those of Year 1. MoE contracts will also support the creation, enhancement and review of te reo resources to support successful and sustainable te reo Māori programmes which support scaffolded programmes throughout primary education. Professional learning and development will include the opportunity for year-long immersion study for teachers of te reo Māori, similar to that which is currently offered through Language Immersion Awards for international languages; and reestablishment of te reo Māori programmes and majors in teacher education.

Interim support for successful delivery of te reo Māori and Pasifika languages will be provided through the establishment of a combination of National Language Advisers and a language assistant programme (such as currently exists with European and Asian language advisers and language assistants), itinerant teachers, online learning and sharing expertise through Kāhui Ako (Communities of Learning) as well as other networks.

This five-year period sees a dual goal of student learning and teacher education capability building.

With regards to supporting all languages, a review of the MoE ALLiS (Asian Language Learning in Schools) initiative will provide the same model of support for all languages enhancing the sustainable delivery of Learning Languages programmes from primary through to the secondary sector.

Further to this, encouragement, support and funding for using community expertise to offer locally relevant languages, including bilingual education. After hours school facilities and local community spaces can provide the opportunity for further support from experts in the community.

The provision of clear pathways for language graduates from ECE to tertiary is a priority to sustain the future of language learning, use and maintenance in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Review ESOL funding to ensure that Culturally and/or Linguistically Diverse (CLD) learners have access to support to build English language skills for learning, for as long as this support is needed, and tailored to their ongoing learning priorities.

Promote the integration of the seven ESOL principles into teaching practices to support CLD learners to make both academic and language progress in all curriculum learning areas. Build a diverse knowledge base for every teacher, with desired competencies in second language acquisition theory and development, understanding the relationship between language and culture, and an increased ability to affirm the culture of learners.

### ***Secondary education***

As for primary education there is a need to review and revise the New Zealand Curriculum with particular focus on the Learning Languages curriculum area to provide language use as a medium of instruction as well as second language acquisition. In the secondary setting this must have a particular focus on the national assessment framework, NCEA where the languages standards are designed and assessed as second language standards and no provision exists to support heritage, community and first language speakers. Further attention should be paid to ensuring equity across languages for NCEA assessment, see page 15, 'Improving the quality of language learning' for more details.

In the initial five-year period, the secondary sector along with supporting organisations will focus on promoting the value of language learning and use for identity, confidence, interpersonal relationships, employment, intercultural communicative competence and economic benefits.

Advice and guidance will be offered to senior leadership teams within the secondary sector to support the growth and promotion of language learning and use as an equitable and viable subject option for future prospects.

Review ESOL funding to ensure that CLD learners have access to support to build English language skills for learning, for as long as this support is needed, and tailored to their ongoing learning priorities.

Promote the integration of the seven ESOL principles into teaching practices to support CLD learners to make both academic and language progress in all curriculum learning areas. Build a diverse knowledge base for every teacher, with desired competencies in second language acquisition theory and development, understanding the relationship between language and culture, and an increased ability to affirm the culture of learners.

### ***Tertiary language learning***

As for the secondary sector, active promotion of the value of language learning and use for employment and personal growth will be actioned.

### ***Adult and community education***

Increase the provision for quality assured training of language assistants (particularly te reo Māori) and other models of community support for language maintenance and learning. The type of support required for different communities and different languages varies according to whether there are already established learning hubs and according to whether the language community is new or well settled.

Recent engagement by CLANZ shows there is a need for more access to professional development and resources for community language teachers.

### ***Resources and professional learning and development policy***

2019 onwards will ensure adequate professional learning and development in te reo Māori and language learning and use pedagogy with a focus on teachers of Year 1.

Training and support provided for Te Reo Tuatahi and resource teachers of Māori supporting the delivery and growth of te reo Māori in Year 1 classrooms.

A review of existing resources for the teaching of te reo Māori and a system for making these resources more visible and available. An example of this is a single repository on TKI. Creation and development of additional online and physical resources, where needed for the teaching of te reo Māori in Year 1 in 2020, Year 1 and 2 in 2021 and so on. Using and updating models such as the MoE Learning Languages series will provide a starting point for teachers and schools.

A review and update of existing digital and online resources and storage platforms such as the Learning Languages Series, the Learning Languages Wallchart and TKI will ensure modern, sustainable resources are available for those engaging with the Learning Languages essential learning area. All above resources should reflect language learning and use in the titles once these documents are reviewed and revised.

Ongoing funding and long-term contracts for key organisations including those delivering Ministry of Education contracts such as Auckland Uniservices, CLANZ, TESOLANZ, Māori and Pacific organisations involved in learning and using languages etc. Assurance that appropriate PLD is provided by accredited facilitators so that quality contracts exist to offer necessary support for te reo Māori teaching and learning.

Reintroduction of a National Te Reo Māori Adviser and a National Pasifika Adviser with associated teams, similar to existing bilateral agreements with various other donor governments. Creation of National Language Coordinator roles and regional advisory services whereby New Zealand registered teaching experts in partnership with Māori and Pasifika educators and communities are available regionally to support the delivery of language learning and use programmes.

Expansion of current language assistant programmes for international languages (currently 21 across French, Spanish and German as well as 150 Chinese) and support for such programmes to reach schools outside of major cities.

Ensuring ongoing access to further language study and immersion for teachers of languages and use as medium teachers with the aim of all teachers of languages meeting a minimum language proficiency requirement to retain their language teaching expert recognition.

Across the four phases of this strategy, research will be conducted to support and enhance academic pedagogies based on current theory about the most effective language teaching, learning and use pedagogy in different educational settings in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

### ***Teacher training***

Introduce and sustain incentives to attract and retain fluent te reo Māori speakers and first language speakers of other languages to train as teachers of languages and other curriculum areas and activities. One example would be to use language teaching qualifications levels 4 and 5 as a bridge for community language experts to later train as New Zealand registered teachers.

Provide an accessible pathway for language assistants to train as teachers of languages after two successful years as part of the language assistant programme.

Introduce te reo Māori learning as an expected activity including language, culture and pedagogy for all ECE and primary teacher trainees by 2022. This would mean requiring that all primary teachers should leave with the language knowledge and skills to teach levels 1 and 2 of the Curriculum Guidelines for Teaching and Learning of Te Reo Māori in English-Medium Schools. Such study would sustain throughout the qualification with options for 100, 200 and 300 level specialisation as well.

## **Phase 3: Strategic actions 2024-2028**

### ***Early Childhood Education***

Ongoing support as offered in the previous five years for language maintenance, learning and use in ECE's.

### ***Primary education***

Te reo Māori for all as a genuine option by the end of Phase 2, 2028 provided by a mixed delivery model where current teachers are growing their language, culture and pedagogy expertise and those entering the profession from tertiary institutes will have completed te reo

Māori study and will be ready to deliver the language learning and use essential area of the curriculum. Other support will remain on offer through the advisory services, National Language Advisers and coordinators, language assistant programmes, itinerant teachers and other available services.

The focus in Phase 3 is on increasing the number of kura and bilingual classes with a focus on areas currently low in provision. Support for quality bilingual delivery to strengthen learning in and through first languages.

Ensuring nationwide support to learn one's own or a community language using community expertise in a community setting.

### ***Secondary education***

Through the language assistant to teacher education programme in Phase 2, an increase in qualified teachers entering the teaching profession as secondary language teaching specialists will allow for secondary schools to grow their language learning and use programmes.

Increased student numbers for language learning and use will occur through Phase 2 promotion, increased societal understanding of the value of language learning and teacher education of qualified experts.

### ***Tertiary language learning***

Introduction by tertiary institutes to provide genuine options that require a language course within and throughout degree courses to increase intercultural understanding and provide further growth for engaging with the international world. Degrees such as Business, Economics, and those that deal with people such as Medicine, Nursing etc... should be the starting point for tertiary institutes.

### ***Adult and community education***

Increased opportunities to support adult learning and use of languages which includes the opportunity for parents and whanau to learn and use the languages that their children are learning. Learning spaces such as schools and businesses after hours as well as community centres will provide the forum for such education.

### ***Resources and professional learning and development policy***

Ongoing professional learning and development for teachers and those involved in the language learning and use area will be in place.

Government strategies will ensure ongoing and sustainable attraction, supply and retention of teachers of languages and teachers who can use language across all essential learning areas of the curriculum.

Growth in research and production of resources for bilingual teaching is a Phase 3 focus. Physical and digital materials will be freely available nationwide and will support language, culture, pedagogy, assessment and other key components of language teaching, learning and use.

Language Immersion Awards such as those offered by the Ministry of Education for several languages should expand to include awards for te reo Māori and Pasifika languages.

The Ministry of Education and New Zealand Qualifications Authority will continue to grow their expertise in language learning and use. Specialist teams will include those who have relevant and recent experience in the sector. Contract for service positions will be directed by a recruitment and retention policy that ensures consistency and development of experts within each nationally assessed language.

### ***Teacher education***

Through the Ministry of Education strategies, incentives will continue to attract and retain teachers with relevant language teaching qualifications.

Professional learning and development expertise in the language learning and use area will grow and be available nationwide to support those who are teaching training.

## **Phase 4: Strategic actions 2029-2033**

### ***Early Childhood Education***

Sustain and continue to look for opportunities to support all languages and expertise within the teaching profession and the voluntary community.

### ***Primary education***

Continuation of growth of te reo Māori for all, now with an increase to Year 10. By this phase all teachers in the primary sector will have received teacher training and ongoing professional learning and development in order to successfully and sustainably deliver language learning and use programmes. Ongoing training, networking and resourcing will support this.

Phase four will focus on schools offering languages for learning and use and will ensure that teachers have sufficient knowledge and access to professional learning and development to gain knowledge of the target language and culture. Schools will consult with the school community when making decisions around further language learning and use options and will employ teachers with relevant qualifications as well as engaging local community skills and expertise.

### ***Secondary education***

By Phase 4, secondary schools will see an influx of more fluent and intercultural students entering the sector and engaging with language learning and use. Professional learning and development for language teaching and language use experts will continue to be provided to support the delivery of high level courses for students.

### ***Tertiary language learning***

By Phase 4, students entering the tertiary sector will expect to engage with language learning and use as a natural part of undergraduate study. Languages and Literacy

departments in the tertiary sector will be well supported by tertiary institutes and will work collaboratively with departments in order to ensure that language courses cater to degrees across various sectors such as business and medicine.

### ***Adult and community education***

Sustainable courses remain, expand and are targeted at adults, parents and whanau to access language learning for their own personal and professional growth as well as supporting young people in their lives and communities.

### ***Resources and professional learning and development policy***

Continual review and development of professional learning and development for the language learning and use sector. By Phase 4, all regions of Aotearoa New Zealand will have access within their region to experts and support for language learning and use.

### ***Teacher education***

The impact of the previous two phases will now provide more teacher trainees entering training with language and culture skills as they will have received increased opportunities to learn languages throughout their schooling.

Ministry of Education strategies and incentives to attract and retain teachers who are fluent in two or more languages are evident. These should be supported by an implementation plan.

**Table 8: Strategic actions 2019-2033**

	2019-2023	2024-2028	2029-2033
Teacher training	<p><b>Incentives to attract and retain fluent Te Reo speakers, first-language speakers of other languages</b> and language graduates as teachers</p> <p><b>Pathway for language assistants</b> to train as teachers after 2 years</p> <p><b>Introduce Te Reo</b> learning for all ECE/primary teacher trainees by 2022</p>	<p>Grow PLD expertise in language learning</p> <p>Continue incentives to attract and retain teachers with language skills</p> <p>Include papers on how to teach the target language in degree-level language courses</p> <p>Increase language content of initial teacher training</p>	<p>More trainees coming through with language skills, having received increased learning opportunities throughout schooling</p> <p>Continue incentives to attract and retain teachers fluent in 2 or more languages</p>
Tertiary language learning	Promote value of language learning for employment	Require a language course within degree courses (eg for business degree) for intercultural understanding	Increased student numbers
Secondary	Promote value of language learning for employment	<p><b>Increased student numbers</b> for languages</p> <p><b>More teachers coming through</b> with language expertise to meet the demand</p>	<p>More fluent children coming into secondary</p> <p>Higher-level courses available</p>
Primary	<p><b>Te reo for all Y1 students in 2020, adding a year level each year</b> – interim quality through language assistants, itinerant teachers, online learning, sharing expertise in COLs – dual goals of student learning and teacher capability building</p> <p><b>Support existing</b> bilingual and immersion delivery through learning resources, assessments and PD</p> <p><b>Extend ELLIS</b> to additional languages</p> <p><b>Encourage use of community expertise</b> to offer locally relevant languages, including bilingual learning</p>	<p><b>Te Reo for all (Y1-8) by 2028, mixed delivery</b> – some schools/teachers with expertise, others still using language assistants, itinerant teachers</p> <p>Increase number of <b>kura</b> and bilingual classes, focusing on areas with low provision</p> <p>Support to <b>learn own or a community language</b>, using community expertise</p> <p>Support for <b>quality bilingual delivery</b> to strengthen learning in/through first language</p>	<p><b>Te Reo for all (Y1-10), high-quality delivery</b> as all teachers have resources and training</p> <p>Schools that <b>choose to offer other language(s)</b> have knowledge of language learning, resources and either teachers with language skills or community skills to draw on</p>
ECE	Increase number of <b>kohanga reo</b> and <b>puna reo</b> to ensure access for all who wish it	Ongoing support for language maintenance, learning and use in ECEs	
ACE, community	Training for language assistants and other models of community support for language maintenance and learning	Support for adult learning including parents learning languages to support children's learning	
Resources, PLD policy	PLD in <b>Te Reo</b> and in how to teach languages available for all primary teachers	Ongoing PLD	Ongoing PLD
	Support for <b>Te Tuatahi</b> , itinerant teachers	Specific government strategies to ensure supply of language teachers	
	Online resources for teaching of <b>Te Reo</b> starting Y1 in 2020	Resources for bilingual teaching – materials, online, PLD in additive bilingual, assessments	
	Funding for key organisations – eg ILEP, CLANZ, TESOLANZ	Grow MOE expertise in language learning	

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