



Briefing Note: 2022 ECE Census Results and Factsheets

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| To: | Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education | | |
| Cc: | Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education | | |
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| Messaging seen by Communications team: | Yes | Round Robin: | No |

Purpose of Report

This briefing provides you with:

- Key findings from the 2022 ECE Census (the ECE Census)
- Next steps for publishing findings of the ECE Census

Summary

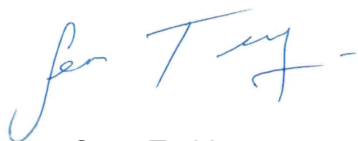
- The key findings from the 2022 ECE Census, compared with 2021, were:
 - The number of children enrolled in early learning decreased by 7%, mostly in the 3–4-year-old age group. COVID-19 was a key driver of this decrease.
 - The number of licensed early learning services decreased.
 - The number of qualified teachers decreased by 2%.
- The Ministry intends to publish the factsheets and associated datasets on Education Counts on 16 March 2023.
- The Ministry will present these findings in confidence at the next quarterly Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) meeting, on 8 March 2023.
- As part of the Early Learning Action Plan monitoring and evaluation work programme, the Ministry intends to publish an A3 summary, which includes ECE Census findings and additional 2022 early learning data, in late March 2023. The Ministry will provide this to your office prior to release.
- We intend to develop and publish a set of factsheets on language services. We will provide these to your office, by June, prior to publication.

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- a **note** the key findings of the 2022 ECE Census
- b **note** ECE Census factsheets and datasets will be published on the Education Counts website on 16 March 2023.
- c **note** these ECE Census factsheets will be presented in confidence at the quarterly ECAC meeting, on 8 March 2023.
- d **note** ECE Census data will also be included in an upcoming release of 2022 Early Learning Action Plan Monitoring and Evaluation A3 summary, alongside other 2022 early learning data.
- e **note** that factsheets on bilingual and immersion early learning services will be provided to your office by June 2023.
- f **agree** this briefing is proactively released.

☒ Agree / ☐ Disagree



Sean Teddy
Hautū Te Mahau
| Te Pae Aronui

2/3/2023



Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

04/03/2023

Background

1. The ECE Census provides a snapshot of high-level statistics about early learning in New Zealand, covering services and service types, numbers of children attending, teacher qualifications, and the use of languages other than English for teaching and learning.
2. The data enables the Ministry to analyse changes within the sector to inform policy advice and contribute to expenditure forecasts. The results are made available on Education Counts.
3. In 2022, we collected data for the ECE Census in the week 13–19 June. The annual ECE Census occurs in the last full week in June each year, adjusted so as not to be the week of the Matariki public holiday.
4. To close the collection a submission or exemption is required from every licensed service. COVID-19 impacted a number of services during the collection period, and extensions for census submission were granted when ECE staff responsible for the collection were not working due to illness or isolation. At the beginning of September the Ministry was still working with more than 25% of services to finalise their ECE Census data. The Ministry was following up with services on their submissions into December.
5. The Ministry heard from many services during the ECE Census collection period that their day-to-day operations were impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Some services reported an increased number of absences due to child illness, and staffing shortages due to staff illness. We also saw a slight increase in the number of services that were temporarily closed during the 2022 census week, compared to 2021.

Findings from 2022 ECE Census

6. The data and results for the ECE Census are now ready for dissemination. We have so far produced three factsheets for the ECE Census in 2022: Participation, Services; and Teaching Staff. Annex 1–3 provides you with a copy of these.

Key participation measures

7. Participation in early learning decreased by 7% from 194,306 in 2021 to 181,045 in 2022. This was mainly driven by a decrease for children aged 3- and 4-years-old.
8. Participation data in the ECE Census is directly impacted by child illness and absence. In 2022, ECE participation will have been reduced by the presence of COVID-19 in the community. The 2022 ECE Census week fell between two peaks in COVID-19 cases (in March and July 2022).¹ In contrast, the 2021 ECE Census period had almost no impact from COVID-19, with all of New Zealand at Alert Level 1, except for a move to Alert Level 2 for Wellington in the latter part of the week.
9. Provisional figures from the Early Learning Information system (ELI) for later in 2022 showed that participation in early learning increased to just under 184,000 children, as COVID-19 cases had decreased.²

¹ Data retrieved from <https://tewhatauora.shinyapps.io/covid19/>

² This is provisional data based on the week beginning November 21st 2022, and is subject to change. Kōhanga Reo attendance numbers are based on ECE Census 2022 data, as they do not submit attendance data through ELI.

10. Of all service types, Education and Care services continue to make up the largest number of services and provide early learning to most children participating in early learning.

Key service measures

11. Between 2021 and 2022, the number of licensed early learning services decreased by 55 to 4597. Overall, the number of licensed early learning services have increased since 2016, but the number of home-based services, Kōhanga Reo and Playcentres, decreased.
12. Between 2021 and 2022, the number of licensed early learning services with wait lists increased by 1 percentage point to 43%.
13. The proportion of services with wait lists for children aged 1 and under increased by 5 percentage points between 2021 and 2022 to 48%.

Key teaching staff measures³

14. The number of qualified teachers decreased by 2% between 2021 and 2022, while the overall number of teaching staff decreased by 1%.
15. 65% of teaching staff who identified as Māori were qualified, a decrease from 67% in 2021.
16. 67% of teaching staff who identified as Pacific were qualified, which was no change from 2021.

Next Steps

17. The Ministry will publish the 2022 ECE Census factsheets and datasets on Education Counts on 16 March 2023.
18. In March 2023, we will provide your office with a copy of the 2022 Early Learning Action Plan (ELAP) Monitoring and Evaluation A3 Summary. As well as data from the 2022 ECE Census, this will include the progress of other early learning measurements in 2022.
19. At the quarterly ECAC meeting on 8 March 2023, we intend to share the final ECE Census factsheets. We will also present ECAC with a confidential draft of the 2022 ELAP A3 summary for their feedback. The final A3 summary provided to you will incorporate their feedback.
20. In previous years (except for 2021) the Ministry has also published language factsheets from the ECE Census, which focus on immersion and bilingual early learning services.⁴ There are four language factsheets: Ngā Kōhanga Reo; Te Reo Māori (not Kōhanga Reo); Pacific languages; and Asian languages.
21. The language factsheets are currently being produced and will be provided to your office before the end of June 2023. These will then be published on Education Counts.

³ Teaching staff includes both qualified and unqualified teachers.

⁴ Bilingual services refer to those services using a language other than English for 51–80% of the time. Immersion services use a language other than English 81–100% of the time.

Annexes

- Annex 1: Teaching Staff factsheet
- Annex 2: Services factsheet
- Annex 3: Participation factsheet

Proactively Released

There were

32,632

teaching staff (qualified and unqualified) at licensed early childhood services in June 2022.

As of June 2022,

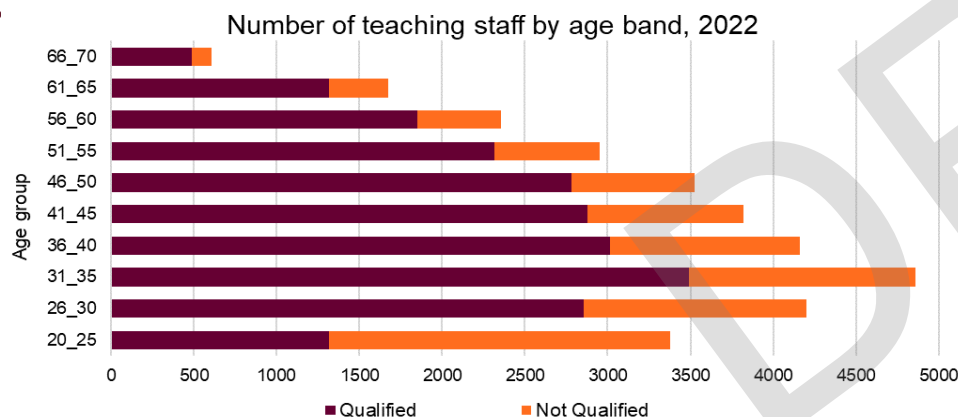
66%

of teaching staff were reported as European/Pākehā.

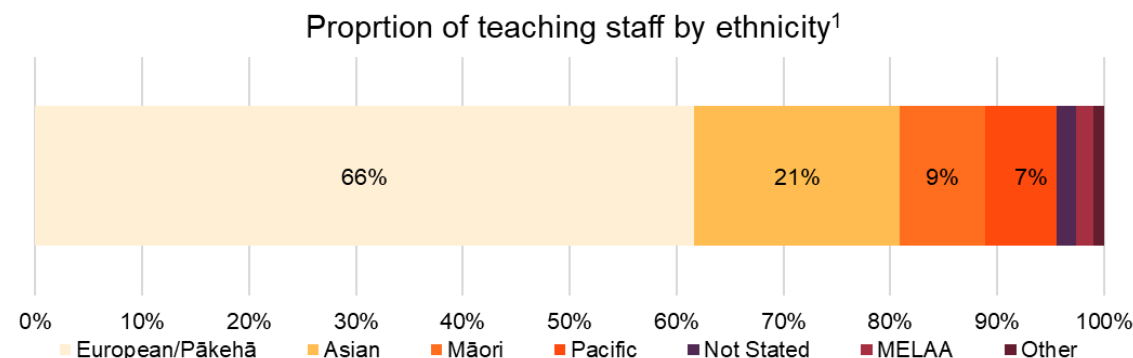
The **number** of qualified teachers decreased by 2% from 23,133 in 2021 to 22,655 in 2022.

The **proportion** of qualified teachers decreased from 70% in 2021 to 69% in 2022.

- The number of teaching staff decreased by 1% from 32,985 in 2021 to 32,632 in 2022.
- Half of teaching staff working in early childhood services were in the age band of 31 to 51 years (16,363 teaching staff).
- Older teaching staff were more likely than younger teaching staff to be qualified.



- The proportion of teaching staff who were qualified teachers varied by ethnicity.
- In 2022, the proportion of teaching staff that were qualified teachers:
 - Decreased for **European/Pākehā** from 74% in 2021 to 73% in 2022
 - Remained at 67% for **Pacific**
 - Increased for **Asian** from 63% in 2021 to 66% in 2022
 - Decreased for **Māori** from 67% in 2021 to 65% in 2022.
- Over half of the workforce (66%) were reported as European/Pākehā.



This data is from the Ministry of Education's annual Early Childhood Census. For further information, please contact Requests.EDK@education.govt.nz. The ECE Census week was 13-19 June 2022.

¹ Percentages exceed 100 percent as teaching staff can identify themselves as more than one ethnicity. The denominator for this calculation is the total number of teaching staff.

Teacher ethnicity was reintroduced as a Census question in 2019. Ethnicity is collected for teaching staff on a total ethnicity basis – that is, if a teacher is reported as both Māori and European/Pākehā, they will be counted once under each ethnicity and once under the total number of teachers.

To be a qualified teacher, teaching staff must hold a recognised ECE teaching qualification that leads to registration with the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Teaching staff are defined as those staff who have a teaching role – ECE teachers and home-based coordinators. Staff at Playcentre and home-based educators are not included in this definition. Data on kaiako at Kōhanga Reo is not provided to the Ministry.

Participation in Early Learning

2022 ECE Census results

181,045

children were attending licensed early learning services in June 2022

71%

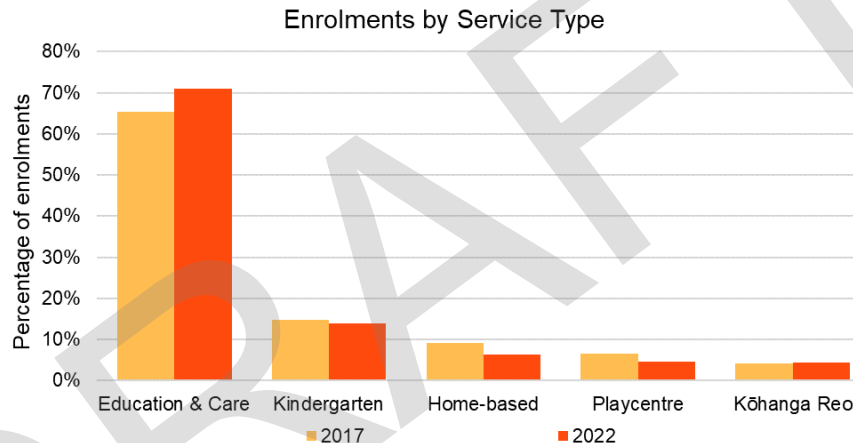
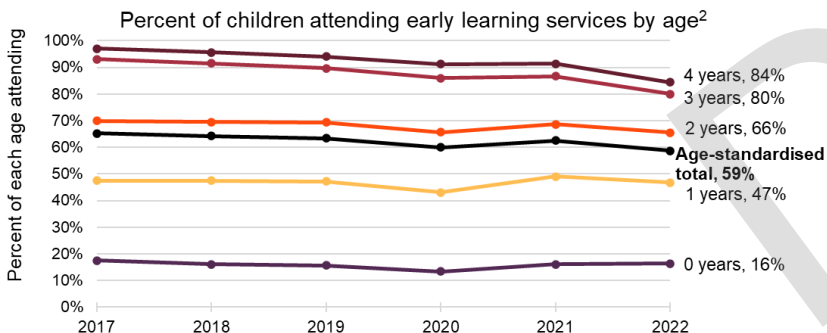
of children attending early learning were enrolled at an Education & Care service in June 2022

17%

of mokopuna Māori attending early learning were in Kōhanga Reo

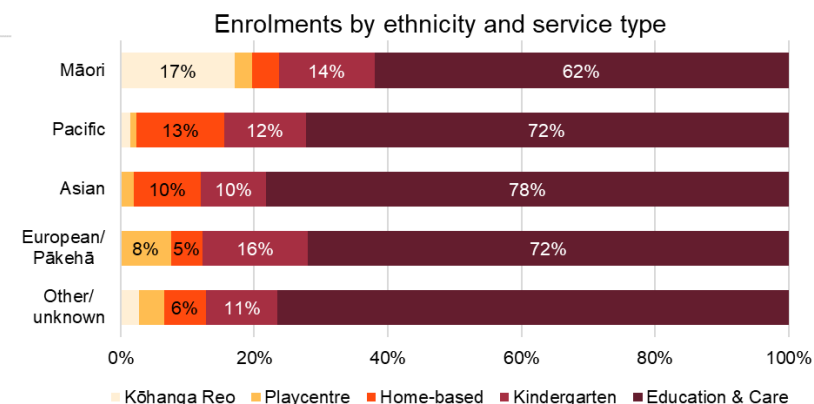
The number of children attending early learning decreased from 194,306 in 2021 to 181,045 in 2022 (a 7% decrease).¹

- The number of children attending early learning services decreased for all ages except for children under 1 (0 years).¹
- Children aged 3 and 4 years had the greatest decrease in numbers of children attending between 2021 and 2022; enrolments for children aged 3 and 4 years both decreased by seven percentage points.
- Children aged 0 years were the only age-group to have an increase in the proportion of the population attending.²



- Education and Care services continued to be the most common service type attended. This has increased since 2017 (up six percentage points).
- The proportion of children attending Kōhanga Reo has remained stable at 4% since 2017.

- For all ethnicities, Education and Care was the most common service type attended. This was followed by:
 - Kōhanga Reo (17%) and Kindergarten (14%) for **mokopuna Māori**
 - Home-based (13%) and Kindergarten (12%) for **Pacific children**
 - Kindergarten (16%) and Playcentre (8%) for **European/Pākehā children**.



This data is from the Ministry of Education's annual Early Childhood Education Census, held 13-19 June 2022. For further information, please contact Requests.EDK@education.govt.nz.

¹ Early learning participation was impacted by COVID-19 and higher than usual rates of winter illness. Ministry of Health advised people to stay home if they were unwell. Parents/caregivers may also have kept children home to avoid illness.

² The percentage of children attending early learning services was calculated using Statistics New Zealand's Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex (1991+) (Annual-Jun).

Licensed Early Learning Services

2022 ECE Census results

There were
4,597

licensed early learning services as of the June 2022 ECE Census

60%

of early learning services were Education & Care services

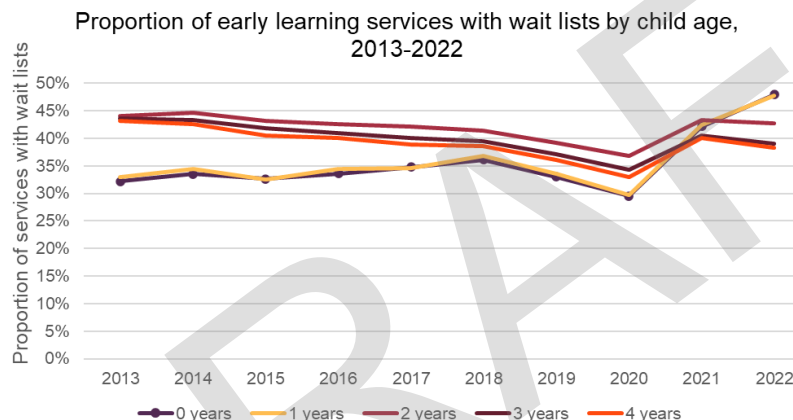
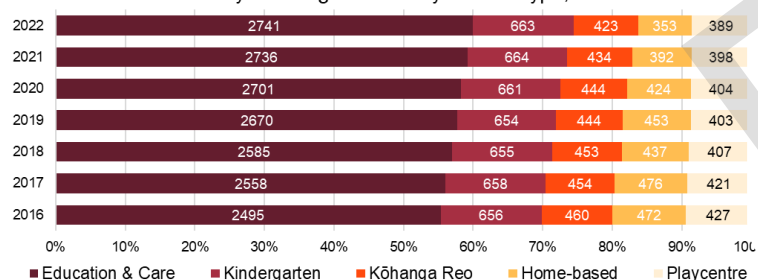
43%

of early childhood services reported having a wait list¹, an increase from 42% in 2021

In 2022, occupancy rates¹ for Education & Care services remained at 77%; while occupancy rates for Kindergartens decreased from 83% in 2021 to 82% in 2022 and occupancy rates for Playcentres decreased from 53% to 49%

- There was a 1% increase in the number of licensed early learning services since 2016, from 4,541 to 4,597 in 2022.
- The number of Education & Care services increased from 2,495 in 2016 to 2,741 in 2022 (10% increase).
- The number of Kindergartens increased from 656 in 2016 to 663 in 2022 (1% increase).
- The numbers of home-based services, Kōhanga Reo and Playcentres have each decreased since 2016.

Number of early learning services by service type, 2016-2022



- In 2022, the proportion of services with wait lists continued to increase for children up to age 1.
- Conversely, the proportion of services with wait lists for children 2 years and over have decreased since 2021.
- The proportion of early childhood services with wait lists¹ dropped in 2020 across all age groups with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The proportion of early childhood services with wait lists for children aged up to 1 increased by 5 percentage points between 2021 and 2022 and decreased by 2 percentage points for children 2 and over, while wait lists for children aged 2 remained stable.

- For one-year-olds, the proportion of services with wait lists increased in 15 out of the 16 regions.

- The Nelson region had the highest percentage of services with wait lists (75%) for children aged 1.

- For children aged 4, the proportion of services with wait lists increased in 10 regions.

- The Otago region had the highest percentage of services with wait lists (61%) for children aged 4, and the Auckland region had the smallest percentage (27%).

Services with waiting list for 4 year olds

