



COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Education

Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

2023 Education Statistics Report



Government of the Cook Islands



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Forword and Introduction

Kia Orana,

The Ministry is delighted to introduce the 2023 edition of the Cook Islands Ministry of Education Statistics Digest. Within these pages, you will find a comprehensive overview of student outcomes from the 2022 academic year, together with enrolment and participation data for 2023. Moreover, the report delves into finance and program-based insights, offering fiscal details for the financial year ending 30th June 2023.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the schools, providers, ministry divisions, as well as regional and international agencies whose invaluable support facilitated the collection and meticulous analysis of data for this Education Statistics Report. We trust that this information serves as a valuable resource to readers, stakeholders, service providers, and the broader community alike.

Kia manuia.

Ministry of Education



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2023 Education in the Cook Islands at a Glance

Learning for Life:



- Students - 372
- Male Students - 181
- Teachers - 22

ECE (Early Childhood Education)



- Students - 1571
- Male Students - 806
- Teachers - 102

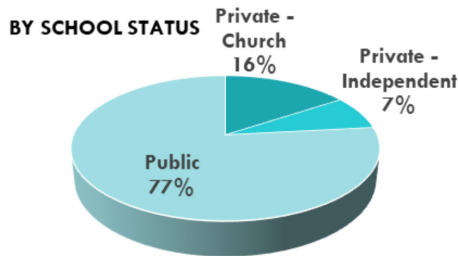
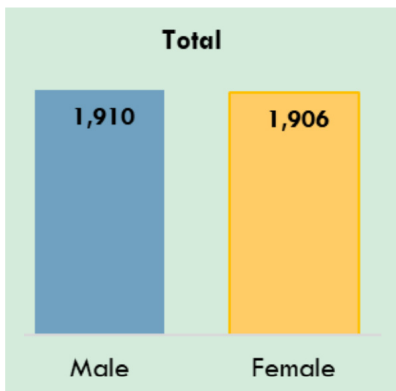
Primary Education



- Students - 1873
- Male Students - 923
- Teachers - 119

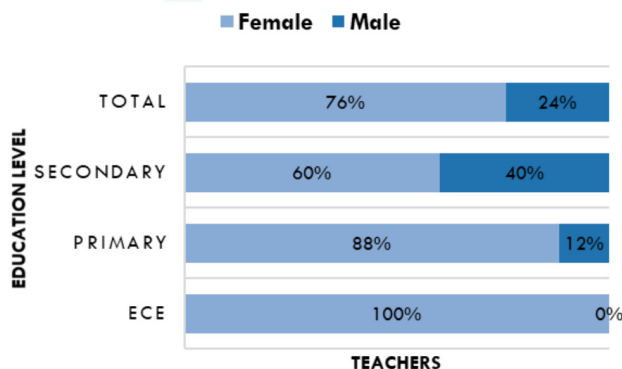
Secondary Education

Students:



Education Level	Net Enrolment Rate %		
	Male	Female	Total
ECE	82	80	81
Primary	100	100	100
Secondary	83	88	86

Staff:



- Trained Teachers - 243
- Teacher Aides Supporting Student Learning - 113
- Education Providers - 31

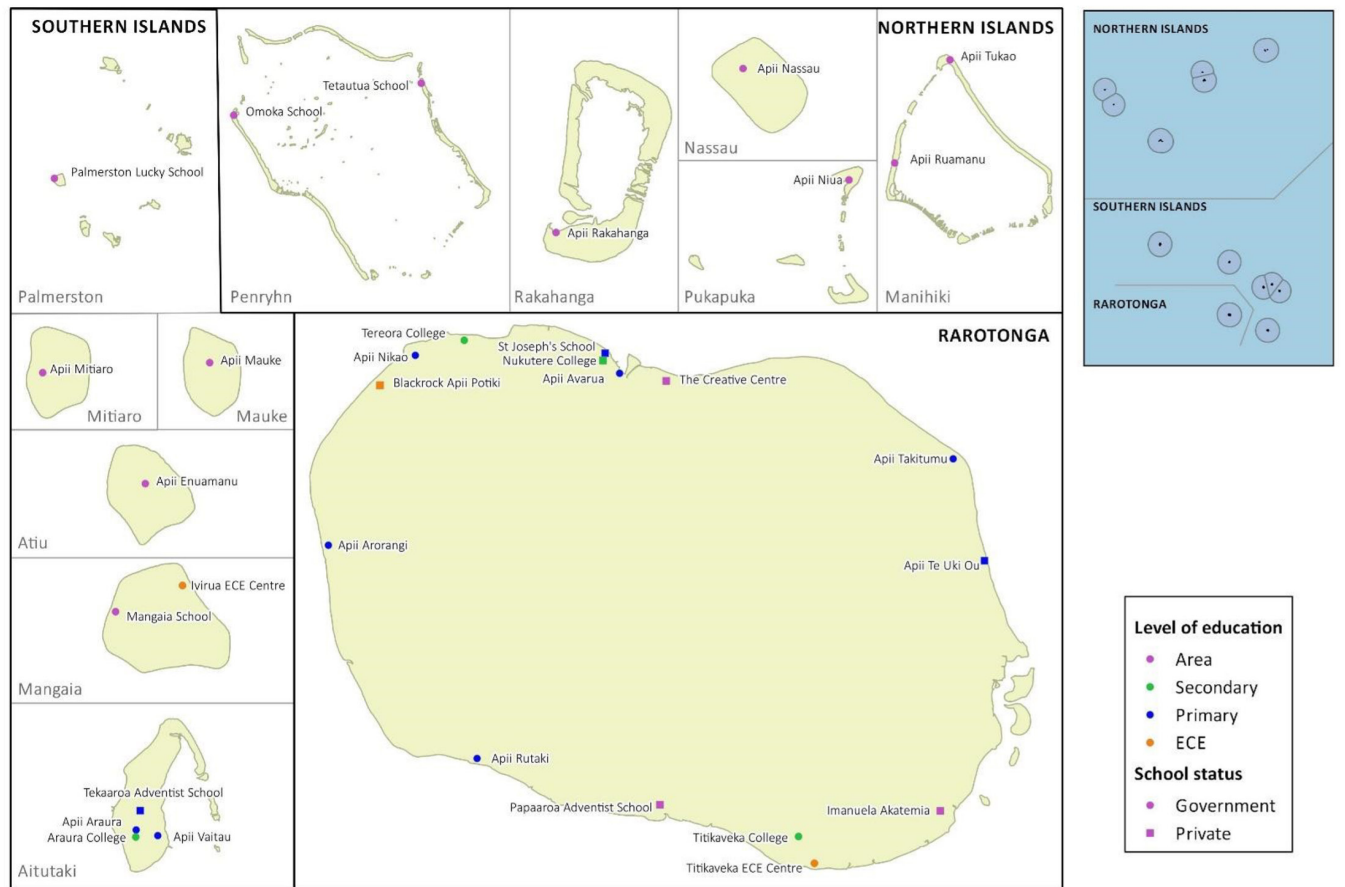
Student : Teacher Ratio
 ECE - 17:1
 Primary Education - 15:1
 Secondary Education - 16:1
Total - 16:1



Schools In The Cook Islands

Education in the Cook Islands is mainly provided by government institutions. There are 31 providers including 1 standalone ECE Centre, 11 Primary Schools (10 of which have ECE Centres attached), 4 Secondary Schools, 14 Area Schools¹ (all with ECE Centres) and a Tertiary Institute.

Figure 1: Map of the Cook Islands



*Islands are not drawn to scale

In the Cook Islands Maori language, the word Apii means School. Other useful terms relating to education include;

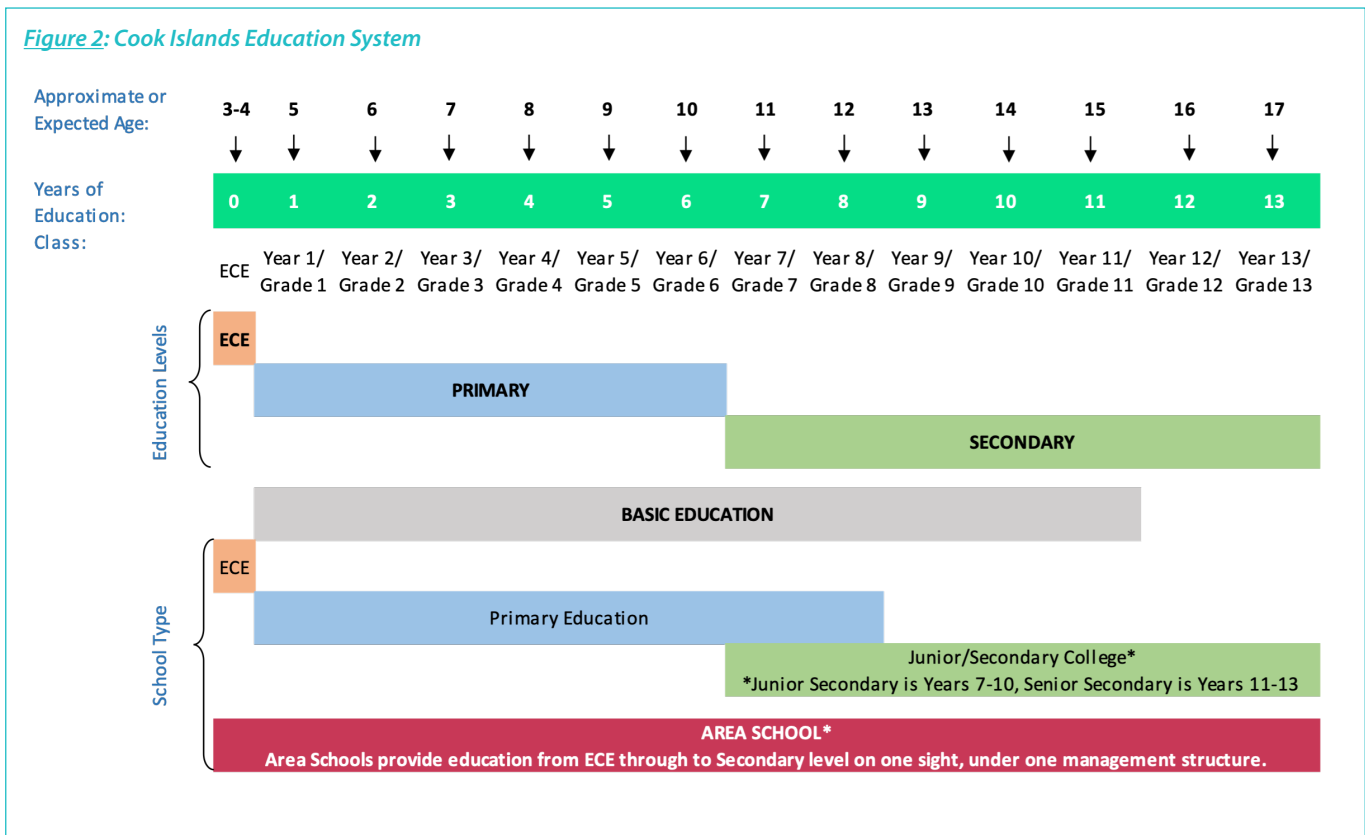
- Apii - to teach, learn, practice
- Apii Potiki - Early Childhood/ Pre-school
- Kura Apii – Curriculum
- Tamariki – children
- Pu’apii - Teacher
- Taura - Student, Pupil
- Tamou - to learn
- Tuatua - Talk, say, speak, converse
- Vaitoanga Kite – assessment
- Revera - levels
- Pa Enea - Outer Islands
- Pa Enea Tokerau - Northern Group Islands
- Pa Enea Tonga - Southern Group Islands
- Akakoukouanga – summary
- Akakoroanga – aim
- Akameitakianga – acknowledgement
- Paunuanga - evaluation
- Tamanakoanga - suggestion

¹ An Area School is a school that provides education from Early Childhood through to secondary level on one site and under one management structure.



Cook Islands Education System

Figure 2: Cook Islands Education System



All 8 private schools, comprising 5 church-affiliated and three independent institutions, receive 100% of the equivalent allocation given to government schools from the national education budget, covering teachers' salaries and operational expenses, based on their enrolment numbers. Both government and private schools are subject to educational reviews and financial audits.

Governance of public schools is managed by the Ministry of Education. However, each school has a stakeholder committee, known as the School Committee, responsible for making decisions on individual school policies, strategic plans, and annual goals. Private schools are governed by a School Board.

The Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute (CITTI), established in 2013, offers full-time and part-time vocational programs as well as a wide range of community education courses in Rarotonga and the Pa Enua.



Early Childhood Education (ECE)

Of the 27 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers, 24 are connected to primary or area schools, two are satellite centers located away from their governing schools, and one is a stand-alone center. The satellite centers were established due to the distance to the governing schools, while the stand-alone center was originally established to cater to expatriate children.

Children aged 3 and 4 years are encouraged to attend school, though it is not compulsory. In 2023, there were a total of 372 ECE students (181 males and 191 females). The net enrolment rate compared to the estimated population of children aged 3 and 4 years is 81% (82% for males, 81% for females).

There were 22 trained teachers, all female, distributed across the regions as follows: 17 in Rarotonga, 4 in the Southern Group and 1 in the Northern Group islands. The ECE recruitment policy dictates teacher entitlements based on the number of enrolled students. Teacher aides are also employed to support ECE learning; however, some area schools resort to composite teaching where two or more, year levels are combined.

Student Performance

This table presents the distribution of Early Childhood Education (ECE) students across the regions (Rarotonga, Southern Group and Northern Group Islands), provider types (government or private), and gender for the year 2023.

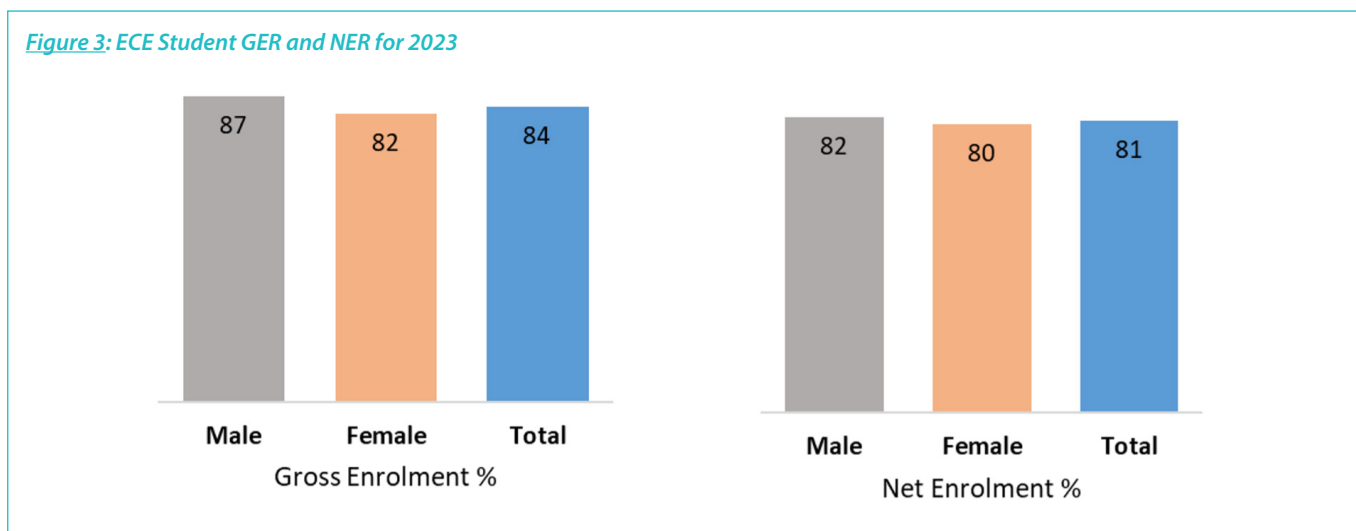
- **Overall Gender Distribution:** Across all regions and provider types, there is a slightly higher number of female students (191) compared to male students.
- **Highest enrolment:** Rarotonga has the highest number of ECE students overall, which aligns with its status as the capital and most populated region.
- **Lowest enrolment:** The Northern Group Region has the lowest number of ECE students, reflecting its lower population density and greater distance from the capital.
- **Provider Comparison:** Government providers have higher enrolment numbers compared to private providers in Rarotonga and the Southern Groups regions.

The data indicates that ECE enrolment varies significantly by region and provider type, influenced by population density and proximity to the capital. Government providers typically have higher enrolment, and gender distribution is fairly balanced, though some regions show notable differences.

Table 1: Number of ECE Students by Region, Provider and Gender for 2023

Region / Provider	Total	Male	Female
RAROTONGA	247	125	122
Government	137	68	69
Private	110	57	53
SOUTHERN GROUP	91	44	47
Government	62	33	29
Private	29	11	18
NORTHERN GROUP	34	12	22
Government	34	12	22
Private	-	-	-
COOK ISLANDS	372	181	191

For the 2023 school year, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), Net Enrolment Rate (NER), and Gender Parity Index (GPI) for Early Childhood Education (ECE) in the Cook Islands are summarized as follows:



Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

- **Male:** The GER for male students stands at 87%, indicating a high level of participation in ECE programs relative to the official age group for such education.
- **Female:** Female students have a GER of 82%, slightly lower than their male counterparts.
- **Total:** The overall GER is 84%, reflecting the proportion of all children enrolled in ECE compared to the total number of children in the official age group for ECE.

Net Enrolment Rate (NER)

- **Male:** The NER for male students is 82%, showing the percentage of children of the official ECE age group who are enrolled in ECE.
- **Female:** Female students have a NER of 80%, indicating a slightly lower actual enrolment compared to males.
- **Total:** The overall NER is 81%, which represents the percentage of the official ECE age group that is enrolled in ECE.

Gender Parity Index (GPI)

- **GER GPI:** The GPI for GER is 0.94. This value, less than 1, indicates a slight gender disparity favoring male enrolment.
- **NER GPI:** The GPI for NER is 0.98. This value, closer to 1, suggests a near parity in enrolment rates between male and female students.

Observations:

1. **High GER:** The high GER for both genders indicates robust participation in ECE programs, suggesting that children beyond the official age group are also enrolling in these programs.
2. **Balanced NER:** The NER figures show that the majority of the children within the official ECE age group are enrolled, with males having a marginally higher rate than females.
3. **Improving Gender Parity:** The GPI values show progress towards gender parity, especially in the NER, indicating efforts to balance enrolment rates between boys and girls.

These indicators are crucial for understanding the reach and inclusiveness of ECE programs in the Cook Islands, reflecting both overall participation and efforts towards gender equality in early childhood education.

Figure 4: Number of ECE Student by Region for Years 2019 -2023

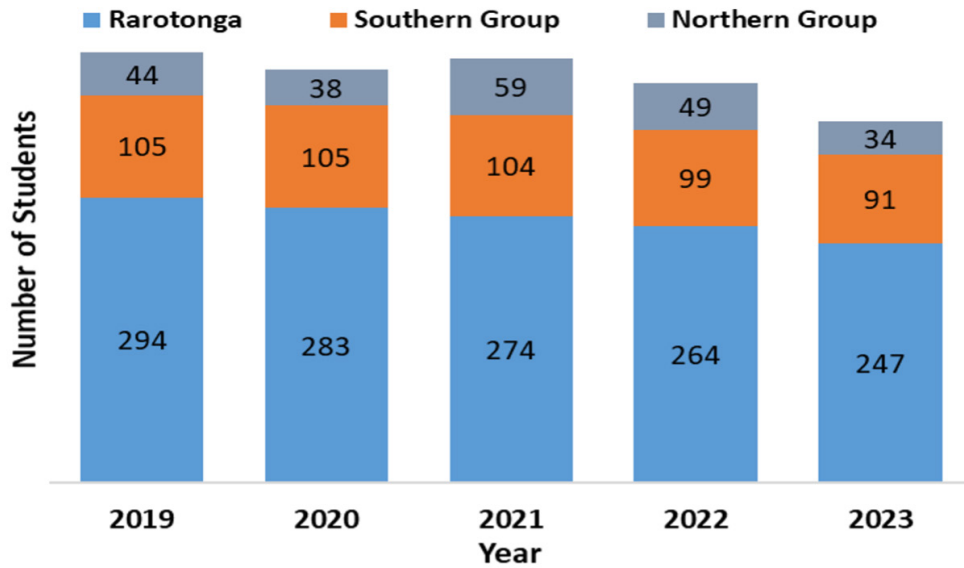


Figure 5: Student: Teacher Ratios Years 2014-2023

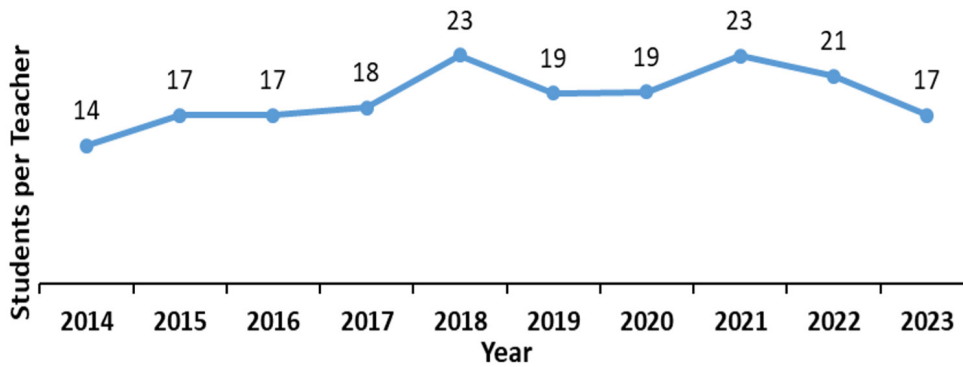


Figure 5 displays the distribution of students to a teacher for ECE since 2014.

Observations:

- Increasing trend from 2014 to 2018, there is a notable increase in the ratio, peaking at 23 in 2018.
- The ratio fluctuates from 2019 to 2023, with a drop in 2019, a return to a high in 2021, and a subsequent decline in the following years.
- The increase in the ratio up to 2018 suggests a period of higher student enrolment.
- The fluctuation from 2019 onwards may indicate increase in the number of teachers allocated to the school and reduction the overall student enrolment in the schools.

This analysis highlights the dynamic nature of student-teacher ratios and the factors that might influence these changes over time.



Personnel

Table 2 shows the distribution of Early Childhood Education (ECE) teachers (all female) and centres across three regions: Rarotonga, Southern Group, and Northern Group. Additionally, the majority of ECE centres are attached to Primary schools and Area Schools. Schools with no ECE teachers or teacher-aides, composite teaching is utilised to alleviate the teacher shortage.

Table 2: Number of ECE Teachers and Centres by Region and Provider for 2023

Region	Public Providers	Private Providers	Total Teachers	No of ECE Centres
Rarotonga	9	8	17	11
Southern Group	3	1	4	8
Northern Group	1	0	1	8
Total	13	9	22	27

Rarotonga has the highest number of teachers and centres, with 17 female teachers across 11 centres.

- **Southern Group** has 4 female teachers for 8 centres.
- **Northern Group** has 1 female teacher for 8 centres.
- The total number of female teachers is 22, while the total number of ECE centres is 27.
- The majority of these ECE centres are attached to Primary schools and Area Schools.

This data highlights the distribution of teachers relative to the number of centres, with a significant number of centres being part of larger school institutions.

Figure 7: Number of Trained ECE Teachers for Years 2019 - 2023

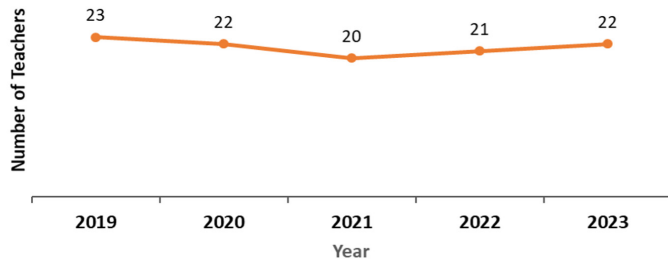
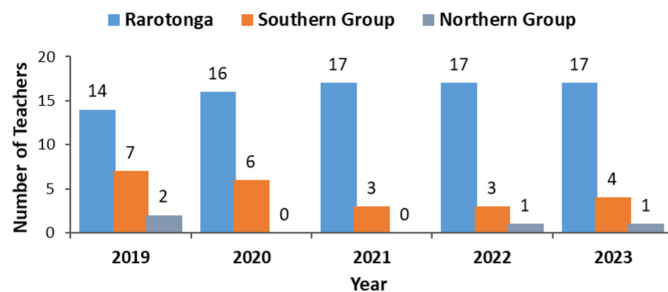


Figure 8 shows teacher trends over a period of 5 years. For Rarotonga, there is noticeable increase from 2019 to 2021, after which the number of teachers stabilized at 17.

In the Southern Group islands, the number of teachers decreased significantly from 2019 to 2021, and then remained relatively stable with a slight increase in 2023.

Teachers in the Northern Group islands dropped to zero in 2020 and 2021. There was noticeable recovery made in 2022, which then stabilized in 2023.

Figure 7: Number of ECE Trained Teachers by Region for Years 2019 - 2023



The national number of teachers showed a decreasing trend from 2019 to 2021, followed by an increase in 2022 and 2023.

Primary Education

Student Performance

Gender Distribution:

- Nationally, there are more male students (806) than female students (765).
- In Rarotonga, there are more female students than male students within the education system and vice versa for Pa Enea schools.

Provider Type:

- In Rarotonga, a larger proportion of students attend government schools (686) compared to private schools (368). Similarly, in Pa Enea, however, there is only one private provider, which is located in Aitutaki.

This data provides insights into the distribution of primary education enrolment rates across regions and genders for 2023. Rarotonga has the highest overall enrolment at 67%, 21% and 12% was noted for Southern and Northern Group respectively.

Table 3: Number of Primary Students by Region, Provider and Gender for 2023

Region and Status	Total	Male	Female
RAROTONGA	1,054	514	540
Government	686	323	363
Private	368	191	177
SOUTHERN GROUP	334	186	148
Government	266	150	116
Private	68	36	32
NORTHERN GROUP	183	106	77
Government	183	106	77
Private	-	-	-
COOK ISLANDS	1,571	806	765

Figure 7: Distribution of Primary Students by Region and Gender for 2023

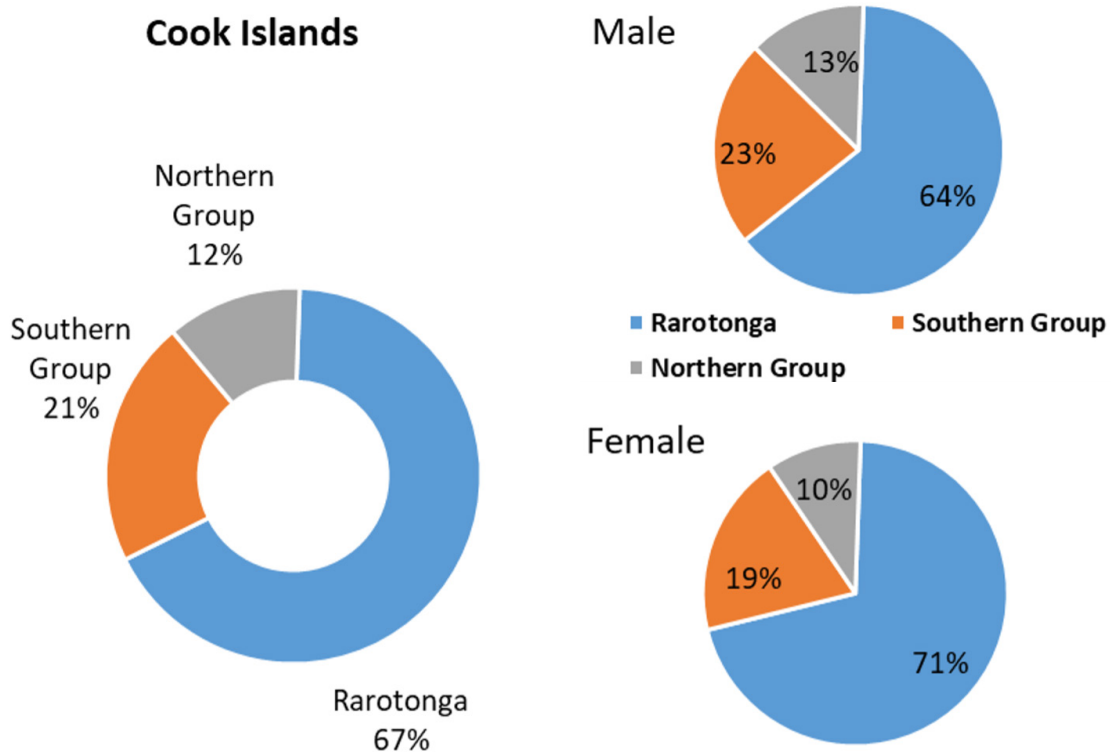
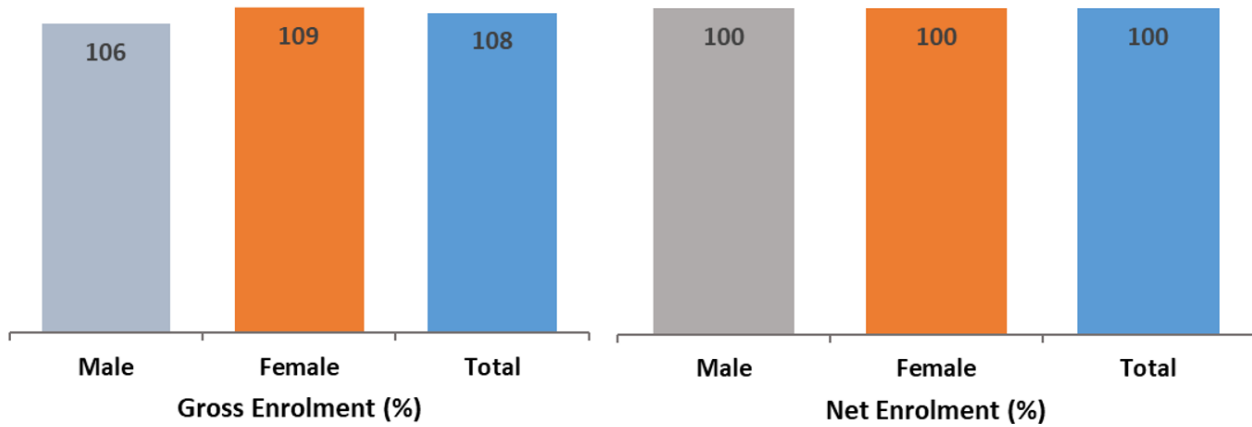


Figure 8: Primary Education GER and NER for 2023



The provided data offers insights into the enrolment rates for primary education students, highlighting both the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for 2023.

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

- **Definition:** GER is the total enrolment in primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official primary school-age population.
- **Values:**
 - Male:** 106% - This indicates that the enrolment includes under-age students, resulting in a GER over 100%.
 - Female:** 109% - Similarly to males, this indicates an inclusion under-age female students.
 - Total:** 108% - This is the combined GER for both genders.

Net Enrolment Rate (NER)

- **Definition:** NER is the enrolment of the official age group for primary education expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population.
- **Values:**
 - Male:** 100% - This shows that all children of the official primary school age group are enrolled.
 - Female:** 100% - Similarly, all girls of the official primary school age group are enrolled.
 - Total:** 100% - Indicates full enrolment of the official age group.

Interpretation and Insights:

1. **High GER:** The GER values above 100% suggest that there are students who are either younger or older than the typical age for primary education who are still enrolled. This is primarily due to the reason that schools have accepted enrolment for students who are near to the age of 3.
2. **Full Enrolment at NER:** With a NER of 100% for both males and females, it shows a high level of efficiency in getting the appropriate age group into schools, reflecting positive educational outreach and policies.
3. **Gender Parity:** Both GER and NER are similar for males and females, assuring gender parity in primary education enrolment, an essential factor in promoting gender equality in education.

Personnel

Gender Distribution: Nationally, there are significantly more female teachers (92) compared to male teachers (10). Female teachers make up approximately 90.2% of the total teaching workforce, while male teachers make up about 9.8%.

Regional Distribution: 64.7% of the teachers are based on Rarotonga, while remaining in the Pa Enua.

Table 4: Primary Teachers by Regio and Gender for 2023

Region	Female	Male	Total
Rarotonga	60	6	66
Southern Group	19	2	21
Northern Group	13	2	15
National	92	10	102

This data highlights a significant gender imbalances in primary education teaching staff, predominately a higher number of female staff across region.





Primary Education Priorities

Improving students’ achievement in literacy and numeracy remains a priority at the primary level. Programmes and resources developed include DMIC for numeracy and Cook Islands Maori Readers for Maori Reading. The national assessments for students include:

- Year 3 Numeracy
- Year 4 Literacy in Cook Islands Maori and English Reading
- Year 8 Cook Islands Maori Reading

For these assessments, the following tools are used:

- Numeracy: GloSS (Global Strategy Stage)
- Literacy: Vaitoanga Kite Tatau Maori and PM Benchmark

Schools administer these assessments during Term 4. The results are then compared to the National Literacy and Numeracy Expectations to analyze student progress.

Table 5: Year 3 National Numeracy Achievement for 2022

Region	Male	Female	Total
Cook Islands	65	73	69
Rarotonga	74	75	75
Southern Group	66	85	73
Northern Group	37	47	41

The table shows the Year 3 student numeracy proportions of students achieving at or above the national expectation level (represented as percentages).

The proportion of female students achieving at or above the national numeracy expectation level (73%) is higher than that of male students (65%). Overall, 69% of students in the Cook Islands are achieving at or above the national expectation level in numeracy.

For Rarotonga, both male and female students have high proportions of achievement, with 74% of males and 75% of females achieving at or above the national expectation level. The total proportion of students achieving the expected level in Rarotonga is the highest among the regions at 75%.

There is a significant gender disparity in the Southern Group, with 85% of female students achieving at or above the national expectation level compared to 66% of male students. The total proportion of students achieving the expected level is 73%, indicating strong performance overall, driven primarily by the high achievement of female students.

The Northern Group has the lowest proportions of students achieving at or above the national expectation level, with only 37% of male students and 47% of female students reaching the expected level. The total proportion of students achieving the expected level is 41%, indicating a need for improvement in numeracy achievements in this region.

Summary:

The data on Year 3 student numeracy achievements for 2022 by region and gender reveal several key observations:

1. **Gender Disparity:** In the Cook Islands and Southern Group, female students have higher proportions of achieving at or above the national expectation level compared to male students. The Southern Group shows a particularly large gender gap, with female students outperforming male students by 19 percentage points.

2. **Regional Disparity:** Rarotonga has the highest overall achievement rate, with 75% of students meeting or exceeding the national expectation level in numeracy. The Northern Group has the lowest achievement rate, with only 41% of students meeting or exceeding the national expectation level.

3. **Overall Performance:** The Cook Islands as a whole have a moderate achievement rate of 69%, with notable regional and gender variations. The high performance in Rarotonga contrasts sharply with the lower performance in the Northern Group, highlighting areas that may need targeted educational interventions to improve numeracy outcomes. These observations suggest a need for focused efforts to address the gender disparities in numeracy achievements, particularly in the Southern Group, and to improve overall student performance in the Northern Group.

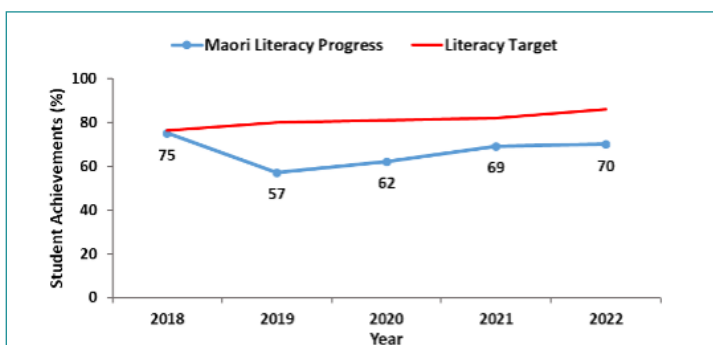
Table 6: Year 4 National Maori Achievement Rate for 2022

Region	Male	Female	Total
Cook Islands	60	80	70
Rarotonga	74	95	86
Southern Group	57	63	60
Northern Group	25	40	31

The data provided shows the Year 4 students' achievement in Maori Literacy at or above the national literacy expectations for 2022, broken down by region and gender.

The overall performance in Cook Islands Maori Literacy is 70%. Contrary, to our expectation, Pa Enua Schools had lower Maori literacy rates, mainly due to the type of assessment opted by the schools and lack of assessment tools for various dialects.

Gender Comparison: In every region, females outperform males in Maori Literacy. Cook Islands: 80% of females achieve at or above the expectation compared to 60% of males. Rarotonga: 95% of females achieve at or above the expectation compared to 74% of males. Southern Group: 63% of females achieve at or above the expectation compared to 57% of males. Northern Group: 40% of females achieve at or above the expectation compared to 25% of males.



Region: The overall achievement is 70%, with females significantly outperforming males by 20%. Rarotonga has the highest performing region with an overall achievement of 86%, and females outperforming males by 21%. The Southern Group, overall achievement is 60%, with a smaller gender gap (6%) compared to other regions.

Northern Group: The lowest performing region with an overall achievement of 31%, and females outperforming males by 15%.

To address these disparities, targeted interventions could be implemented to support male students, particularly in the Northern Group, and to raise overall literacy levels across all regions. Additionally, the Ministry is working on introducing standardised testing for Maori Literacy.



Table 7: Year 4 National Year 4 English Literacy Achievement Rate by Region and Gender for 2022

Region	Male	Female	Total
Cook Islands	34	62	48
Rarotonga	45	76	62
Southern Group	29	39	33
Northern Group	13	30	19

The data provided shows the Year 4 students' achievement in English Literacy at or above the national literacy expectations for 2022, broken down by region and gender.

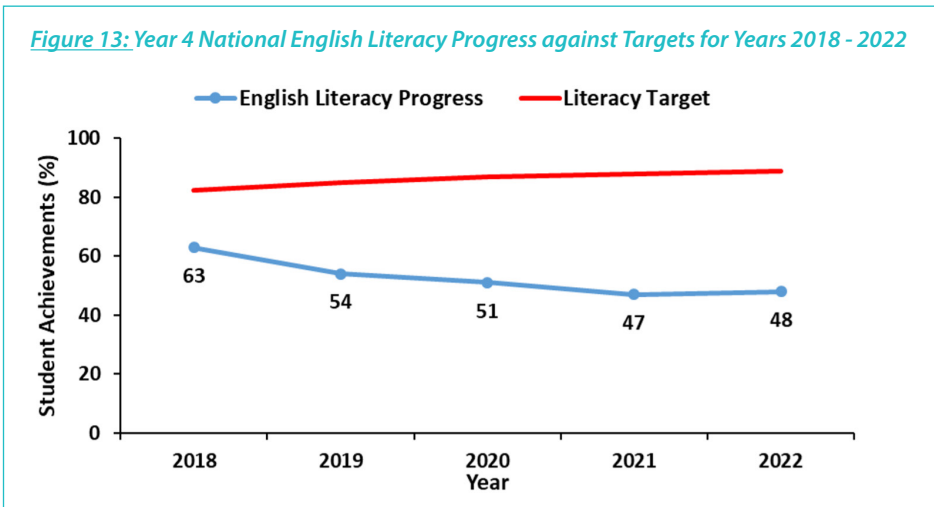
The overall performance in English Literacy across the Cook Islands is 48%, with Rarotonga having the highest overall performance at 62%.

Gender Comparison: In every region, females outperform males in English Literacy. Overall,

62% of females achieve at or above the expectation compared to 34% of males. Rarotonga: 76% of females achieve at or above the expectation compared to 45% of males. Southern Group, 39% of females achieve at or above the expectation compared to 29% of males. Northern Group: 30% of females achieve at or above the expectation compared to 13% of males.

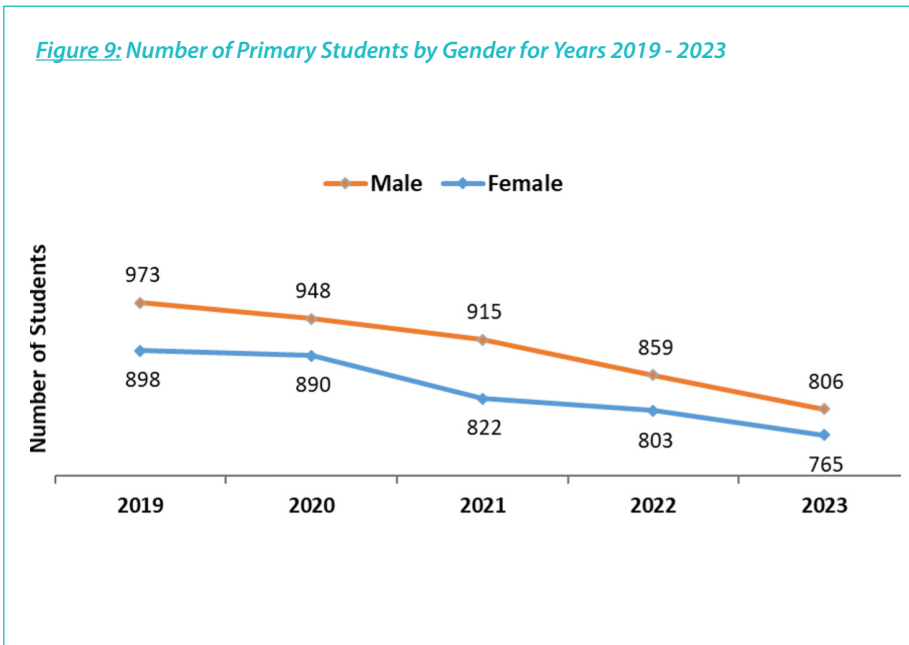
Region-Specific, the overall achievement is 48%, with females significantly outperforming males by 28%. Rarotonga, the highest performing region with an overall achievement of 62%. A similar trend was also noted for Pa Enua, where female students have achieved better rates in literacy when compared to males. To address the declining rates, there will be some strategies that will be implemented by the Ministry in year 2024, which includes standardised testing, review of curriculum and providing professional development for staff.

Figure 13: Year 4 National English Literacy Progress against Targets for Years 2018 - 2022



Primary Education Trends

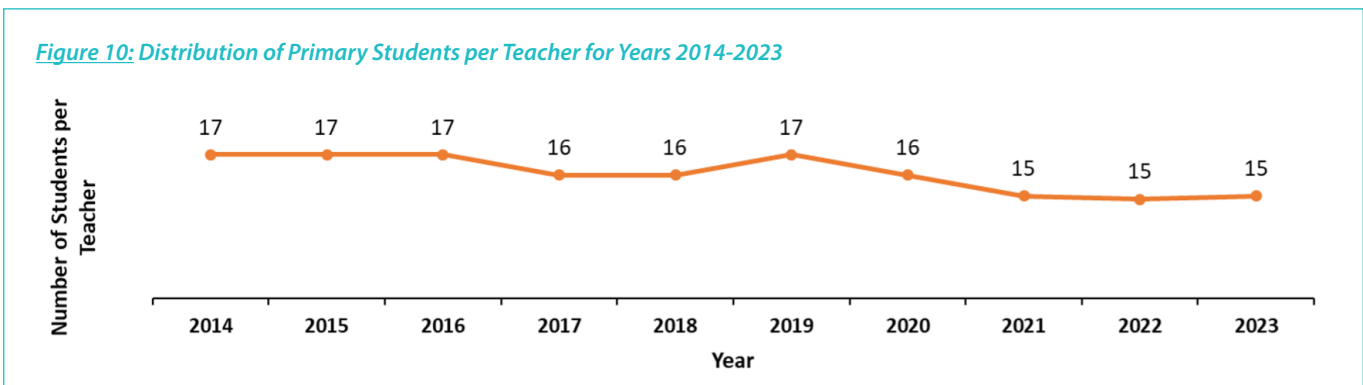
Figure 9: Number of Primary Students by Gender for Years 2019 - 2023



Overall Decline: There has been a prolonged decline in the total number of primary education students from 2019 to 2023. The total number decreased from 1,871 in 2019 to 1,571 in 2023, which is a reduction of 300 students over five years.

Gender-Specific Decline: Both male and female student numbers have decreased over the years. The number of male students decreased from 973 in 2019 to 806 in 2023, a reduction of 167 students. The number of female students decreased from 898 in 2019 to 765 in 2023, a reduction of 133 students.

Figure 10: Distribution of Primary Students per Teacher for Years 2014-2023



Gender Ratio: Throughout the years, the number of male students consistently remains higher than the number of female students.

Overall Trend: From 2014 to 2023, the primary student-teacher ratio has generally decreased. The ratio started in 2014 was 17 which is noted at 15 at the end of 2023, indicating a trend towards smaller class sizes or more teachers per student.

Decrease in Ratio: The ratio decreased from 17 to 16 in 2017 and remained at 16 through 2018. The ratio further reduced from 16 to 15 in 2021 and has remained at that level through 2023.

Summary: The primary student-teacher ratio data from 2014 to 2023 shows a general trend towards a lower ratio, indicating improvements in the student-teacher ratio over time, mainly due to natural courses. While this may suggest there has been enhancements in educational resources, more teachers being hired, decrease in the birth rates and young population would be the primary reason for this ratio.



Table 8: Primary Teachers by Region for Years 2019 - 2023

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Rarotonga	67	71	74	73	66
Southern Group	29	28	26	24	21
Northern Group	16	16	15	15	15
National	112	115	115	112	102

Overall Trend: there has been decline in the number of primary school teachers from 2021. Due to smaller numbers, school have combined students in various years for composite learning. Teacher shortage and MoE policy on staffing (based on student numbers) are other reasons for this reduction.

Regional Trends: The number of teachers for Rarotonga increased from 67 in 2019 to 74 in 2021. After 2021, the number decreased, reaching 66 in 2023, almost returning to the 2019 level. The number of teachers steadily decreased each year, from 29 in 2019 to 21 in 2023 for schools in the Southern Group. The number of teachers in the Northern Group remained relatively stable, with a slight decrease from 16 in 2019 and 2020 to 15 from 2021 onwards.

Regional Contributions to National Total: Rarotonga consistently had the highest number of teachers compared to the Southern and Northern Groups. The fluctuation in Rarotonga’s numbers had a significant impact on the national total. The decline in teacher numbers in the Southern Group is consistent and steady, contributing to the overall national decline. The Northern Group had the least variation in teacher numbers, maintaining a stable count from 2021 to 2023.

Table 9: Primary Teachers by Region for Years 2019 - 2023

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Rarotonga	20	18	16	16	16
Southern Group	13	14	14	14	16
Northern Group	11	12	12	12	12
National	17	16	15	15	15

The data shows varying trends in the proportion of students per teacher across different regions from 2019 to 2023. It can be noted that overall across the region the ratios have remained quite steady. Apart from the Southern Group where the ratio has increased from 14 to 16. Families relocating back to their home islands was noted as the main reason for increase in the number of students in some Southern Group schools, leading to reduction in the ratio.

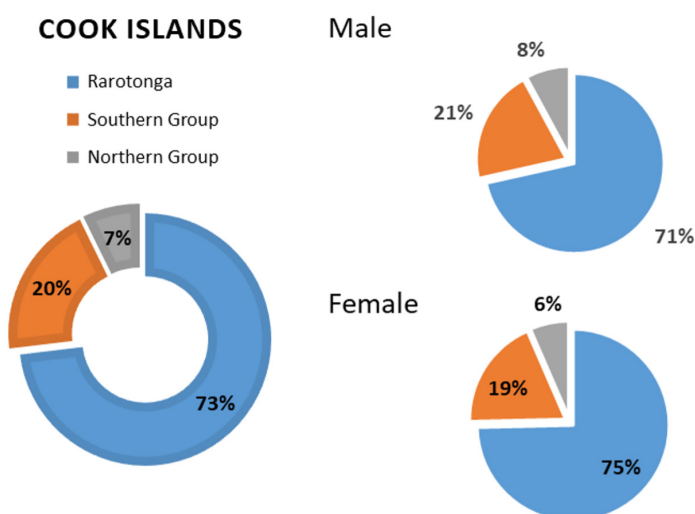
Secondary Education

Enrolment Performance

Table 10: Number of Students by Region, Provider and Gender for 2023

Region/Provider	Total	Male	Female
RAROTONGA	1,369	660	709
Government	1,055	483	572
Private	314	177	137
SOUTHERN GROUP	369	190	179
Government	369	190	179
Private	-	-	-
NORTHERN GROUP	135	73	62
Government	135	73	62
Private	-	-	-
NATIONAL	1,873	923	950

Figure 14: Distribution of Secondary Students by Region and Gender for 2023



Total Students by Region:

Rarotonga: 1,369 students, with a higher number of female students (709) compared to male students (660). On the other hand, with Southern Group: 369 students, with males (190) slightly outnumbering females (179), while Northern Group: 135 students, with males (73) slightly outnumbering females (62).

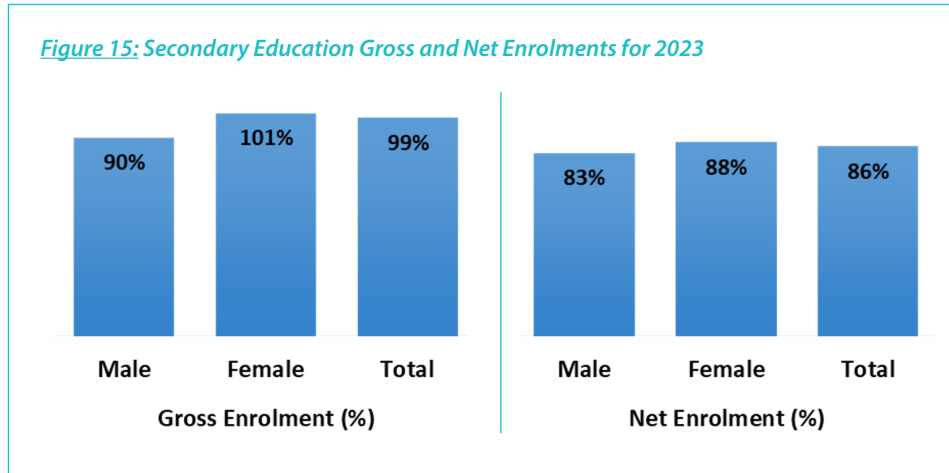
1. Government vs. Private Providers:

Rarotonga: Government schools have 1,055 students (483 males and 572 females). Private schools have 314 students (177 males and 137 females). Southern Group: All 369 students are in government schools. Northern Group: All 135 students are in government schools.

2. Gender Distribution:

Nationally, there are more female students (950) than male students (923), however there is a slight difference noted between the genders. Rarotonga has more female students in secondary schools when compared to overall Pa Enua where more male student when compared to female students was noted within the secondary education system.

Overall, Rarotonga remains the dominant region for secondary education, with more than 70% of the total secondary students. The Southern Group and Northern Group together account for approximately 26.91% of the secondary students, with the Southern Group having a higher proportion compared to the Northern Group.



Gross Enrolment (GER) Gender Disparity; the enrolment ratio for females (101%) is higher than that for males (90%). This indicates that a larger proportion of the eligible female population is enrolled in secondary education compared to the male population. The enrolment ratio exceeding 100% for females suggests that some students are older or younger than the typical age group for secondary education, indicating late or early enrolments or students repeating grades.

Overall enrolment; the total gross enrolment ratio of 99% indicates that almost the entire eligible population for secondary education is enrolled, which is due to compulsory education (up to the age of 16) mandate through the Education Act (2012).

Net Enrolments (NER) Gender Disparity; females (88%) is higher than that for males (83%). This indicates that a larger proportion of the eligible female population of the appropriate age group is enrolled in secondary education compared to their male counterparts.



Personnel

Table 11: Number of Secondary Teachers by Region, Provider and Gender for 2023

Region	Female	Male	Total
Rarotonga	46	36	82
Southern Group	20	10	30
Northern Group	5	2	7
National	71	48	119

Overall, there are a total of 119 teachers. The majority of teachers are female (71) compared to male teachers (48).

The Southern Group has a total of 30 teachers, with 20 females and 10 males. The Northern Group has the fewest teachers, totalling 7, with 5 females and 2 males.

Gender Ratio, in all regions, female teachers outnumber male teachers. The ratio of female to male teachers is roughly 3:2 overall (71 females to 48 males).

Concentration of Teachers: Rarotonga has a significantly higher concentration of teachers compared to the Southern and Northern Groups. The Southern Group has more than four times the number of teachers compared to the Northern Group.

Table 12: Number of Secondary Teachers for Years 2019 - 2023

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Rarotonga	84	86	72	85	82
Southern Group	30	31	32	32	30
Northern Group	9	5	5	6	7
National	123	122	109	123	119

The table shows the trend in the number of secondary teachers in various regions from 2019 to 2023. Key observations and trends:

Overall National Trend: The total number of secondary teachers nationwide has fluctuated over the past five years.

These fluctuations are driven by the subjects offered by schools, leading to changes in the recruitment of teachers. Teacher shortage and reduction in student numbers are the other reasons for these fluctuations.

Table 13: Proportion of Students per Teachers for Years 2019 - 2023

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Rarotonga	16	16	19	16	17
Southern Group	13	13	13	13	12
Northern Group	14	23	26	22	19



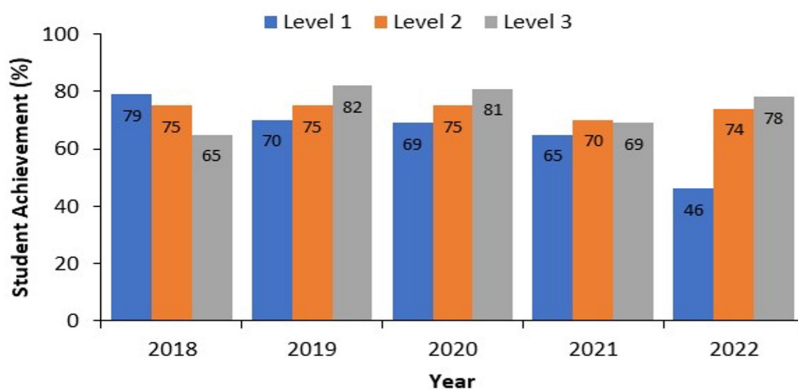
National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA)

Cook Islands uses the New Zealand Qualification of National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) as the senior secondary national qualification. The qualification has three levels of attainment which aligns to the final three years of secondary school.

National NCEA Achievement for Years 2018 - 2022

NCEA results by participation include only those students who are enrolled in a programme of study and have enough credits to qualify for the award of their respective qualification. In contrast, results by enrolment encompass all students engaged in a programme of study, regardless of whether they have met the criteria for achieving the qualification.

Figure 16: National NCEA Results by Enrolment for Years 2018 - 2022



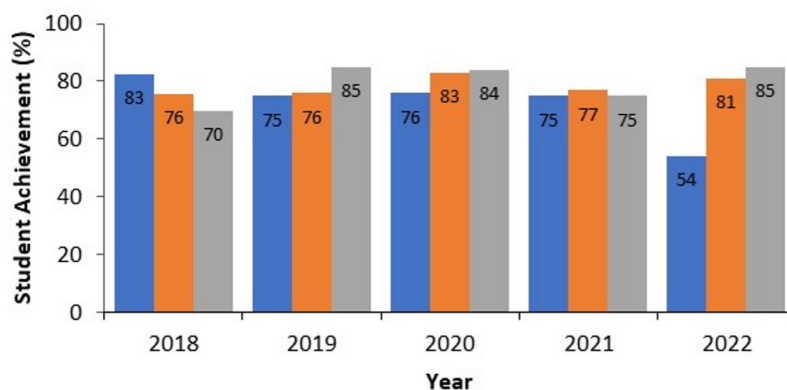
Results by Participation

NCEA Level 1: There has been a sharp decrease in 2022 was recorded due to the changes in the NCEA assessment.

NCEA Level 2: Participation has been relatively stable with a slight improvement over the years.

NCEA Level 3: After a significant boost in 2019, participation rates have remained relatively high.

Figure 17: National NCEA Results by Participation for Years 2018 - 2022



Results by Enrolment

NCEA Level 1: There has been a sharp decrease in 2022 was recorded due to the changes in the NCEA assessment.

NCEA Level 2: Achievement rates have been relatively stable, with minor fluctuations. The overall trend indicates a slight improvement in recent years.

NCEA Level 3: Despite some fluctuations, the achievement rates at Level 3 remains steady over the years.



National NCEA Achievement Progress for Years 2018 - 2022

Figure 18: NCEA Level 1 Achievement Progress for Years 2018 - 2022

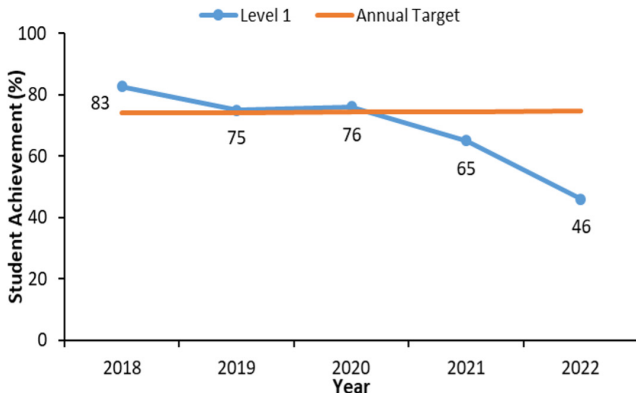


Figure 19: NCEA Level 2 Achievement Progress for Years 2018 - 2022

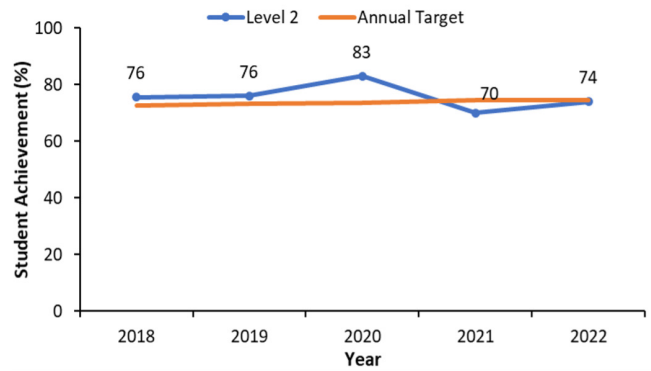


Figure 20: NCEA Level 3 Achievement Progress for Years 2018 - 2022

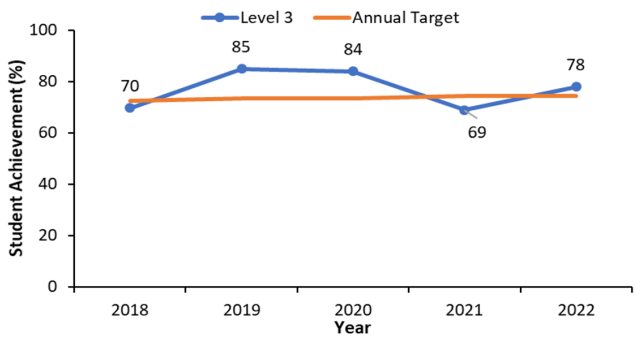


Figure 21: Cook Islands Maori Literacy Progress for Years 2018 - 2022

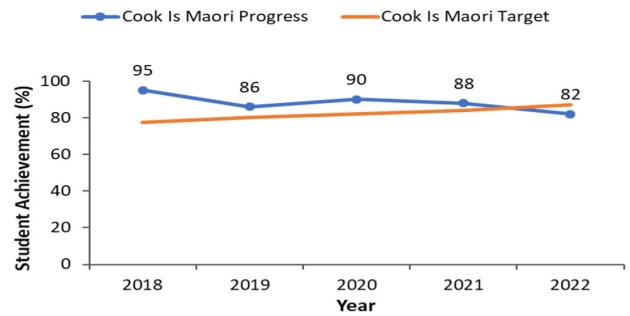
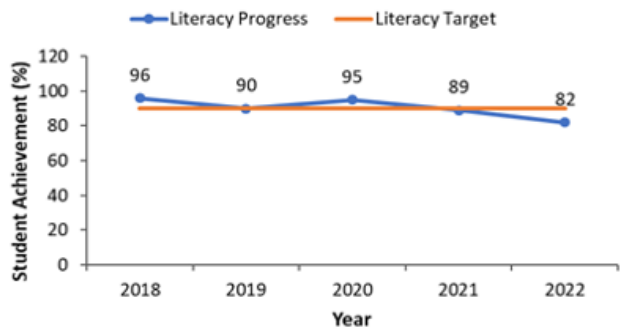


Figure 22: Literacy Progress for Years 2018 - 2022



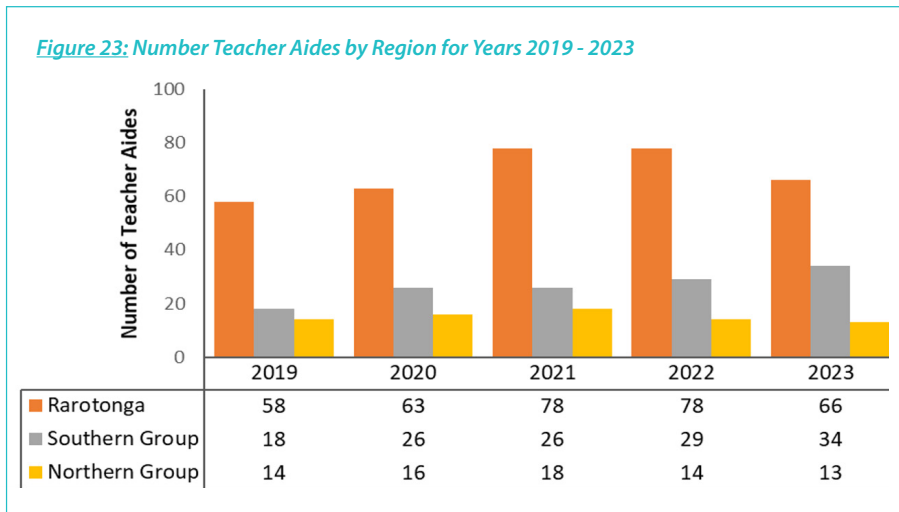


Inclusive Education

Teacher Aides includes:

1. One on one teacher aides – working with one student with an individual education plan (IEP).
2. Group teacher aides – providing remedial learning support to a group of students in one-year level in assistance of teacher.
3. School support teacher aides – providing resource support and assistance across learning programmes.

Figure 23: Number Teacher Aides by Region for Years 2019 - 2023



Cook Islands Government Scholarship Scheme

Te Reinga Akataunga'anga, the revised scholarship and study support programme of the Cook Islands Government, administered by the Ministry of Education was developed in the later part of 2016 and implemented from 2017. It has allowed many more Cook Islanders to access tertiary studies both domestically and abroad. Using a model of "reverse scholarship", student loans will be repaid within two years once the learner returns to the Cook Islands at the end of their study.

Over the last five years, majority of the receipts of the scholarship and study support has been females in comparison to the males and by the end of year 2023 we have 41 students completing their studies and returning to Cook Islands. The table below illustrates the number of graduates over the years in various programmes

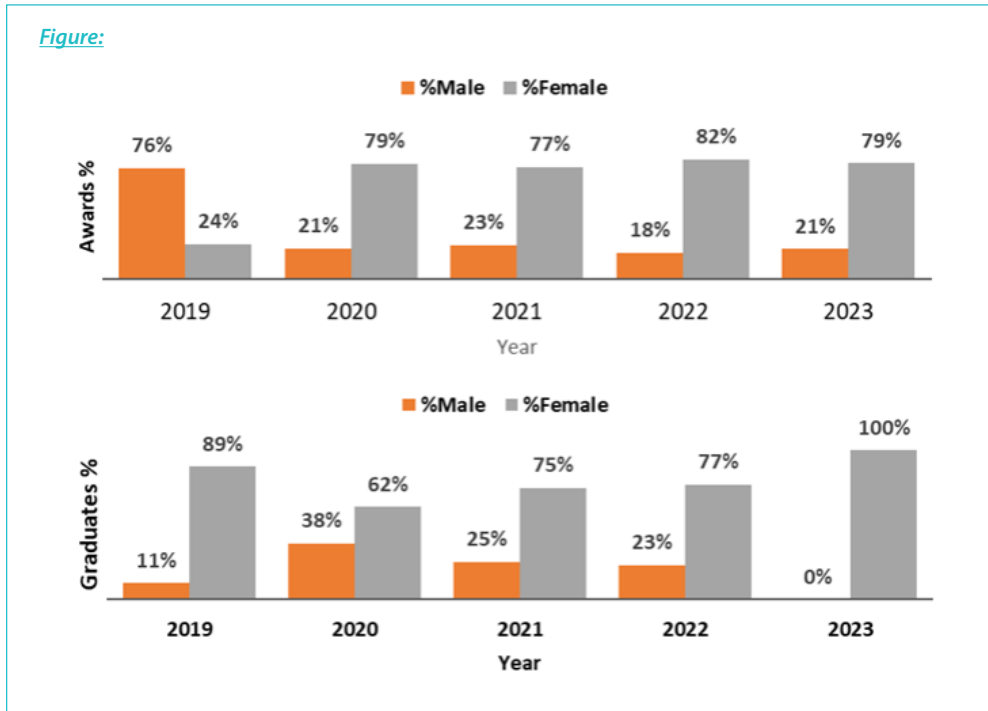
Table:

Programme	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Masters Degree	1	-	1	1	1
Post Graduate Diploma	7	-	-	1	
Bachelors Degree	-	7	6	9	3
Diploma	-	1	-	2	
Certificate	1	-	-	-	
Total	9	8	7	13	4





The graph below illustrates the awards that has been granted by gender over the last five years with the students completing and graduating.



Tertiary Education

Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute - 2023 Number of Student Enrolments by Qualification

Qualification	Enrolment				
	Credits	Female	Male	Total	EFTS
NZ Cert in Automotive Engineering - Level 3	120	4	22	26	26
NZ Cert in BCATS - Level 3	40	2	23	25	8
NZ Cert in Business - First Line Management	60	22	5	27	14
NZ Cert in Business - Intro to Team Leadership	48	13	13	26	10
NZ Cert in Cookery - Level 3	40	3	6	9	3
NZ Cert in Electric Vehicles - Level 5	70		6	6	4
NZ Cert in Electrical - Level 3	120		43	43	43
NZ Cert in Plumbing - Level 3	70		5	5	3
Total		44	123	167	111

The table indicates the types of courses offered at the Cook Islands Trades and Tertiary Institute (CITTI) between January to December 2023. A total of 167 students or 111 Equivalent full-time students were actively enrolled in the programmes offered at CITTI.

139 students have completed their programme and the remaining will be continuing in year 2024.



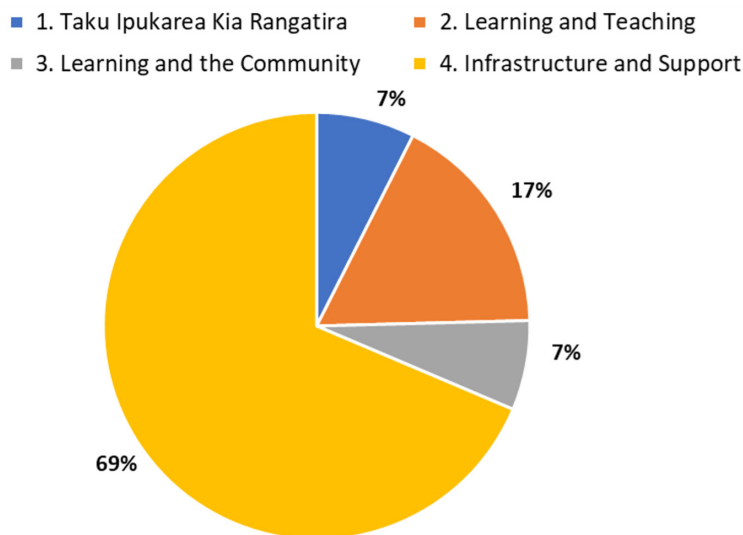


Ministry Of Education Budget

Table 14: 2022/2023 Education Budget by Output (\$NZ,000)

Output	Fiscal Year 2022/2023		
	Gross Appropriation	Administered Payments	Total
1. Taku Ipukarea Kia Rangatira	565,398	941,180	1,506,578
2. Learning and Teaching	890,146	2,564,397	3,454,543
3. Learning and the Community	604,458	764,627	1,369,085
4. Infrastructure and Support	13,044,461	800,952	13,845,413
Total	15,104,463	5,071,156	20,175,619

Figure 24: 2022/2023 Education Budget Distribution (%) by Output



The MoE Appropriation was allocated as follows:

- 1. 7% for output area Taku Ipukarea Kia Rangatira** - to support the growth of the cultural and creative programmes within the schools.
- 2. 17% towards Learning and Teaching** - to support parital personnel cost and resources that enhances programmes delivered within the schools.
- 3. 7% for Learning and Community programmes** - that supports inclusive education, Te Kakaia and inter-agency collaboration for tertiary education programmes.
- 4. 69% towards Infrastructure and Support** - Given that the Ministry utilises centralised model to manage personnel, training & development, health & safety and ICT equipment expenses.

Table 15: Education Administered Payments and Capital Expenditure

Description	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Tertiary Training Institutions	759,855	759,855	1,209,855	1,160,000	1,160,000	1,160,000
University of the South Pacific (Subsidies)	285,000	205,000	205,000	205,000	205,000	205,000
Government Funded Scholarships	910,000	660,400	660,400	780,000	780,000	780,000
Private School Funding	2,147,027	2,229,709	2,510,709	2,510,709	2,663,277	2,663,277
Center of Research and Policy Studies		80,000	-	-	-	-
Center of Excellence in Information Technology		150,000	-	-	-	-
Bus Service	-	-	26,325	26,325	26,325	26,325
Capital Budget	360,000	-	360,000	360,000	447,000	333,471

Table 16: Education Budget as Percentage of Nominal GDP

Year	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Government Appropriation to Ministry of Education	\$18,432,237	18,857,622	19,588,429	20,130,303	19,895,611	19,706,773	19,559,773	20,175,619
Nominal GDP	\$418,364,000	427,310,000	447,269,000	458,222,000	496,800,000	472,518,000	483,987,000	517,410,000
%	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.9





Appendix

Appendix 1: Schools in the Cook Islands by Region, Island, Status & Education Level - 2023

REGION	ISLAND	SCHOOL STATUS	EDUCATION LEVELS
Rarotonga	Rarotonga	Government:	
		- Apii Arorangi	ECE – Year 8
		- Apii Avarua	ECE – Year 8
		- Apii Nikao	ECE – Year 8
		- Apii Rutaki	ECE – Year 6
		- Apii Takitumu	ECE – Year 6
		- Tereora College	Year 9 – Year 13
		- Titikaveka College	Year 7 – Year 11
		- Cook Islands Tertiary Institute	Adult Education
		Private – Church:	
		- Imanuela Akatemia	ECE – Year 13
		- Nukutere College	Year 7 – Year 11
		- Papaaroa Adventist School	ECE – Year 10
		- St Joseph's Primary	ECE – Year 6
		Private – Independent:	
		- Apii Te Uki Ou	ECE – Year 9
		- Blackrock Apii Potiki	ECE
- The Creative Centre	Adult Inclusive Education		
Southern Group			
	Aitutaki	Government:	
		- Apii Araura	ECE – Year 6
		- Araura College	Year 7 – Year 13
		- Apii Vaitau	ECE – Year 6
	Atiu	Private – Church:	
		- Tekaaroa Adventist School	ECE – Year 6
	Mangaia	Government:	
		- Mangaia School (ECE satellite unit at Ivirua)	ECE – Year 13
	Mauke	Government:	
		- Apii Mauke	ECE – Year 11
Mitiaro	Government:		
	- Apii Mitiaro	ECE – Year 10	
Northern Group			
	Manihiki	Government:	
		- Apii Ruamanu	ECE – Year 10
		- Apii Tukao	ECE – Year 10
	Nassau	Government:	
		- Apii Nassau	ECE – Year 11
	Palmerston	Government:	
		- Lucky School (Governed by the Island Administration)	ECE – Year 12
	Penrhyn	Government:	
		- Apii Omoka	ECE – Year 10
		- Apii Tetautua	ECE – Year 9
	Pukapuka	Government:	
		- Apii Niua	ECE – Year 10
	Rakahanga	Government:	
- Apii Rakahanga		ECE – Year 9	



Appendix 2: 2023 - Number of Students by Region, School, and Year Level

Region	ECE	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Primary	Secondary	Total
RAROTONGA	247	135	168	174	191	171	215	218	223	219	223	191	144	151	1,054	1,369	2,670
Apii Arorangi	7	5	10	13	9	7	13	18	18	-	-	-	-	-	57	36	100
Apii Avarua	49	28	41	34	31	35	47	46	59	-	-	-	-	-	216	105	370
Apii Nikao	38	33	35	33	44	40	43	49	44	-	-	-	-	-	228	93	359
Apii Rutaki	12	5	12	10	17	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	69
Apii Takitumu	31	19	21	22	21	18	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128	-	159
Apii Te Uki Ou	25	14	22	20	29	30	27	47	33	6	-	-	-	-	142	86	253
Blackrock Apii Potiki	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Imanuela Akatemia	13	6	5	8	9	5	4	4	5	9	4	3	1	4	37	30	80
Nukutere College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	36	34	28	27	-	-	-	157	157
Papaaroa Adventist School	11	7	6	15	14	9	18	11	12	9	9	-	-	-	69	41	121
St Joseph's Primary	24	18	16	19	17	24	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	-	144
Tereora College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139	166	145	143	147	-	740	740
Titikaveka College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	16	22	16	16	-	-	-	81	81
SOUTHERN GROUP	91	53	64	47	54	58	58	60	55	73	60	58	48	15	334	369	794
Apii Araura	14	9	22	13	14	11	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	-	103
Apii Enuamanu	10	10	7	5	5	4	6	10	5	5	5	5	6	4	37	40	87
Apii Mauke	3	5	2	3	8	5	4	3	5	2	3	3	-	-	27	16	46
Apii Mitiaro	4	3	1	2	2	4	3	6	3	3	3	-	-	-	15	15	34
Apii Vaitau	15	3	14	14	8	10	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	75
Araura College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	35	50	33	38	30	1	-	221	221
Mangaia School	16	6	7	3	9	7	6	7	7	13	16	12	12	10	38	77	131
Teakaaroa Adventist School	29	17	11	7	8	17	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	-	97
NORTHERN GROUP	34	23	36	25	33	28	38	33	29	34	35	3	1	-	183	135	352
Apii Nassau	9	3	3	2	5	3	3	2	4	2	2	2	-	-	19	12	40
Apii Niua	13	12	20	11	15	17	14	15	12	20	22	-	-	-	89	69	171
Apii Rakahanga	3	-	1	2	2	1	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	8	4	15
Apii Ruamanu	2	5	7	1	5	1	7	7	1	2	2	-	-	-	26	12	40
Apii Tukao	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	4	-	4	1	-	-	-	5	9	14
Lucky School	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	3	1	1	-	4	6	10
Omoka School	7	3	1	8	4	2	7	3	8	4	5	-	-	-	25	20	52
Tetautua School	-	-	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	3	10
COOK ISLANDS	372	211	268	246	278	257	311	311	307	326	318	252	193	166	1,571	1,873	3,816



Appendix

Appendix 3: 2023 - Student Enrolment by Age, Sex and Level

Age Level	TOTAL STUDENT ENROLMENT																	Total
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19+	
ECE	149	208	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	372
Year 1	-	17	159	34	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	211
Year 2	-	-	69	177	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	268
Year 3	-	-	-	53	176	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	246
Year 4	-	-	-	-	56	210	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	278
Year 5	-	-	-	-	1	42	191	21	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	257
Year 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	223	19	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	311
Year 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	69	232	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	311
Year 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	246	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	307
Year 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	73	236	15	-	-	-	-	-	326
Year 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	54	229	31	3	-	-	-	318
Year 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	184	20	1	-	-	252
Year 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	127	24	2	1	193
Year 13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	117	10	2	166
Total	149	225	243	264	256	269	270	314	307	331	297	293	254	187	142	12	3	3,816

Age Level	FEMALE																	Total
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19+	
ECE	87	99	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	191
Year 1	-	10	75	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102
Year 2	-	-	31	92	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	135
Year 3	-	-	-	34	87	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131
Year 4	-	-	-	-	32	93	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	127
Year 5	-	-	-	-	1	18	97	15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	132
Year 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	99	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138
Year 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	39	111	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	153
Year 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	135
Year 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	50	115	6	-	-	-	-	-	173
Year 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	105	11	1	-	-	-	140
Year 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	104	9	1	-	-	142
Year 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	67	12	2	1	105
Year 13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	72	6	2	102
Total	87	109	111	143	132	121	128	153	144	167	138	140	138	99	85	8	3	1,906

Age Level	MALE																	Total
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19+	
ECE	62	109	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181
Year 1	-	7	84	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
Year 2	-	-	38	85	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	133
Year 3	-	-	-	19	89	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115
Year 4	-	-	-	-	24	117	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	151
Year 5	-	-	-	-	-	24	94	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	125
Year 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	124	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	173
Year 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	121	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	158
Year 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	132	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	172
Year 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	121	9	-	-	-	-	-	153
Year 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	31	124	20	2	-	-	-	178
Year 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	80	11	-	-	-	110
Year 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	60	12	-	-	88
Year 13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	45	4	-	64
Total	62	116	132	121	124	148	142	161	163	164	159	153	116	88	57	4	-	1,910



Appendix 4: Student Enrolment by Level Years 2014 – 2023

Year	ECE	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
2014	460	374	277	302	321	271	298	286	270	283	277	280	211	111	4,021
2015	514	280	321	298	311	309	270	283	282	274	267	247	222	149	4,027
2016	528	307	301	309	307	327	307	271	288	275	261	258	176	156	4,071
2017	516	255	335	314	311	311	312	314	283	283	275	263	191	135	4,098
2018	485	290	308	300	330	343	322	309	312	263	289	257	195	156	4,159
2019	443	274	293	320	312	345	327	322	317	301	262	278	197	142	4,133
2020	426	268	264	327	321	330	328	326	314	307	304	238	205	150	4,108
2021	437	239	284	259	326	315	314	326	321	298	301	295	190	166	4,071
2022	412	254	232	286	250	324	316	291	332	310	302	273	226	122	3,930
2023	372	211	268	246	278	257	311	311	307	326	318	252	193	166	3,816



Appendix

Appendix 5: 2023 - Personnel by School and Region

School	Teachers			Principal			Ancillary Staff				Volunteers	CITI	CTT	Total Staff
	ECE	Primary	Secondary	ECE	Primary	Secondary	Administration and Property	Teacher Aide (Student Support)	Teacher Aide (School Support)					
Rarotonga	16	59	77	1	7	5	22	46	20	-	-	1	3	257
Apii Arorangi	1	3	2	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	12
Apii Avarua	2	12	4	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	23
Apii Nikao	3	15	1	-	1	-	2	6	4	-	-	-	-	32
Apii Rutaki	-	3	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	9
Apii Takitumu	3	6	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	3	-	17
Apii Te Uki Ou	3	9	5	-	1	-	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	30
Blackrock Apii Potiki	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4
Imanuela Akatemia	1	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	7	-	-	-	-	14
Nukutere College	-	-	7	-	-	1	1	17	-	-	-	-	-	26
Papaarua Adventist Sch.	-	3	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
St Joseph's Primary	2	6	-	-	1	-	1	5	2	-	-	-	-	17
Tereora College	-	-	47	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	52
Titikaveka College	-	-	7	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	12
Southern Group	4	18	25	-	3	5	11	19	15	-	3	-	-	103
Apii Araura	1	5	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	11
Apii Enuamanu	-	2	3	-	-	1	1	2	6	-	2	-	-	17
Apii Mauke	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	9
Apii Mitiaro	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	6
Apii Vaitau	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	9
Araura College	-	-	14	-	-	1	3	4	2	-	-	-	-	24
Mangaia School	1	3	7	-	-	1	2	4	2	-	1	-	-	21
Tekaarua Adventist Sch.	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
Northern Group	1	12	4	-	3	3	6	2	11	3	-	-	1	46
Apii Niua	-	5	4	-	-	1	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	17
Apii Rakahanga	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	5
Apii Ruamanu	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	1	6
Lucky School	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	6
Nassau School	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Omoka School	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Tetautua School	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tukao	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Grand Total	21	89	106	1	13	13	39	67	46	3	3	1	4	406

* Concurrent Teacher Trainees ** Cook Islands Tertiary Institute









COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Education

Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

