

Tertiary Education Report: Fees-free demographic data as at August 2018

Date:	26 October 2018	TEC priority:	Medium
Security level:	In Confidence	Report no:	B/18/00761
		Minister's office No:	

ACTION SOUGHT		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister of Education	note the demographic data on fees-free learners collected from August 2018 enrolment data submitted by tertiary education organisations in the Single Data Return, Industry Training Register and manual fees-free enrolment returns.	At your earliest convenience
Enclosure: Yes	Round Robin: Yes	

CONTACT FOR TELEPHONE DISCUSSION (IF REQUIRED)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
9(2)(a)	Manager - Delivery and Projects	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
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THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES HAVE SEEN THIS REPORT

- DPMC
 MPI
 ENZ
 ERO
 MBIE
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 MFAT
 MPP
 MSD
 NZQA
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 TEC
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 Treasury

- Minister's Office to Complete:**
 Approved
 Declined
 Noted
 Needs change
 Seen
 Overtaken by Events
 See Minister's Notes
 Withdrawn

Comments:

Recommendations

Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

It is recommended that you:

1. **note** the demographic data on fees-free learners collected from August 2018 enrolment data submitted by tertiary education organisations in the Single Data Return, Industry Training Register and manual fees-free enrolment returns.

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Manager – Delivery and Projects
Tertiary Education Commission

26 October 2018

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister of Education

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Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with demographic data on fees-free students and trainees, sourced from tertiary education organisation (TEO) enrolment data, collected as at August 2018.

Background

2. In August 2018 we provided you with fees-free demographic data as at April 2018 [B/18/00460 refers].
3. This paper does not make any comment on learner motivations or behaviour regarding their enrolment in tertiary education.

TEOs submit most enrolment data to the TEC through two data collection systems based on fund and TEO type

4. For tertiary providers enrolment data is collected through the Single Data Return (SDR) three times a year. For industry training organisations (ITOs) enrolment data is collected monthly through the Industry Training Register (ITR).
5. Although fees-free data is submitted monthly through a separate bespoke manual process, we can only verify and do comparisons with all enrolment data three times a year when the SDR is submitted as at April, August and December.

There were 41,700 students and trainees enrolled in fees-free eligible qualifications as at August 2018

6. As at August 2018 there were 41,700 eligible students and trainees enrolled in fees-free across all TEOs [B/18/00704 refers]. This is a 25% increase from April where there were 33,300 eligible students and trainees enrolled in fees-free across all TEO.
7. The August fees-free enrolments include approximately 600 learners that are enrolled at multiple TEOs. However, these individuals have only been counted once in the August fees-free figure above. The August figure excludes 500 learners that are enrolled in qualifications that were already 'fees free' prior to the introduction of the fees-free policy. While these learners' fees are not paid through the fees-free appropriation they are consuming any future fees-free entitlement.
8. The total fees-free enrolment figures provided to you in April (33,300) and in August (41,700) have been rounded to the nearest hundred. However to enable us to undertake the fees-free specific demographic analysis we use detailed fees-free enrolment figures. The December enrolment returns will provide the definitive number of fees-free enrolments when they are submitted in January 2019 for providers. For ITOs, these numbers will not be complete until after 31 March as is the regular process.

Younger learners are the main recipients of fees-free

9. Most people enrolled in fees-free are 19 years old or under – 79.3% in Student Achievement Component (SAC) and 58.1% in the Industry Training Fund (ITF). Table One below indicates that the age profile of initial fees-free enrolments differs quite significantly from the current profile of all enrolments in both SAC and ITF.
10. Most enrolments are coming from people who finished school very recently, most likely in 2017 (the 'up to 19 years' age band). Older learners are less likely to meet the eligibility criteria to receive fees-free.

Table One: Fees-free August 2018 enrolments by age compared to all enrolments¹

Age band	SAC Level 3+				ITF			
	All students		Fees-free students		All learners		Fees-free learners	
	Students	Proportion	Students	Proportion	Learners	Proportion	Learners	Proportion
Up to 19 years	57,464	19.6%	30,735	79.3%	9,839	9.8%	1495	58.1%
20 – 24 years	90,411	30.9%	4,313	11.1%	24,669	24.5%	471	18.3%
25 – 34 years	65,107	22.3%	1,649	4.3%	31,291	31.1%	363	14.1%
35 – 44 years	39,041	13.3%	1,060	2.7%	15,539	15.4%	166	6.5%
45 – 54 years	26,506	9.1%	747	1.9%	11,952	11.9%	61	2.4%
55 years and over	13,943	4.8%	251	0.6%	7,385	7.3%	16	0.6%
Total	292,472	100.0%	38,755	100.0%	79,393	100.0%	2,572	100.0%

European learners are the main recipients of fees-free

11. Table Two has a breakdown of data by ethnicity. It shows that a higher proportion of fees-free enrolments identify as European (71.1% in SAC and 78.9% in ITF) when compared with the proportion of all enrolments that identify as European (66.2% in SAC and 61.0% in ITF).
12. In the briefing on April data [B/18/00460 refers] we noted that a lower proportion of Māori are accessing fees-free in SAC compared to the overall proportion of all Māori SAC enrolments. This remains at similar proportions although the gap has closed slightly – 17.1% (15.8% in April) of the students accessing fees-free in SAC identify as Māori compared to 21.2% (20.1% in April) of all Māori SAC enrolments. The ITF Māori fees-free enrolments remain similar to all Māori enrolments.
13. Pasifika proportions in both SAC and ITF enrolments for fees-free are similar to all Pasifika enrolments and in the case of SAC is slightly increased.
14. The only notable difference is that Asian ITF enrolments account for 11.5% of all learner enrolments but only 2.8% of fees-free enrolments. This will reflect the fact that migrants can

¹ The figures in paragraph six are rounded. Table One totals 41,327 (SAC levels 3 and above – 38,755 and Industry Training Fund – 2,572). This is slightly lower than the rounded figure due to the exclusion of students that have accessed fees-free entitlement under Youth Guarantee.

access industry training, and the high number of Asian trainees in the aged care and support sector.

Table Two: Fees-free August 2018 enrolments by ethnicity compared to all enrolments

Ethnicity	SAC Level 3+				ITF			
	All students		Fees-free students		All learners		Fees-free learners	
	Students	Proportion	Students	Proportion	Learners	Proportion	Learners	Proportion
Asian	49,743	17.0%	6,004	15.5%	11,582	11.5%	72	2.8%
European	193,703	66.2%	27,574	71.1%	61,405	61.0%	2030	78.9%
Māori	62,044	21.2%	6,628	17.1%	17,484	17.4%	459	17.8%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	9,057	3.1%	992	2.6%	1,966	2.0%	48	1.9%
Pacific Peoples	28,066	9.6%	4,556	11.8%	8,119	8.1%	168	6.5%
Other Ethnicity	8,156	2.8%	723	1.9%	1,801	1.8%	15	0.6%
Unknown	2,139	0.7%	494	1.3%	3,608	3.6%	43	1.7%
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes: Learners can be counted up to three times if they have disclosed three ethnicities (therefore the totals in this table have not been included as they overstate total enrolments).

The SAC enrolment ethnicities above only relate to domestic students and does not include international students.

15. Further information on Māori and Pasifika enrolments by age are detailed in Appendix One. The Māori age fees-free enrolments profile is similar to that of the all ethnicities age fees-free enrolments profile in Table Two with the majority of enrolments in younger age bands.

16. The fees-free Māori enrolments age profile does not match the age profile for all SAC Māori enrolments. All Māori enrolments are spread across the different age bands with half of all students aged 20 to 34 and only 16.7% of enrolments in the up to 19 years age bracket.

Gender fees-free splits in SAC align to all SAC enrolments but differ in ITF

17. More than half of fees-free enrolments in SAC are female students (58.5%). This aligns with the all enrolments cohort and trends in recent years of increasing female enrolments in tertiary education.

18. ITF fees-free enrolments are dominated by males (92.7%). This proportion in fees-free male is significantly greater than all ITF male enrolments (67.4%). This is due to the fact that over two-thirds of fees-free ITF enrolments are in construction-related training programmes. These industries are dominated by male trainees.

Table Three: Fees-free August 2018 enrolments by gender compared to all enrolments

Gender	SAC Level 3+				ITF			
	All students		Fees-free students		All learners		Fees-free learners	
	Students	Proportion	Students	Proportion	Learners	Proportion	Learners	Proportion
Female	179,434	61.4%	22,684	58.5%	32,467	32.2%	183	7.1%
Male	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	67,833	67.4%	2384	92.7%
Diverse	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	375	0.4%	5	0.2%
Totals	292,472	100.0%	38,755	100.0%	100,675	100.0%	2,572	100.0%

Region of delivery/study

19. A regional breakdown of all fees-free enrolments is included in Appendix Two. The regional distribution of fees-free SAC enrolments is very similar to all enrolments. The distribution across regions reflects locations of large TEO campuses, particularly the universities and ITPs.
20. ITOs are national organisations and don't have campuses, so for ITF enrolled learners, the region of the learner's employer is reported. Most of the fees-free ITF enrolments seem to mirror all ITF enrolments. The two notable exceptions are Auckland which has 25.7% proportion of all ITF enrolments compared to 31.7% of fees-free ITF enrolments, and Canterbury which has 14.3% of all ITF enrolments compared to 9.8% of fees-free ITF enrolments. It is likely that this is due to the fact that over two-thirds of ITF fees-free eligible enrolments are in construction-related training programmes, and that the Auckland region is experiencing significant demand for construction-related workers.

Additional analysis will be conducted on all data collected

21. The December enrolment returns, returned by 31 January 2019, will provide the data for the first full year of fees-free enrolments. For ITOs, these numbers will not complete until after 31 March, as the agreed ITO data finalisation date for the year.

Publicly communicating enrolment data and release of this briefing

22. We recommend that you release this briefing at the same time that you release B/18/00704 *August 2018 enrolments at tertiary education organisations*.

Appendix One – Tables Four and Five: Enrolments by age and ethnicity

Māori students by age band

Table Four: Fees-free enrolments August 2018 – Māori students by age band

Age band	SAC Level 3+				ITF			
	All students		Fees-free students		All learners		Fees-free learners	
	Students	Proportion	Students	Proportion	Learners	Proportion	Learners	Proportion
Up to 19 years	10,389	16.7%	4,866	73.4%	1,849	10.6%	245	53.4%
20 – 24 years	15,014	24.2%	995	15.0%	4,421	25.3%	97	21.1%
25 – 34 years	15,458	24.9%	425	6.4%	5,024	28.7%	75	16.3%
35 – 44 years	9,809	15.8%	186	2.8%	2,728	15.6%	35	7.6%
45 – 54 years	6,908	11.1%	113	1.7%	2,128	12.2%	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)
55 years and over	4,466	7.2%	43	0.6%	1,334	7.6%	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)
Totals	62,044	100.0%	6,628	100.0%	17,484	100.0%	459	100.0%

Pasifika students by age band

Table Five: Fees-free enrolments August 2018 – Pasifika students by age band

Age band	SAC Level 3+				ITF			
	All students		Fees-free students		All learners		Fees-free learners	
	Students	Proportion	Students	Proportion	Learners	Proportion	Learners	Proportion
Up to 19 years	6,679	23.8%	3,618	79.4%	547	6.7%	71	42.3%
20 – 24 years	9,231	32.9%	506	11.1%	1,685	20.8%	43	25.6%
25 – 34 years	6,230	22.2%	215	4.7%	2,774	34.2%	38	22.6%
35 – 44 years	3,430	12.2%	129	2.8%	1,595	19.6%	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)
45 – 54 years	1,899	6.8%	74	1.6%	1,050	12.9%	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)
55 years and over	597	2.1%	14	0.3%	468	5.8%	0	0.0%
Totals	28,066	100.0%	4,556	100.0%	8,119	100.0%	168	100.0%

Appendix Two – Table Six: Enrolments by region

Learners are counted more than once if they are studying in more than one region (so the proportion of learners adds to more than 100%).

Region	SAC Level 3+				ITF			
	All students		Fees-free students		All learners		Fees-free learners	
	Students	Proportion	Students	Proportion	Learners	Proportion	Learners	Proportion
Northland	4,373	1.5%	448	1.2%	3,198	3.2%	112	4.4%
Auckland	95,212	32.6%	13,869	35.8%	25,866	25.7%	815	31.7%
Waikato	21,503	7.4%	2,619	6.8%	9,179	9.1%	233	9.1%
Bay of Plenty	12,426	4.2%	1,343	3.5%	7,657	7.6%	235	9.1%
Gisborne	2,207	0.8%	115	0.3%	1455	1.4%	16	0.6%
Hawke's Bay	4,879	1.7%	473	1.2%	3,839	3.8%	82	3.2%
Taranaki	2,306	0.8%	296	0.8%	2,830	2.8%	72	2.8%
Manawatu-Wanganui	11,729	4.0%	1,616	4.2%	5,966	5.9%	141	5.5%
Wellington	37,191	12.7%	5,905	15.2%	12,158	12.1%	281	10.9%
Tasman	104	0.0%	9	0.0%	841	0.8%	29	1.1%
Nelson	2,061	0.7%	398	1.0%	1,638	1.6%	43	1.7%
Marlborough	431	0.1%	74	0.2%	1,735	1.7%	40	1.6%
West Coast	294	0.1%	89	0.2%	760	0.8%	15	0.6%
Canterbury	29,189	10.0%	5,095	13.1%	14,354	14.3%	251	9.8%
Otago	20,303	6.9%	4,461	11.5%	6,455	6.4%	150	5.8%
Southland	2,543	0.9%	414	1.1%	3,367	3.3%	66	2.6%
Extramural	58,306	19.9%	2,828	7.3%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unknown	2,541	0.9%	45	0.1%	17	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	307,598²	n/a	40,097	n/a	100,675	n/a	2,572	n/a

² The regional all-learners total in Table Six do not match the respective totals of in Table One as delivery can be reported in multiple regions.