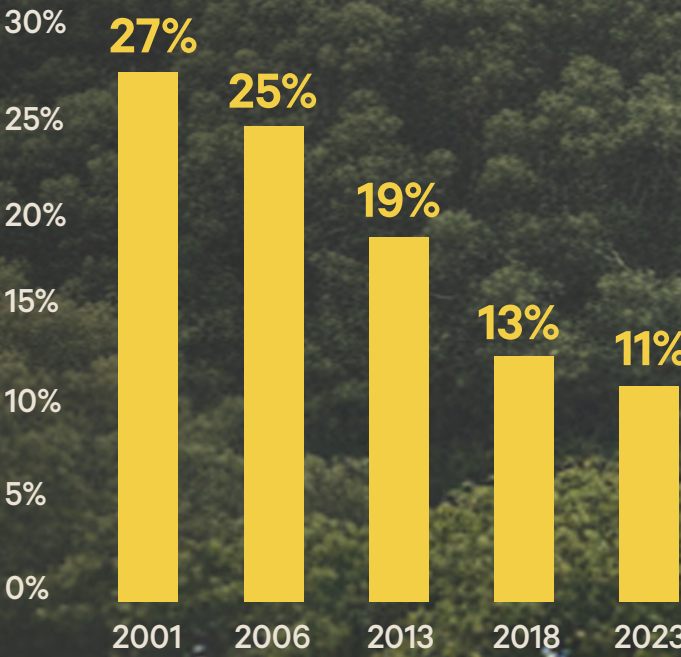


The proportion of vagahau Niue speakers is declining across the Niue population.*

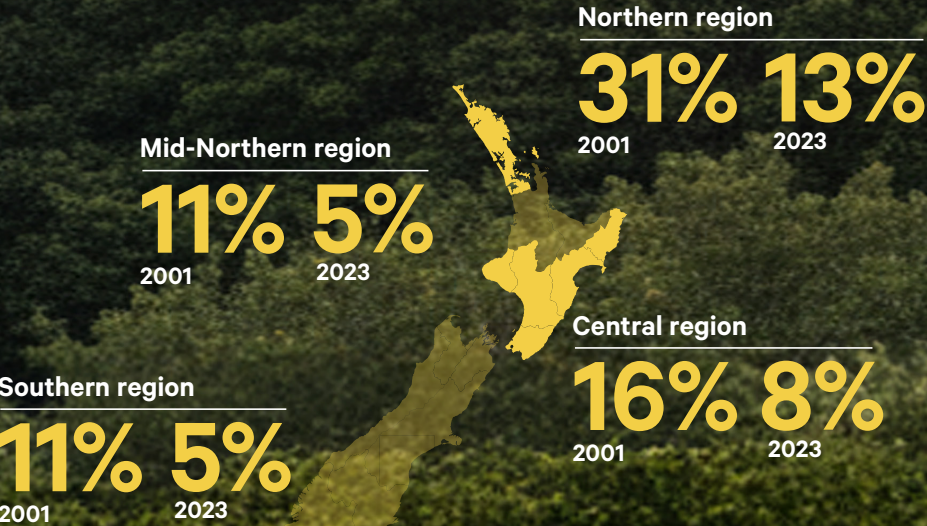


*excluding those who do not speak any language e.g. too young to talk.

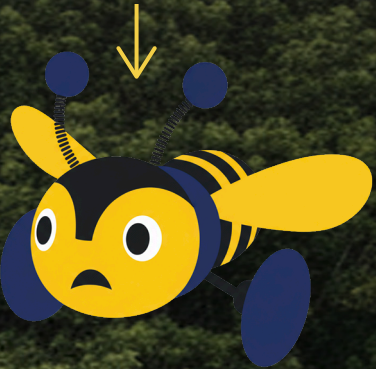
There are concerning low proportions of young speakers under 30.



While the proportion of Niue people who speak vagahau Niue is higher in the Northern region, all regions have seen significant declines.



Aside from early learning, there have been small but important increases in vagahau Niue in schooling.



There were 5 vagahau Niue bilingual or immersion early learning services in 2025, a decrease from 7 in 2004.



In 2025, there were 3 vagahau Niue bilingual units with 103 learners, while there were no units in 2004.



In 2004, there were no students taking vagahau Niue as a subject. This increased to 171 students in 2025.

The language is being maintained at higher rates amongst Niuean people born overseas than those born in New Zealand.

Proportion of speakers among those born in New Zealand



Proportion of speakers among those born overseas



IDI Disclaimer: This infographic contains census data that has been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) which is carefully managed by Statistics New Zealand. These results are not official statistics. For more information about the IDI please visit: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/> Access to the data used in this study was provided by Stats NZ under conditions designed to give effect to the security and confidentiality provisions of the Data and Statistics Act 2022. The data presented here is the work of the author, not Stats NZ or individual data suppliers.

Note: The infographic refers to the proportion of ethnic language speakers. This compares the number of people from the ethnic group who speak the language associated with that group to the total ethnic population. It does not include people in the ethnic population who do not speak any languages (e.g. children too young to talk). Census data from 2001, 2006 and 2013 include missing responses, while data from 2018 and 2023 includes imputed responses for missing data. Therefore, caution is advised when making comparisons across time.

What does the data tell us about
VAGAHAU NIUE
in New Zealand?