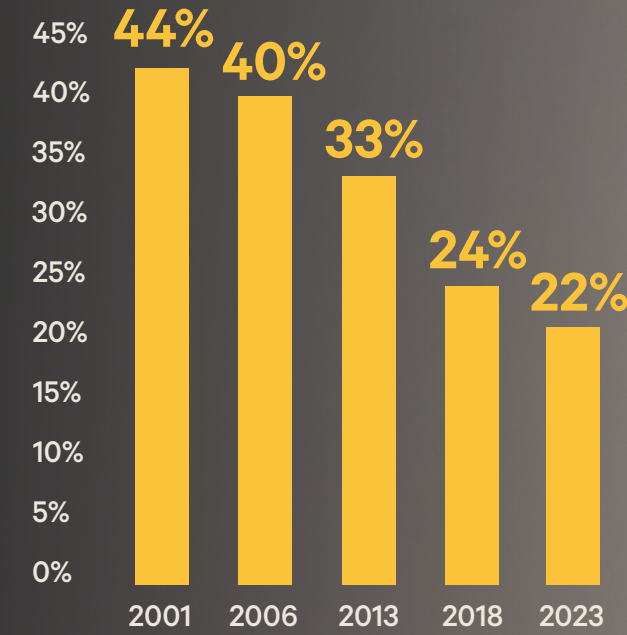


# The proportion of te gagana Tokelau speakers is declining across the Tokelau population.\*



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

The language is being maintained at higher rates amongst Tokelau 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.

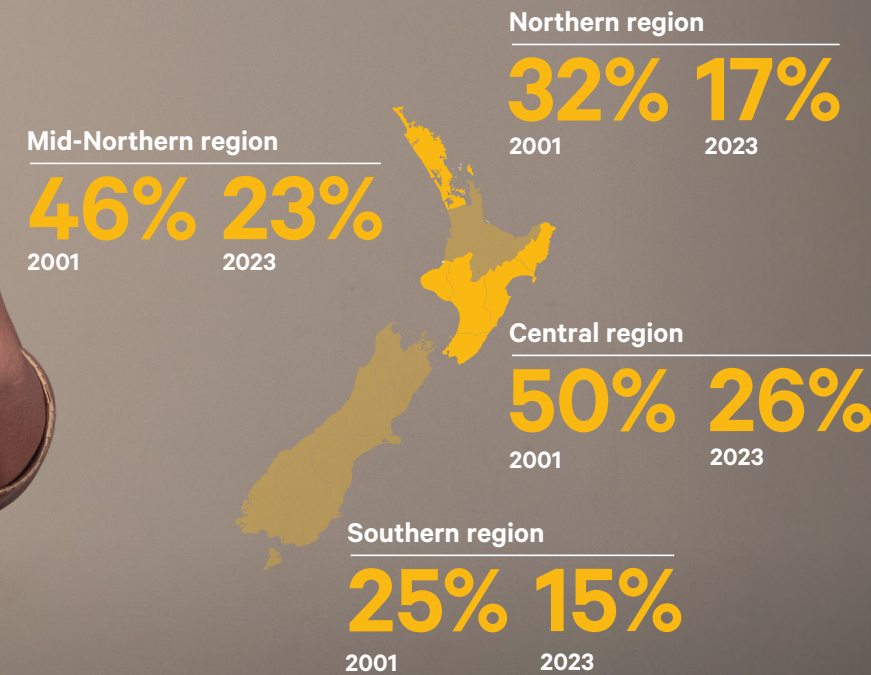
**Note:** The infographic refers to the proportion of ethnic language speakers. This compares the number of people from the ethnic group who speak the language associated with that group to the total ethnic population. It does not include people in the ethnic population who do not speak any languages (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.

There are very low proportions of young speakers under 30.

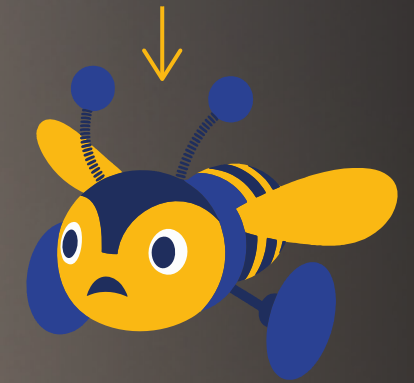
## 15-29 year olds



While the proportion of Tokelau people who speak te gagana Tokelau in Central and mid-Northern regions are slightly higher, they have both nearly halved since 2001.



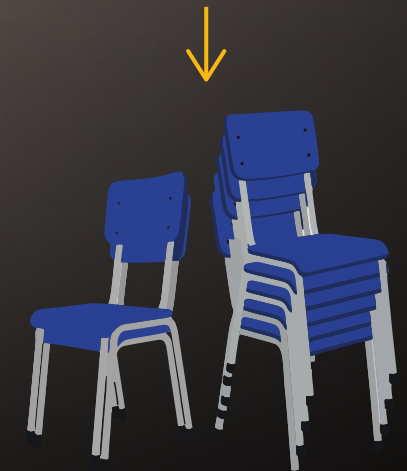
There have been small but important increases in the use of te gagana Tokelau in education...



There was just 1 te gagana Tokelau bilingual or immersion early learning service in 2025, the same number as 20 years ago in 2004.



But in 2023, the first gagana Tokelau bilingual unit was established, catering to 16 learners.



There were 44 students learning te gagana Tokelau in 2025, up from 29 in 2004.

What does the data tell us about  
**TE GAGANA TOKELAU**  
in New Zealand?