He Tohu Ora: Te reo Māori understanding

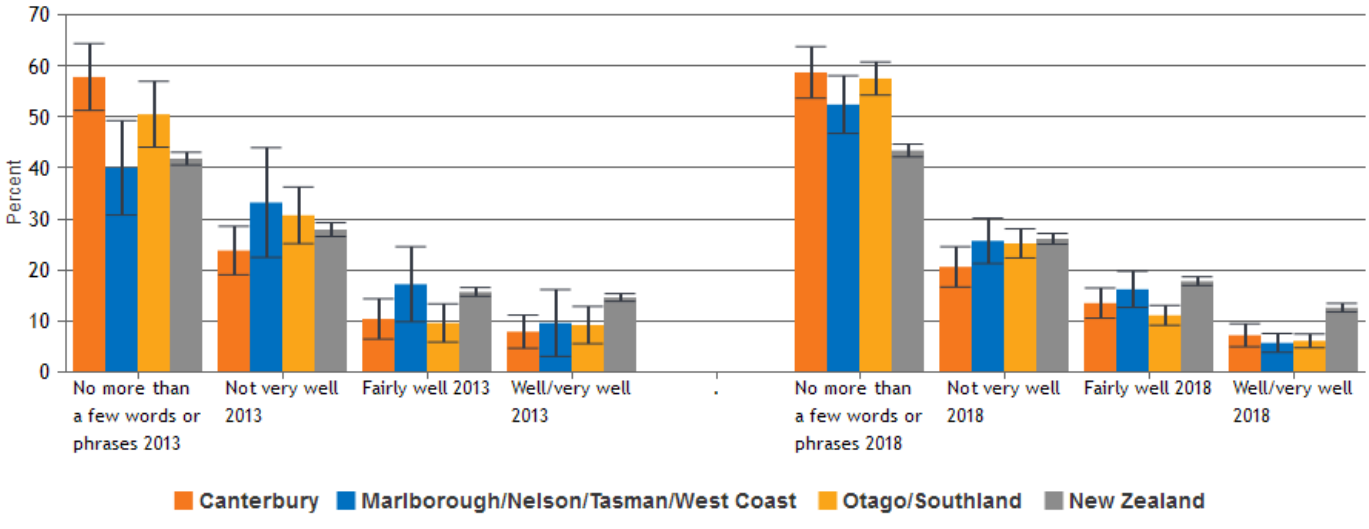
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Māori language is recognised as an important cultural resource which contributes to an individual's cultural identity and sense of 'being Māori' [1]. For Māori, high levels of cultural efficacy (including speaking te reo Māori, Māori heritage, and tikanga me kawa (protocols and processes, including marae protocol) have been found to be associated with better emotional wellbeing [19]. While some Māori may feel whakamā (shy or embarrassed) about speaking te reo Māori – if they are not fluent and are fearful about getting it wrong, particularly those learning later in life – they may still take pride in hearing and understanding the language [22]. This indicator reports on te reo Māori understanding, rather than speaking, noting the distinction between these two aspects of wellbeing.

Te Kupenga asked respondents how well they are able to understand Māori in day-to-day conversation [12]. The questions had five response options ranging from no more than a few words or phrases to very well.

This indicator presents the proportion of respondents that reported understanding te reo Māori very well, well, fairly well, not very well, or no more than a few words or phrases.

Figure 9: Proportion of Māori aged 15 years and over who reported understanding te reo Māori, no more than a few words or phrases, not very well, fairly well, well/very well in Canterbury, Rest of South Island, and New Zealand, 2013 and 2018



Higher proportions of respondents reported understanding te reo Māori very well or well (12.6%) or fairly well (17.8%) at the national level compared with Canterbury and Marlborough/Nelson/Tasman/West Coast and Otago/Southland in 2018 (Canterbury well/very well 7.2%, fairly well 13.5% in 2018). The proportion of respondents that reported understanding te reo Māori at least fairly well increased between 2013 and 2018 in Canterbury (18.3% to 20.7%) and remained stable for New Zealand across these timepoints (30.3% 2013 and 30.4% 2018).

Data Sources

Source: Statistics New Zealand.
Survey/data set: Te Kupenga 2013 and 2018. Access publicly available data from the Statistics New Zealand website

www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/te-kupenga-2018-final-english

Source data frequency: Survey conducted every 10 years - following the national census.

Metadata for this indicator is available at https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/index-data

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