

Student difficulties

Proportions of students experiencing challenges

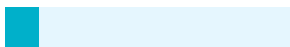
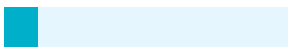
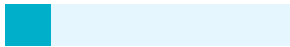
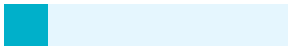
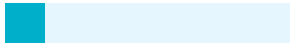
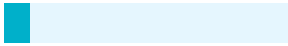
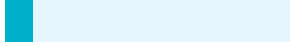
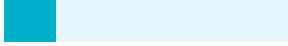
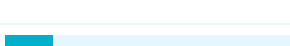
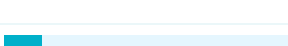
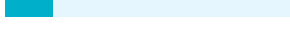
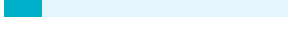
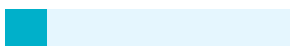
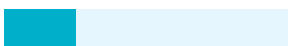
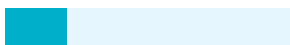
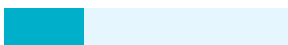
Table STT1.9 lists the challenges to student learning measured by the questionnaire. This table also shows the proportions of year four and year six students who reported these as either 'A lot of difficulty' or 'I cannot do this at all'. This allows us to identify the proportion of students on whom these factors posed a severe burden.

Overall, the distribution of students reporting at least 'A lot of difficulty' across the eight items was relatively concentrated. For both year four students and year six students, the proportions of students reporting at least 'A lot of difficulty' across the items was between 9% and 28%.

The most frequent difficulty was 'Controlling their behaviour' (year four, 22%; year six, 28%). This was followed by 'Concentrating and focusing their attention' (year four, 17%; year six, 22%) and 'Learning or remembering things' (year four, 15%; year six, 25%). The least reported difficulties were 'Seeing, even if wearing glasses' (year four, 12%; year six, 12%) and 'Walking or climbing steps' (year four, 14%, year six, 9%).

Table STT1.9

Percentage of students with difficulties

Difficulty	Year 4	Year 6
Seeing, even if wearing glasses	 12% (2.3)	 12% (2.1)
Hearing, even if wearing a hearing aid	 16% (3.1)	 15% (3.0)
Walking or climbing steps	 14% (2.6)	 9% (2.6)
Being understood by other people when I speak	 10% (2.4)	 18% (3.5)
Self-care, such as feeding or dressing yourself	 17% (3.7)	 13% (3.2)
Learning or remembering things	 15% (2.2)	 25% (2.6)
Controlling your behaviour	 22% (2.8)	 28% (2.9)
Concentrating and focusing your attention	 17% (2.5)	 22% (3.3)

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.



What does this mean?

A significant proportion of students in Cook Islands are experiencing quite severe behavioural and cognitive challenges related to learning and school environments in general. One in five students across both year four and six are finding it difficult to concentrate and, relatedly, finding it difficult to control their behaviour. Smaller proportions of students are experiencing difficulties with sensory or physical tasks. These findings can inform learning support activities in Cook Islands.