Languages in New South Wales: What can we learn from public data?

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When languages are discussed in New South Wales, the discussion is frequently based on census statistics. In fact, community languages are only discussed in the media when the latest census statistics are released. However, census statistics only provide a snapshot of linguistic diversity in residential areas. This presentation introduces a wider range of public data on multilingualism in New South Wales from political, commercial, social, educational and cultural domains. The findings indicate an unequal distribution and visibility of languages in different domains. I will discuss the potential uses and limitations of the various sources of public data on languages in New South Wales, and the implications of the unequal distributions that we have observed.