

## ***Bags not: avoiding the undesirable***

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Question 10 asked how children claim the right not to do something:

- 10** Your class is waiting for the bus to arrive to take you on a trip. You are right at the back of the queue, but you definitely do **not** want to sit in the front seat. What would you say to make sure that your classmates will not make you sit there?

There were a very large number of responses to this question which were of no interest: the children commonly said they would ask someone further up the queue to save them a seat, or that they would offer a bribe or a threat to get a seat elsewhere. There were also lots of suggestions like “I get sick if I sit in the front”. We suspect that the question did not work well in eliciting the forms we were seeking, and it must be borne in mind that the results below may not represent the true picture at all.

Where there was a relevant response, the commonest by far was *Bags not...*, with 40 occurrences. The continuations of the phrase were somewhat variable: *sit in the front*, *sitting in the front*, *me in the front*, for instance. *No bags* was also included with *bags not* in the analysis. The only other significant form was *Pegs not*, and variants with *pags(ed)* and *pigs*. There were only six occurrences, 4 of them in Hawkes Bay, where *bags* forms were not recorded at all, and two in Christchurch and environs. These are two of the Central Region localities which reported *pegs* forms in the positive Q9. (The West Coast, which had several reports of positive *pegs* did not record *pegs* in the negative.) *Shotgun not* occurred four times, all isolated, and the elaborate *Turn around, touch the ground, bags/pegs not me* was reported three times. The *pegs* version (actually with *pagsed*) was reported from the same Southland school as reported positive *pegs*.

The areas where none of these was reported were also checked. While they are spread the length and breadth of the country, there are three areas of considerable concentration. One is the area from Wellington north to the boundary of the Northern Region, and extending much of the way into Hawkes Bay. No school on the West Coast reported any of these terms, and there were very few reports from Southland-Otago, especially in the east of this area. It is possible that the form *Bags not* was once widespread and is dying out, accounting for the large number of non-reports. However, if that is so, it is also important to point out that it is far more prevalent in the Northern Region than elsewhere. This data provides some support for both the Northern and the Central Regions: in the North, *bags not* is still in common use; in the Central Region, *pegs not* or nothing has replaced it. In the south, there is generally no replacement.

### **Statistical Analysis**

Only *bags not* and *pegs not* were included in the statistical analysis.

### ***Bags not***

There is significantly more *bags not* in the Northern Region than the Central Region (p-value 0.0076). (The Southern Region is not significantly different from either of these.) No other factors were significant for *bags not*.

***Pegs not***

*Pegs not* is found exclusively in the Central Region. The sub-region analysis confirmed that it is largely found in Hawkes Bay – Wairarapa. No other factors were significant.

**Information from school visits**

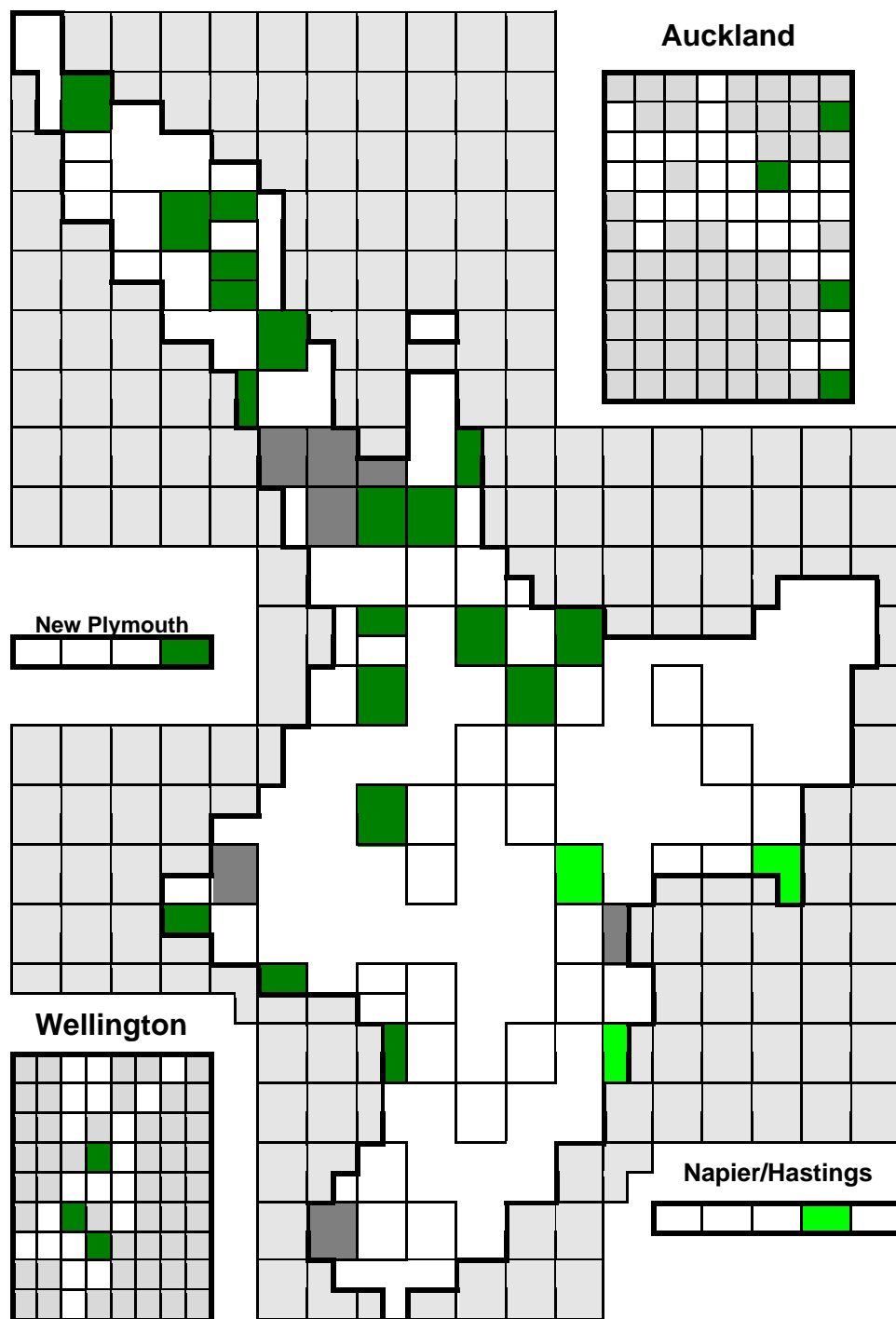
Because we were suspicious that the data we had obtained had been adversely influenced by teachers providing the check-box answers, during the visits further information was sought on these negative constructions. This suggested that *bags not* is very widely used, although there were areas of the South Island where it appeared not to be. However, in the Northern Region, there was a scattered response of *no bags* as an alternative to *bags not*. In those areas where *pegs* is the positive, *pegs not* was in use as the negative except on the West Coast. In comparison with the positive responses of *shotgun*, *shotgun* is very rarely used in the negative: there were only five schools which reported *shotgun not*, as opposed to 21 schools which reported the use of the positive *shotgun*.

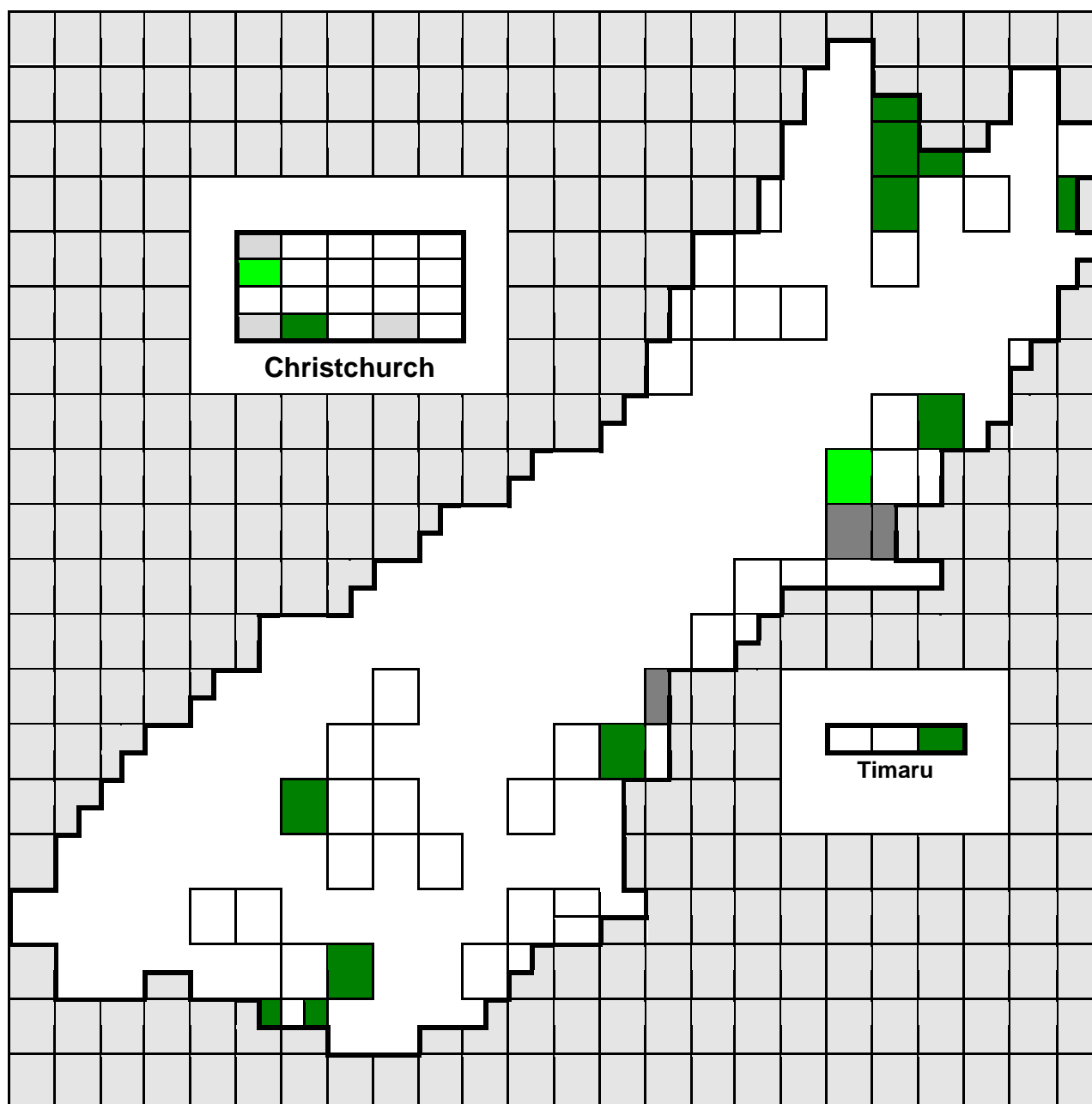
These results confirm our suspicion that the data obtained from the original questionnaire was not particularly representative.

**Summary**

The data from this question offers further confirmation of the importance of the Northern Region versus the Central Region in the New Zealand dialect picture. However, some doubts remain over the representativeness of the data collected. The map showing the distribution of *bags not* and *pegs not* follows.

**Map for Q10: *Bags not* and *pegs not***





### Key

Note that the insets are not to scale, nor all on the same scale for practical reasons. Each box represents one school in both urban and rural areas.



bags not



See urban map insert



pegs not

**Statistics for Q10: bags/pegs not**  
**Bags/pegs not by Decile**

Analysis Of GEE Parameter Estimates – Empirical Standard Error Estimates  
 Empirical 95% Confidence Limits

parameter		Estimate	Std Err	Lower	Upper	Z	Pr> Z
intercept	0.0000	.	.	.	.	.	
item	bags not	-0.9694	0.4098	-1.7725	-0.1663	-2.366	0.0180
item	pegs_not	-3.2287	0.9271	-5.0458	-1.4117	-3.483	0.0005
decile*item	bags not	-0.0073	0.0637	-0.1321	0.1175	-.1152	0.9083
decile*item	pegs_not	0.0087	0.1422	-0.2699	0.2874	0.0615	0.9510
scale	1.0000	.	.	.	.	.	

**Bags/pegs not by Main Region**

Analysis Of Initial Parameter Estimates

parameter		DF	Estimate	Std Err	ChiSquare	Pr>Chi
intercept	0	0.00	0.0000	.	.	
item	bags not	1	-1.2993	0.6513	3.9792	0.0461
item	pegs_not	1	-27.3653	0.4249	4147.5209	0.0001
item*region1	bags not, 1	1	0.8350	0.7059	1.3992	0.2369
item*region1	bags not, 2	1	-0.2205	0.7150	0.0951	0.7578
item*region1	bags not, 3	0	0.0000	0.0000	.	.
item*region1	pegs_not, 1	1	-0.0001	115975.683	0.0000	1.0000
item*region1	pegs_not, 2	0	24.8804	0.0000	.	.
item*region1	pegs_not, 3	0	0.0000	0.0000	.	.
scale	0	1.00	0.0000	.	.	

CONTRAST Statement Results

Contrast	DF	ChiSquare	Pr>Chi	Type
1 -2 for bagsno10	1	7.1335	<b>0.0076</b>	LR

**Bags/pegs not by Sub-Region**

Analysis Of Initial Parameter Estimates

parameter		DF	Estimate	Std Err	ChiSquare	Pr>Chi
intercept	0	0.00	0.0000	.	.	
item	bags not	1	-1.2993	0.6513	3.9792	0.0461
item	pegs_not	1	-26.3652	0.7500	1235.7754	0.0001
item*region2	bags not, 1	1	0.6061	1.0836	0.3129	0.5759
item*region2	bags not, 2	1	1.9924	1.0836	3.3807	0.0660
item*region2	bags not, 3	1	0.5261	0.8172	0.4144	0.5197
item*region2	bags not, 4	1	0.8293	0.7660	1.1721	0.2790
item*region2	bags not, 5	1	-25.0660	153308.595	0.0000	0.9999
item*region2	bags not, 6	1	-0.2048	0.8543	0.0575	0.8105
item*region2	bags not, 7	1	1.5224	0.9350	2.6512	0.1035
item*region2	bags not, 8	1	-25.0660	216811.094	0.0000	0.9999
item*region2	bags not, 9	1	-0.7802	0.9933	0.6168	0.4322
item*region2	bags not, 10	1	0.4520	0.9489	0.2269	0.6338
item*region2	bags not, 11	0	0.0000	0.0000	.	.
item*region2	pegs_not, 1	1	-0.0001	216811.094	0.0000	1.0000
item*region2	pegs_not, 2	1	-0.0001	216811.094	0.0000	1.0000
item*region2	pegs_not, 3	1	-0.0001	121837.317	0.0000	1.0000
item*region2	pegs_not, 4	1	-0.0001	104152.681	0.0000	1.0000
item*region2	pegs_not, 5	1	25.6721	0.9682	702.9912	<b>0.0001</b>
item*region2	pegs_not, 6	1	-0.0001	113225.901	0.0000	1.0000
item*region2	pegs_not, 7	1	-0.0001	177025.517	0.0000	1.0000
item*region2	pegs_not, 8	1	-0.0001	216811.094	0.0000	1.0000
item*region2	pegs_not, 9	0	24.2858	0.0000	.	.
item*region2	pegs_not, 10	1	-0.0001	167941.152	0.0000	1.0000
item*region2	pegs_not, 11	0	0.0000	0.0000	.	.
scale	0	1.00	0.0000	.	.	

**Bags/pegs not by Island**

Analysis Of GEE Parameter Estimates – Empirical Standard Error Estimates

Empirical 95% Confidence Limits

parameter		Estimate	Std Err	Lower	Upper	Z	Pr> Z
intercept	0.0000	.	.	.	.	.	
item	bags not	-1.2192	0.3157	-1.8380	-0.6005	-3.862	0.0001
item	pegs_not	-3.3142	0.7198	-4.7251	-1.9033	-4.604	0.0000
item*island	bags not, 1	0.3254	0.3897	-0.4383	1.0892	0.8351	0.4036
item*island	bags not, 2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
item*island	pegs_not, 1	0.2118	0.8828	-1.5185	1.9422	0.2400	0.8104
item*island	pegs_not, 2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
scale	1.0000	.	.	.	.	.	

**Bags/pegs not by Catholic**

Analysis Of GEE Parameter Estimates – Empirical Standard Error Estimates

Empirical 95% Confidence Limits

parameter		Est.	Std Err	Lower	Upper	Z	Pr> Z
intercept	0.0000	.	.	.	.	.	
item	bags not	-1.4663	0.6405	-2.7217	-0.2110	-2.289	0.0221
item	pegs_not	-1.9459	0.7559	-3.4275	-0.4643	-2.574	0.0100
item*catholic	bags not, 1	0.5340	0.6693	-0.7778	1.8457	0.7978	0.4250
item*catholic	bags not, 2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
item*catholic	pegs_not, 1	-1.5120	0.9107	-3.2968	0.2729	-1.660	0.0969
item*catholic	pegs_not, 2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
scale	1.0000	.	.	.	.	.	

**Bags/pegs not by Urban/Rural**

Analysis Of GEE Parameter Estimates – Empirical Standard Error Estimates

Empirical 95% Confidence Limits

parameter		Est.	Std Err	Lower	Upper	Z	Pr> Z
intercept	0.0000	.	.	.	.	.	
item	bags not	-1.2637	0.3141	-1.8793	-0.6481	-4.023	0.0001
item	pegs_not	-3.3499	0.7194	-4.7599	-1.9399	-4.656	0.0000
item*urb_rur	bags not, 1	0.4274	0.3922	-0.3412	1.1961	1.0900	0.2757
item*urb_rur	bags not, 2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
item*urb_rur	pegs_not, 1	0.0297	0.9289	-1.7910	1.8504	0.0319	0.9745
item*urb_rur	pegs_not, 2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
scale	1.0000	.	.	.	.	.	

***Bags/pegs not by Main Region in Northern and Central only***

## Analysis Of Initial Parameter Estimates

parameter		DF	Estimate	Std Err	ChiSquare	Pr>Chi
intercept	0	0.00	0.0000	.	.	
item	bagsno10	1	-1.5198	0.2950	26.5339	0.0001
item	pegs_not	1	-2.4849	0.4249	34.1987	0.0001
item*region1	bagsno10, 1	1	1.0555	0.4013	6.9166	<b>0.0085</b>
item*region1	bagsno10, 2	0	0.0000	0.0000	.	.
item*region1	pegs_not, 1	1	-23.8804	70342.8077	0.0000	0.9997
item*region1	pegs_not, 2	0	0.0000	0.0000	.	.
SCALE	0	1.00	0.0000	.	.	