

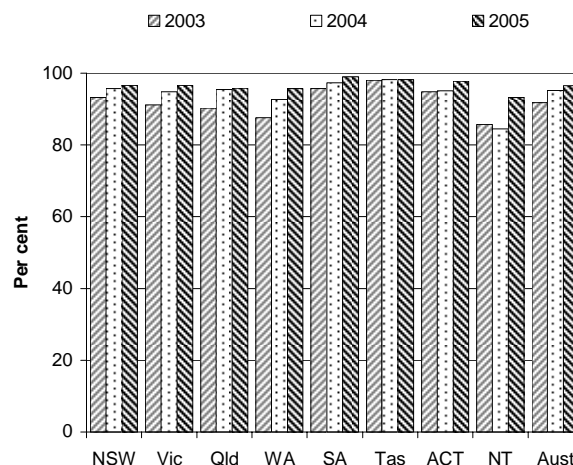
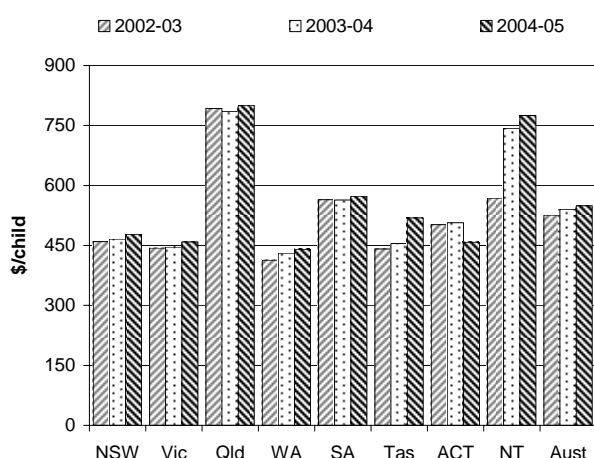
CHILDREN’S SERVICES (CHAPTER 14)

- The focus of this chapter is on government funded and/or provided child care and preschool services.
- Around 490 600 children aged 5 years or younger (32.2 per cent of this age group) and 258 300 children aged 6–12 years (13.6 per cent of this age group) attended Australian Government approved child care services in 2004 (table 14A.10).
- Approximately 115 700 children aged 12 years or younger attended State and Territory government funded and/or provided child care services in 2004-05 (p. 14.8). Some children may attend both Australian and State/Territory funded child care and some services may receive funding from both Australian and State/Territory governments.
- At least 216 100 children (83.4 per cent of children of 4 years of age) attended State and Territory funded and/or provided preschool services in the year before they commenced full time schooling in 2004-05. Approximately 28 100 children (11.5 per cent) attending State and Territory funded and/or provided preschool services commenced preschool at an earlier age (table 14A.11). Some children attended both child care and preschool services.

Selection of results

Australian Government real expenditure on children’s services per child aged 0–12 in the jurisdiction, 2002-03 to 2004-05 (2004-05 dollars) (p. 14.39)

Accredited centres as a proportion of centres fully assessed under the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (p. 14.32)



See over for data and footnotes.

See over for data and footnotes.

- Australian, State and Territory government expenditure on children’s services in 2004-05 was approximately \$2.5 billion. Australian Government expenditure accounted for \$1.9 billion. The major component of Australian Government expenditure was financial support to families through assistance with fees, which accounted for \$1.5 billion. State and Territory government expenditure in 2004-05 was approximately \$600.3 million (p. 14.7).

[MORE]

- Nationally, Australian Government expenditure on children's services per child aged 0–12 years in 2004-05 was \$549.60 (p. 14.39).
- Average State/Territory government expenditure on children's services per child aged 0–12 years in 2004-05 was \$174.91 (p. 14.40).

Progress since 2005 Report

- Major changes to reporting on children's services this year include reporting for the first time data on preschool service costs and hospital admissions resulting from injuries sustained in children's services. There are also improvements to data quality and comparability.

Data for charts on previous page

Australian Government real expenditure on children's services per child aged 0–12 in the jurisdiction, 2002-03 to 2004-05 (2004-05 dollars)^{a, b, c}

| | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2002-03 | 459.34 | 443.77 | 793.07 | 412.94 | 564.17 | 441.47 | 501.89 | 568.45 | 526.29 |
| 2003-04 | 465.69 | 445.80 | 785.51 | 430.96 | 563.61 | 454.63 | 506.76 | 743.37 | 540.48 |
| 2004-05 | 478.15 | 458.59 | 800.49 | 440.67 | 573.53 | 519.19 | 458.20 | 775.48 | 549.60 |

^a Includes administration expenditure, other expenditure on service provision, financial support to families and net capital expenditure on child care and preschool services. ^b The Australian total includes a component of expenditure that cannot be disaggregated by State and Territory. ^c Real expenditure based on ABS gross domestic product (GDP) price deflator 2004-05 = 100.

Source: Department of Family and Community Services (unpublished); ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (unpublished); ABS (2002), *Population Projections, Australia*, Cat. No. 3222.0, Canberra; table 14A.20.

Accredited centres as a proportion of centres fully assessed under the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System^{a, b, c}

| | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 2003 | 93.2 | 91.2 | 90.3 | 87.6 | 95.7 | 98.0 | 94.8 | 85.7 | 91.8 |
| 2004 | 95.7 | 94.8 | 95.4 | 92.6 | 97.3 | 98.2 | 95.1 | 84.4 | 95.2 |
| 2005 | 96.6 | 96.6 | 95.8 | 95.7 | 99.0 | 98.2 | 97.7 | 93.2 | 96.5 |

^a At 30 June. ^b Figures may change daily and are updated every six weeks following a National Childcare Accreditation Council meeting. ^c Results for Tasmania, the ACT and the NT may be unduly influenced by the relatively small number of services participating in the process (76, 92 and 53 respectively at 30 June 2005).

Source: National Childcare Accreditation Council (unpublished); table 14A.2.

[END]

Background information: Lawrence McDonald, Head of Secretariat 03 9653 2178/0421 584 905

Other information: Clair Angel, Media and Publications 02 6240 3239/0417 665 443

Please do not approach other parties for comment before Monday 30 January 2006.

Media copies of this report are available from Clair Angel on 02 6240 3239.

Hard copies of this publication are available from Pirion/J.S. McMillan (ph: 02 9795 1200 or email custserv@jismcmillan.com.au). The report will be available via the Internet at <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp> on the morning of Tuesday 31 January 2006.

Tables with an 'A' prefix (eg table 14.A5) are in the electronic attachments on the CD-ROM or on the Review website.