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## 3 Children's services

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#### **Attachment tables**

Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this Indigenous Compendium by an 'A' suffix (for example, in this chapter, table 3A.3). As the data are directly sourced from the 2010 Report, the Compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the 2010 Report can be found. For example, where the Compendium refers to '2010 Report, p. 3.15' this is page 15 of chapter 3 of the 2010 Report, and '2010 Report, table 3A.2' is attachment table 2 of attachment 3A of the 2010 Report. A full list of attachment tables is provided at the end of this chapter, and the attachment tables are available from the Review website at ([www.pc.gov.au/gsp](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp)).

Children's services aim to meet the care, education and development needs of children. In this chapter, child care services are those provided to children aged 0–12 years, usually by someone other than the child's parents or guardian. Preschool services are services provided to children mainly in the year or two before they begin full time schooling. This chapter is included in the 'Early childhood, education and training' section of the *Report on Government Services 2010* (2010 Report) because of the important links between children's services and education.

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The data in this chapter relate to services that are supported by the Australian, State and Territory governments. Local governments also plan, fund and deliver children's services. Due to data limitations, the only local government data included are where Australian, State and Territory government funding and/or licensing are involved.

### **Indigenous data in the Children's services chapter**

The Children's services chapter in the 2010 Report contains the following data items on Indigenous people:

- representation of Indigenous children in Australian Government approved child care services (compared to their representation in the community), 2008-09
- representation of Indigenous children in State and Territory Government child care and preschools (compared to their representation in the community), 2008-09
- Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2004-05 to 2008-09
- children absent from non-government preschools, 2008.

The arrangements for departmental responsibility for early childhood education and care vary across State and Territory governments. There are also differences across states and territories for early childhood education program names and starting ages. To provide some clarity on these arrangements, a matrix showing basic information on child care and preschool education programs, such as agency responsibility, program names and starting ages, has been included in attachment table 3A.1.

The Australian Government provides supplementary funding to support the participation of Indigenous children in preschool programs. In 2009, an estimated \$9.1 million was provided on a per person and project basis to 1263 preschools. The funding covers 8278 full time equivalent Indigenous preschool enrolments (DEEWR unpublished).

### **Framework of performance indicators**

Data for Indigenous people are reported for a subset of the performance indicators for children's services in the 2010 Report. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework outlined in figure 3.1. The performance indicator framework shows which data are comparable in the 2010 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.

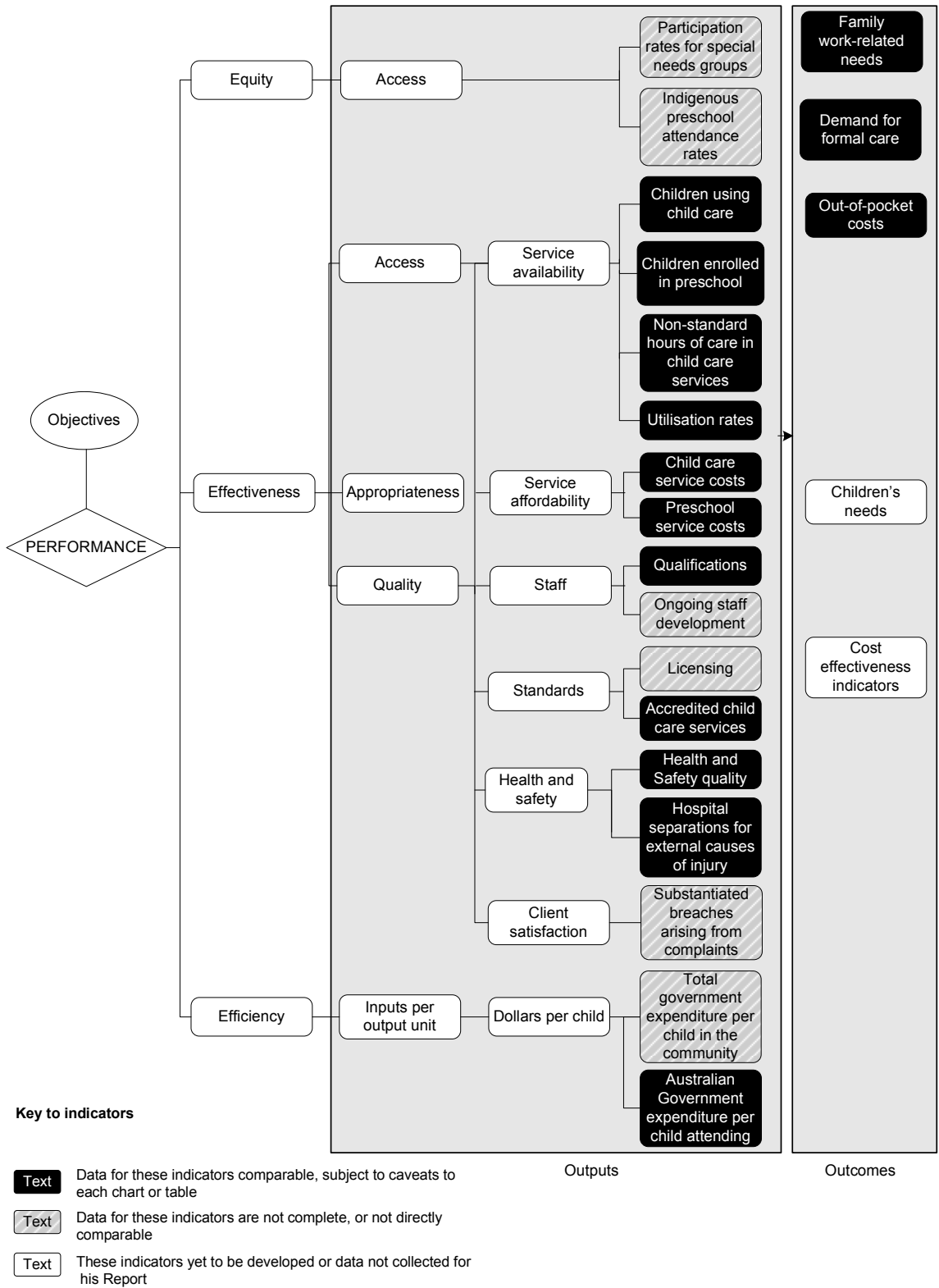
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The Report's statistical appendix contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this chapter. These data cover a range of demographic and geographic characteristics, including age profile, geographic distribution of the population, income levels, education levels, tenure of dwellings and cultural heritage (including Indigenous and ethnic status) (appendix A).

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed six National Agreements to enhance accountability to the public for the outcomes achieved or outputs delivered by a range of government services, (see 2010 Report, chapter 1 for more detail on reforms to federal financial relations). The agreements include sets of performance indicators, for which the Steering Committee collates annual performance information for analysis by the COAG Reform Council (CRC).

None of the National Agreements relate specifically to children's services. The *National Indigenous Reform Agreement* (NIRA) establishes specific outcomes for reducing the level of disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Australians, and includes an indicator relating to access to quality early childhood education for Indigenous children. The measurement details of NIRA reporting were under development at the time of preparing this Report. It is anticipated that this indicator will be incorporated into the Children's services chapter for the 2011 Report.

Figure 3.1 Performance indicators for children's services



Source: 2010 Report, figure 3.2, p. 3.15.

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## Participation rates for special needs groups

‘Participation rates for special needs groups’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that services are provided in an equitable manner to all special needs groups in the community, and that there is consideration of the needs of those groups which can have special difficulty in accessing services (box 3.1).

### Box 3.1 Participation rates for special needs groups

‘Participation rates for special needs groups’ is defined as the proportion of children using child care and preschool services who are from targeted special needs groups, compared with the representation of these groups in the community. Data are reported separately for child care (for 0–5 and 6–12 year olds) and preschool services (3–5 year olds). Targeted special needs groups include children from a non-English speaking background, Indigenous children, children from low income families, children with disability, and children from regional and remote areas.

If the representation of special needs groups among children’s services users is broadly similar to their representation in the community, this can indicate equity of access. Therefore, a higher participation rate is desirable.

Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable.

Data for participation by special needs groups using Australian Government approved child care services for 2008-09 were drawn from the Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey (AGCCPS) and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) administrative systems. Box 3.2 contains more information on the AGCCPS.

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### **Box 3.2 Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey**

The Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey (AGCCPS) was conducted for the first time in 2008-09 and replaces the Australian Government Census of Child Care Services (AGCCCS) as the source for data that was not available from Australian Government administrative sources. The AGCCCS was last conducted in 2006 and has been discontinued.

The 2008-09 AGCCPS collected information on children with special needs and staff in Australian Government approved child care services. Data were collected from child care services during a sample week in November 2008 for all service types except vacation care. Data on vacation care services were collected in a sample week during school holidays (which varied across jurisdictions) in June and July 2009.

For consistency, the same information was collected in the AGCCPS as in the AGCCCS. Although data from the AGCCPS and AGCCCS presented in this chapter are weighted for the full population of services, variation in the response rates and different weighting methods affect the comparability of data across the collections.

*Source:* DEEWR (unpublished).

At a national level, Indigenous children aged 0–12 years participated in child care at a lower rate (2.3 per cent) than their representation in the community (4.4 per cent). This was also the case for both the 0–5 age group and the 6–12 age group (tables 3.1 and 3A.2).

Data on representation of special needs groups in State and Territory funded and/or provided child care, for children aged 0–12, are presented in table 3A.4.

**Table 3.1 Proportion of children aged 0–12 years from special needs groups attending Australian Government approved child care services, 2008-09 (per cent)<sup>a, b, c, d</sup>**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
<i>Children from non-English speaking backgrounds</i>									
In child care services	18.0	17.2	7.3	9.7	9.3	4.2	10.3	11.5	13.2
In the community, 2006	23.2	21.7	11.9	15.5	13.7	7.2	16.2	36.8	18.8
<i>Indigenous children</i>									
In child care services	2.5	0.9	3.1	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.4	10.6	2.3
In the community, 2006	4.1	1.2	6.2	5.6	3.3	6.5	2.3	39.2	4.4
<i>Children from low income families</i>									
In child care services	24.4	23.7	24.7	22.7	24.6	24.8	9.6	16.2	23.9
In the community, 2007-08	24.5	23.1	20.9	21.0	26.6	33.8	10.8	18.9	23.2
<i>Children with disability</i>									
In child care services	3.8	2.5	2.6	2.5	5.5	2.7	1.9	3.7	3.2
In the community, 2003	8.0	6.8	7.6	8.9	8.8	6.2	7.5	np	7.7
<i>Children from regional areas</i>									
In child care services	26.3	24.6	32.5	20.5	19.4	99.2	0.1	79.1	28.5
In the community, 2006	28.9	28.2	45.9	24.8	26.7	97.9	0.2	51.4	33.1
<i>Children from remote areas</i>									
In child care services	0.2	–	1.1	3.4	1.7	0.8	..	21.0	1.0
In the community, 2006	0.7	0.1	4.4	8.6	4.4	2.0	..	50.7	3.0

<sup>a</sup> Data on children in child care services represent the population of children attending child care in 2008-09. Data on representation in the community are reported for different years due to the availability of data and are sourced from the ABS *Survey of Disability and Housing 2003*, *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and the *Survey of Income and Housing 2007-08*. <sup>b</sup> Data on child care services for 2008-09 are not directly comparable to previous years data (presented in table 3A.3) due to a change in data source. Refer to box 3.2, 2010 Report, box 3.1, and table 3A.3 for more information. <sup>c</sup> See source table for complete footnotes and definitions. <sup>d</sup> Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution. .. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero. np Not published.

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) administrative data collection and *Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey 2008-09*; ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Income and Housing 2007-08*, Cat. no. 6523.0, *2006 Census of Population and Housing*, and *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*, Cat no. 4430.0; table 3A.3; 2010 Report, table 3.4, p. 3.18.

Data on the representation of special needs groups for children in State and Territory government funded and/or provided preschools are provided in table 3.2. For jurisdictions that were able to provide data, the patterns for children from special needs groups in preschool varied. Nationally, the representation of Indigenous children aged 3–5 years in preschool (4.9 per cent) was higher than their representation in the community (4.5 per cent) though this varies across jurisdictions.

**Table 3.2 Proportion of children (aged 3–5 years) from special needs groups enrolled in State and Territory funded or provided preschools, 2008-09 (per cent)<sup>a, b, c</sup>**

<i>Representation</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust<sup>d</sup></i>
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds									
In preschool services	10.1	16.9	3.8	na	11.0	na	17.3	na	12.3
In the community, 2006	23.2	21.6	11.6	15.6	13.5	7.2	16.1	38.7	18.7
Indigenous children									
In preschool services	4.0	0.9	8.0	8.9	6.3	4.9	3.0	43.2	4.9
In the community, 2006	4.1	1.2	6.4	5.8	3.5	6.4	2.3	41.8	4.5
Children with disability									
In preschool services <sup>e</sup>	5.4	6.6	2.2	3.0	14.1	na	3.4	5.1	6.1
In the community, 2003	7.7	6.5	8.6	10.2	8.3	7.2	14.3	np	8.0
Children from regional areas									
In preschool services	29.4	24.6	40.8	9.7	26.4	98.6	0.8	46.5	27.3
In the community, 2006	28.0	27.5	45.1	24.5	26.2	97.7	0.1	48.2	32.3
Children from remote areas									
In preschool services	1.0	0.1	7.4	8.5	6.1	1.4	..	53.5	3.7
In the community, 2006	1.0	0.1	6.2	11.8	5.8	2.6	..	68.2	4.2

<sup>a</sup> Data on children in preschool services represent the population of children enrolled in preschool in 2008-09. Data on representation in the community are reported for different years due to the availability of data and are sourced from the ABS *Survey of Disability and Housing 2003*, *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and the *Survey of Income and Housing 2007-08*. <sup>b</sup> See source table for complete footnotes and definitions. <sup>c</sup> Data exclude innovative or flexible services that receive direct funding from the Australian Government and are targeted towards children from these groups. Data on preschool services can include some children aged 3 years or 5 years for all jurisdictions. Preschool data in the NT can include some children aged greater than 5 years in very remote areas. <sup>d</sup> Data for Australia for children from non-English speaking backgrounds and children with disability in preschool are the total of the sum of the states and territories for which data are available, and should not be interpreted as national data. Data for Australia for children from regional and remote areas in preschool, and data on the representation in the community represent all states and territories and can be interpreted as national data. <sup>e</sup> Data on children with disability are not directly comparable because the definition of disability varies across jurisdictions. **na** Not available. **..** Not applicable.

*Source:* State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished) *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*, Cat. no. 4430.0; table 3A.4; 2010 Report, table 3.5, p. 3.20.

## Indigenous preschool attendance rates

‘Indigenous preschool attendance rates’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that services are provided in an equitable manner to all special needs groups in the community, and that there is consideration of the needs of those groups which can have special difficulty in accessing services (box 3.3).

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### **Box 3.3 Indigenous preschool attendance rates**

'Indigenous preschool attendance rates' is defined as the number of Indigenous children absent from non-government preschools, as a proportion of all Indigenous children enrolled in non-government preschools. A child is deemed absent if they missed one or more of the sessions they were enrolled in during the reference week. Attendance rates are measured by absentee rates.

Non-government preschools include preschool programs delivered in government funded, registered, licensed and/or approved services, and these arrangements vary across jurisdictions. Preschool programs operated by commercial providers are excluded (DEEWR 2009).

A low or decreasing absentee rate indicates a high or increasing rate of attendance at preschools, and is desirable.

Preschool attendance is not compulsory.

Data on Indigenous preschool attendance rates are limited to Indigenous children enrolled in non-government preschools, as Indigenous children enrolled in government preschools are not available.

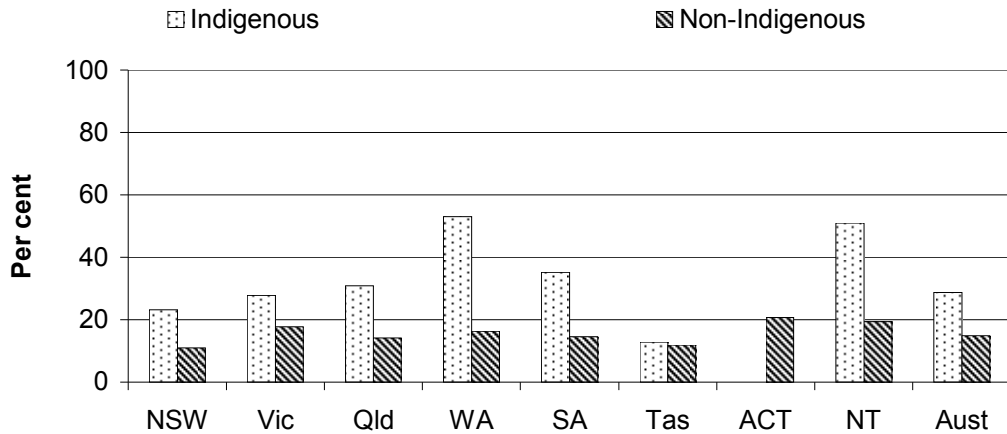
Data reported for this indicator are not complete.

Indigenous preschool enrolments provide a broad indication of access to preschool. Data on Indigenous preschool enrolments were provided for all jurisdictions except the ACT. Nationally in 2008-09, 10 200 Indigenous children were enrolled in State and Territory government funded and/or provided preschool. Of these Indigenous children, at least 4320 were enrolled in preschool in the year before full time school (table 3A.4). Data on Indigenous children's representation in preschool compared with their representation in the community are presented in table 3.3. Data on Indigenous children enrolled in preschool for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09 are presented in 3A.5.

'Indigenous preschool attendance rates' provide a broad indication of the participation of Indigenous children in preschools. These data are sourced from the National Preschool Census (NPC) and relate only to non-government preschools. These data can overlap with the preschools data provided by State and Territory governments and are therefore not directly comparable with other preschool data included in the Report. The NPC collected data from 98 per cent of the 3536 non-government preschools in scope for the 2008 NPC (DEEWR 2009). This represents approximately 68 per cent of all government and non-government preschools, though this proportion varies considerably across jurisdictions (from 7.9 per cent in the NT, to 100.0 per cent in Victoria) (table 3A.6). Data for jurisdictions with few non-government preschools should be interpreted with care.

Nationally in 2008, non-attendance by Indigenous children (28.6 per cent) was higher than non-attendance by non-Indigenous children (14.8 per cent) (figure 3.2).

**Figure 3.2 Enrolled children absent from non-government preschools, 2008<sup>a, b, c, d, e</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Data on attendance are limited to non-government preschools, and exclude government preschools. At the national level, approximately 68 per cent of children are in preschools deemed to be non-government, though this percentage varies across jurisdictions: 90 per cent in NSW, 100 per cent in Victoria, 93 per cent in Queensland, 28 per cent in WA, 22 per cent in SA, 25 per cent in Tasmania, 12 per cent in the ACT, and 8 per cent in the NT. Preschool attendance data for jurisdictions with a small proportion of non-government preschools should be interpreted with care. <sup>b</sup> Preschool attendance is not compulsory. <sup>c</sup> Attendance was measured during the week of 28 July–1 August 2008. Children are counted as absent if they miss one or more of the sessions that they were enrolled in during this week. Absences due to illness can be higher during winter than at other times of the year. <sup>d</sup> Data for non-Indigenous children are derived from data on Indigenous children and all children. <sup>e</sup> There were no Indigenous children enrolled in non-government preschools in the ACT in 2008.

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) *National Preschool Census 2008*; table 3A.6; 2010 Report, figure 3.3, p. 3.22.

## Future directions in performance reporting

### *COAG developments*

#### *Report on Government Services alignment with National Agreement reporting*

It is anticipated that future editions of the Children's services chapter will align with applicable *National Indigenous Reform Agreement* (NIRA) indicators. Further reporting changes might result from future developments in NA and National Partnership reporting.

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## Attachment tables

Attachment tables for data within this chapter are contained in the attachment to the Compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by an 'A' suffix (for example, table 3A.3 is table 3 in the Children's services attachment). Attachment tables are on the Review website ([www.pc.gov.au/gsp](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp)). Users without access to the website can contact the Secretariat to obtain the attachment tables (see contact details on the inside front cover of the Compendium). The tables included in the attachment are listed below.

- Table 3A.1** Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2009
- Table 3A.2** Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2008-09
- Table 3A.3** Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent)
- Table 3A.4** Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09
- Table 3A.5** Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2004-05 to 2008-09
- Table 3A.6** Children absent from non-government preschools, 2008

## References

DEEWR (Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations) 2009, *National Preschool Census 2008*, Data Analysis Australia, Nedlands WA.

## 3A Children's services — attachment

Definitions for the indicators and descriptors in this attachment are in section 3.6 of the chapter in the *Report on Government Services 2010* (2010 Report). Unsourced information was obtained from the Australian, State and Territory governments. Data in this Report are examined by the Children's Services Working Group, but have not been formally audited by the Secretariat.

This file is available in Adobe PDF format on the Review web page ([www.pc.gov.au/gsp](http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp)). Users without Internet access can contact the Secretariat to obtain these tables (see details on the inside front cover of the Report).

## Attachment contents

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<b>Table 3A.1</b>	Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2009
<b>Table 3A.2</b>	Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2008-09
<b>Table 3A.3</b>	Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent)
<b>Table 3A.4</b>	Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09
<b>Table 3A.5</b>	Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2004-05 to 2008-09
<b>Table 3A.6</b>	Children absent from non-government preschools, 2008

Table 3A.1

Table 3A.1 Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2009 (a)

	Child care		Preschool		Transition to primary school Year prior to Year One (b)	
	Agency (b)	Program	Age of entry	Agency (b)	School year	Age of entry
NSW (c)	Dept of Community Services	Preschool	generally 3 and 4 year olds	Dept of Community Services (licensing for all services, funding for community based services) Dept of Education & Training (funding for government run preschools)	Kindergarten	5 by 31 July
Vic	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	Kindergarten	4 by 30 April	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	Preparatory (Prep)	5 by 30 April
Qld (d)	Dept of Education and Training	Kindergarten, Pre-Preparatory (Pre-Prep)	4 by 30 June	Dept of Education and Training	Preparatory Year (Prep)	5 by 30 June
WA	Dept for Communities	Kindergarten	4 by 30 June	Dept of Education and Training	Pre-primary	5 by 30 June
SA (e)	Dept of Education and Children's Services	Preschool Kindergarten	entry after 4th birthday	Dept of Education and Children's Services	Reception	entry after 5 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Tas	Dept of Education	Kindergarten	4 by 1 January	Dept of Education	Preparatory	5 by 1
ACT (f)	Dept of Disability, Housing and Community Services	Preschool	4 by 30 April	Dept Education and Training (government preschools)	Kindergarten	5 by 30 April
NT (g)	Dept of Education and Training	Preschool	4 by 30 June, or 3 for Indigenous children in remote areas	Dept of Education and Training	Transition	5 by 30 June

(a) The Children's services chapter reports data for child care and preschool services only. Data on primary school are reported in the School education chapter (2010 Report, chapter 4), but relate to 2008. Information on the first year of primary school are included here to show the point at which children can transition from preschool to the first year of primary school in each jurisdiction.

(b) The departmental responsibility of agencies varies between child care and preschool. Agency responsibility refers to licensing services for child care, and licensing, funding and/or providing services for preschool programs. State and Territory education departments are responsible for primary school.

**Table 3A.1 Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2009 (a)**

- (c) In NSW, all licensed children's services for under 6 year olds (who have not commenced Kindergarten) are required to offer programs that meet children's educational and developmental needs.
- (d) All licensed children's services in Queensland are required to provide an appropriate program that is designed to stimulate and develop each child's creative, emotional, intellectual, lingual, physical, recreational and social potential.
- (e) In SA, some children are entitled to enrol in preschool earlier. Indigenous children and children under the guardianship of the Minister can enter from 3 years, children with additional needs (which includes gifted children) and those living in small rural communities may commence at 3 ½ years. The compulsory school starting age in SA is 6 years at the oldest.
- (f) In the ACT, private preschools are licensed by Dept of Disability, Housing and Community Services.
- (g) In the NT, Indigenous children aged 3 years in remote Indigenous communities can attend preschool if accompanied by an adult.

Source : State and Territory governments (unpublished); 2010 Report, table 3A.1.

Table 3A.2

**Table 3A.2 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds										
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	17.9	18.1	7.4	10.3	9.8	4.0	12.1	11.0	13.6
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	24.6	23.2	12.8	16.8	14.8	8.1	17.8	37.0	20.1
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	18.0	14.9	6.8	7.8	8.5	4.4	8.2	12.3	11.9
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	22.1	20.5	11.2	14.5	12.8	6.5	14.9	36.5	17.7
Indigenous children										
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	2.6	0.6	2.8	2.2	2.0	1.6	1.5	7.9	2.2
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	4.1	1.2	6.4	5.6	3.4	6.6	2.2	38.9	4.4
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	2.5	1.5	4.0	3.2	2.3	2.3	1.6	15.9	2.8
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	4.1	1.2	6.1	5.5	3.3	6.4	2.3	39.4	4.3
Children from low-income families										
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	26.0	24.0	25.5	22.3	24.8	26.3	10.5	16.9	24.8
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	23.0	22.8	22.3	23.1	25.5	28.6	13.1	21.5	22.9
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	20.0	23.1	22.9	23.6	24.3	22.0	7.8	14.8	22.0
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	25.8	23.3	19.6	19.3	27.4	37.8	8.6	16.1	23.3
Children with a disability										
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	3.7	2.1	1.9	2.3	3.7	2.3	1.8	2.8	2.7
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	4.7	4.6	5.1	6.0	7.0	4.4	9.1	np	5.2
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	4.2	3.2	4.3	3.0	8.0	3.5	2.1	5.5	4.3
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	10.7	8.5	9.5	11.4	10.2	7.7	6.2	np	9.8
Children from regional areas										
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	26.8	25.4	33.6	21.1	21.4	99.0	0.1	76.9	29.2
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	27.1	26.5	44.6	23.9	25.8	98.0	0.1	50.9	31.6
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	24.3	22.9	30.1	18.6	16.3	99.6	0.0	83.5	26.6
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	30.3	29.7	47.1	25.5	27.4	97.8	0.3	51.9	34.3
Children from remote areas										
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	0.3	–	1.2	4.0	2.1	1.1	..	23.2	1.1
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	0.7	0.1	4.6	8.9	4.3	2.0	..	50.6	3.1
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	0.2	–	0.8	2.0	1.1	0.4	..	16.5	0.7
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	0.7	0.1	4.3	8.4	4.4	2.1	..	50.7	3.0

(a) Refer to table 3A.3 for complete footnotes.

(b) Excludes children aged 6–12 years attending Occasional Care services. The number of children aged 6–12 years using Occasional care services were too small to be included here.

na Not available. np Not published. .. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) administrative data collection, *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2006* and *Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey 2007-08*; ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2007-08*, Cat. no. 6523.0, *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*, Cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra; 2010 Report, table 3A.14.

Table 3A.3

**Table 3A.3 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent) (a), (b), (c), (d)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds (e)									
Representation in child care services									
2004	17.4	13.5	6.3	7.9	6.9	3.4	12.1	8.1	11.6
2006	17.0	12.8	5.1	6.4	8.0	2.5	9.7	8.5	10.9
2008	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2008-09	18.0	17.2	7.3	9.7	9.3	4.2	10.3	11.5	13.2
Representation in the community (f)	23.2	21.7	11.9	15.5	13.7	7.2	16.2	36.8	18.8
Indigenous children (g)									
Representation in child care services									
2004	1.6	0.6	2.5	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.7	10.7	1.6
2006	1.6	0.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.4	0.7	11.1	1.7
2008	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2008-09	2.5	0.9	3.1	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.4	10.6	2.3
Representation in the community (f)	4.1	1.2	6.2	5.6	3.3	6.5	2.3	39.2	4.4
Children from low-income families (h)									
Representation in child care services									
2004	28.0	28.3	33.8	32.6	33.0	31.5	12.4	18.8	29.9
2006	25.2	26.5	28.6	27.6	29.3	29.1	10.4	17.5	26.6
2008	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2008-09	24.4	23.7	24.7	22.7	24.6	24.8	9.6	16.2	23.9
Representation in the community (i)	24.5	23.1	20.9	21.0	26.6	33.8	10.8	18.9	23.2
Children with a disability (j)									
Representation in child care services									
2004	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.7	3.5	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.1
2006	3.1	2.4	2.2	2.5	3.8	2.3	1.8	3.7	2.7
2008	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2008-09	3.8	2.5	2.6	2.5	5.5	2.7	1.9	3.7	3.2
Representation in the community (j)	8.0	6.8	7.6	8.9	8.8	6.2	7.5	np	7.7
Children from regional and remote areas (k)									
Regional									
Representation in child care services									
2004	25.9	22.5	38.9	18.2	16.2	99.6	–	74.0	28.8
2006	25.6	25.0	36.6	18.9	17.9	99.4	0.1	77.3	29.0
2008	25.0	23.5	30.9	17.2	17.2	96.4	0.2	81.1	27.0
2008-09	26.3	24.6	32.5	20.5	19.4	99.2	0.1	79.1	28.5
Representation in the community (f)	28.9	28.2	45.9	24.8	26.7	97.9	0.2	51.4	33.1
Remote									
Representation in child care services									
2004	0.4	0.1	1.6	5.0	2.0	0.4	..	26.0	1.4
2006	0.3	–	1.3	3.7	2.0	0.6	..	22.7	1.1

Table 3A.3

**Table 3A.3 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent) (a), (b), (c), (d)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
2008	0.2	–	0.8	2.9	1.5	0.6	..	18.9	0.8
2008-09	0.2	–	1.1	3.4	1.7	0.8	..	21.0	1.0
Representation in the community (f)	0.7	0.1	4.4	8.6	4.4	2.0	..	50.7	3.0

- (a) Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution.
- (b) Data for 2004 and 2006 are drawn from the respective AGCCCS, while data for 2008 and 2008-09 are drawn from the AGCCPS and DEEWR administrative data. Data for 2008 and 2008-09 are not comparable to previous years due to the change in the source for data collection.
- (c) Children attending approved services in 2004 and 2006 may be counted more than once if attending more than one service during the reference week. In 2008 and 2008-09, children are counted once for each care type they use.
- (d) Excludes Aboriginal Playgroups and Enrichment Programs, Mobile and Toy Library services and Aboriginal Playgroups as data from these service types were not available.
- (e) Children from non-English speaking backgrounds in child care services are children who speak, or whose parent/guardian speak a language other than English at home. Data on representation in the community refer to the proportion of children who do not speak English as their main language at home.
- (f) Data for representation in the community are estimated from the ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing.
- (g) Indigenous children in child care services are children who child care services identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. The representation in the community data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing refer to children of an Indigenous descent who identify as being Indigenous. The ABS Census Post Enumeration Survey has estimated an undercount of Indigenous people in the 2006 Census, and the data on the proportion of Indigenous represented in children in the community should be treated with caution.
- (h) Children from low income families include those families in receipt of the maximum rate of Child Care Benefit (CCB). The maximum CCB rate was \$31755 in 2003-04, \$33361 in 2005-06, \$35478 in 2007-08, and \$36573 in 2008-09.
- (i) The data showing representation children from low income families in the community are drawn from the *ABS Survey of Income and Housing 2007-08*.
- (j) Children with a disability in child care services are children who child care services identify as having a continuing disability including intellectual, sensory or physical impairment. Data on representation in the community refer to children with any limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. These data were obtained from the *ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*. Due to the small sample size, data for the NT are not published.
- (k) Regional and remote areas based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification of Remoteness Areas (ASGC) (ABS 2006). Regional areas include inner regional and outer regional areas. Remote areas include remote, very remote and migratory areas. Children can use care in multiple regions and states, and may be counted in more than one region.

**na** Not available. **np** Not published. .. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source:* DEEWR (unpublished) administrative data collection, *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2006* and *Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey 2007-08*; FaCSIA (unpublished) *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2004*; ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2007-08*, Cat. no. 6523.0, *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*, Cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra; 2010 Report, table 3A.15.

Table 3A.4

**Table 3A.4 Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

	Unit	NSW (c)	Vic	Qld (d)	WA (e)	SA (f)	Tas (g)	ACT (h)	NT (i)	Aust (j)
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	11 756	138	39	na	260	5	na	na	12 198
Preschool services	no.	6 601	10 598	608	na	2 380	na	710	na	20 897
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	na	10 598	na	na	na	na	710	na	11 308
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	11.0	10.3	4.0	na	11.3	0.7	na	na	10.8
Preschool services	%	10.1	16.9	3.8	na	11.0	na	17.3	na	12.3
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	na	17.0	na	na	na	na	18.0	na	17.1
Representation in the community										
Children aged 3-5 years	%	23.2	21.6	11.6	15.6	13.5	7.2	16.1	38.7	18.7
Children aged 0-12 years	%	23.2	21.7	11.9	15.5	13.7	7.2	16.2	36.8	18.8
Indigenous children										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	3 649	-	44	na	70	8	na	na	3 771
Preschool services	no.	2 608	561	1 268	2 622	1 370	285	122	1 364	10 200
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	na	561	na	2 483	na	na	122	1 154	4 320
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	3.4	-	4.5	na	3.0	1.2	na	na	3.4
Preschool services	%	4.0	0.9	8.0	8.9	6.3	4.9	3.0	43.2	4.9
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	na	0.9	na	8.9	na	na	3.1	40.8	4.5
Representation in the community										
Children aged 3-5 years	%	4.1	1.2	6.4	5.8	3.5	6.4	2.3	41.8	4.5
Children aged 0-12 years	%	4.1	1.2	6.2	5.6	3.3	6.5	2.3	39.2	4.4

Table 3A.4

**Table 3A.4 Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

	Unit	NSW (c)	Vic	Qld (d)	WA (e)	SA (f)	Tas (g)	ACT (h)	NT (i)	Aust (j)
Children with a disability (k)										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	4 662	16	10	na	270	14	na	na	4 972
Preschool services	no.	3 510	4 139	351	895	3 050	na	138	161	12 244
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	na	4 139	na	847	na	na	138	138	5 262
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	4.3	1.2	1.0	na	11.7	2.1	na	na	4.4
Preschool services	%	5.4	6.6	2.2	3.0	14.1	na	3.4	5.1	6.1
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	na	6.6	na	3.0	na	na	3.5	4.9	5.4
Representation in the community										
Children aged 3-5 years	%	7.7	6.5	8.6	10.2	8.3	7.2	14.3	np	8.0
Children aged 0-12 years	%	8.0	6.8	7.6	8.9	8.8	6.2	7.5	np	7.7
Children from regional areas										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	28 241	241	465	na	570	614	na	na	30 131
Preschool services	no.	19 256	15 366	6 476	2 866	5 720	5 749	33	1 466	56 932
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	na	15 228	5 620	2 714	14 810	na	na	na	38 372
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	26.3	18.0	47.5	na	24.7	91.8	na	na	26.8
Preschool services	%	29.4	24.6	40.8	9.7	26.4	98.6	0.8	46.5	27.3
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	na	24.4	39.1	9.7	94.7	na	na	na	31.9
Representation in the community										
Children aged 3-5 years	%	28.0	27.5	45.1	24.5	26.2	97.7	0.1	48.2	32.3
Children aged 0-12 years	%	28.9	28.2	45.9	24.8	26.7	97.9	0.2	51.4	33.1

Table 3A.4

**Table 3A.4 Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

	Unit	NSW (c)	Vic	Qld (d)	WA (e)	SA (f)	Tas (g)	ACT (h)	NT (i)	Aust (j)
Children from remote areas										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	1 077	-	213	na	230	55	..	na	1 575
Preschool services	no.	674	49	1 177	2 492	1 330	81	..	1 689	7 492
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	na	49	591	2 361	830	na	..	na	3 831
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	1.0	-	21.8	na	10.0	8.2	..	na	1.4
Preschool services	%	1.0	0.1	7.4	8.5	6.1	1.4	..	53.5	3.7
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	na	0.1	4.1	8.5	5.3	na	..	na	3.2
Representation in the community										
Children aged 3-5 years	%	1.0	0.1	6.2	11.8	5.8	2.6	..	68.2	4.2
Children aged 0-12 years	%	0.7	0.1	4.4	8.6	4.4	2.0	..	50.7	3.0

(a) Data for representation in the community are estimated from the *ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006*, except for 'children with a disability'. Data for the representation of children with a disability in the community were obtained from the *ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*. Due to the various data sources used in different years, caution should be used when making comparisons across the years.

(b) Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution.

(c) As NSW does not discriminate between child care and preschool services, special needs children counted in child care services includes the count of children accessing designated preschool services. Data are for children attending funded licensed services during the survey week in September. In NSW, total special needs children using child care services and total special needs children using preschool services should not be added together as a total and should be interpreted with caution.

Table 3A.4

**Table 3A.4 Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

	Unit	NSW (c)	Vic	Qld (d)	WA (e)	SA (f)	Tas (g)	ACT (h)	NT (i)	Aust (j)
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(d) Queensland child care data are based on an annual voluntary census and response rates are variable by service type and over time. Child care data for 2008-09 relate to State funded occasional care services only and are potentially under reported, as data for vacation care and other services (which specifically target children with special needs) were not available. Preschool data include Indigenous Community Pre-Preparatory services and C&K community kindergarten services. Data for 2008-09 on children with a disability and children in regional and remote areas in C&K community kindergarten services are not comparable to data in previous Reports, due to changes in data definitions. For 2008-09, children with a disability are those children with a diagnosed disability attending in the census week. Data on regional and remote areas are children attending in the census week, based on location of services according to the Australian Standard Geographic Classification. Queensland is unable to disaggregate children with special needs enrolled in preschool in the year before full time school from all children with special needs enrolled in preschool.

(e) For WA, it is assumed that the ratio of Indigenous and disabled students in the non-government system is the same as the government system.

(f) In SA, children in preschool in the year before full time school include 4 year old children only.

(g) Tasmanian preschool services includes data for government preschools only.

(h) In the ACT there are no regions classified as remote.

(i) NT preschools data include Catholic Remote Indigenous schools. Data for children from non-English speaking backgrounds are of a quality too poor to report. Data for Indigenous children in preschools were collected during the week ending 1 August 2008, as part of the Age Grade Census. Data for children with a disability in preschools are an average over the whole year. Indigenous children and children with a disability in preschools include 3 year old children. Indigenous children aged 4 years in preschool are a proxy for children in preschool in the year before full time school. Children with a disability aged 4 and 5 years in preschool are a proxy for children in preschool in the year before full time school.

(j) Data for Australia for children from non-English speaking backgrounds and children with a disability in children's services are the total of the sum of the states and territories for which data are available, and should not be interpreted as national data. All other data for Australia represent all states and territories and can be considered national data.

(k) Data are not directly comparable between jurisdictions because there is no national definition or standard on children with a disability. In Victoria, children with a disability in preschool services are children identified as having additional needs by the qualified early childhood teacher delivering the funded kindergarten program. In Queensland, the definition of disability refers to a diagnosed disability.

na Not available. np Not published. .. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2007-08*, Cat. no. 6523.0, 2006 *Census of Population and Housing and Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*, Cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra; 2010 Report, table 3A.16.

Table 3A.5

Table 3A.5 Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Unit	NSW (a)	Vic (b)	Q/d (c)	WA (d)	SA	Tas (e)	ACT	NT (f)	Aust (g)
2004-05										
	Number of Indigenous children in preschool	no. 1 824	na	3 454	2 282	1 170	328	111	1 403	10 572
	Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h)	% 2.9	na	5.6	8.9	5.5	5.2	3.1	41.2	5.7
2005-06										
	Number of Indigenous children in preschool	no. 1 912	na	3 894	2 523	1 210	337	108	1 414	11 398
	Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h)	% 3.1	na	6.1	9.6	5.7	5.5	3.1	42.5	6.1
2006-07										
	Number of Indigenous children in preschool	no. 2 384	na	3 858	2 322	1 240	285	106	1 389	11 584
	Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h)	% 3.6	na	6.1	9.1	5.9	4.8	3.0	42.3	6.1
2007-08										
	Number of Indigenous children in preschool	no. 2 341	na	1 326	2 494	1 280	310	102	1 477	9 330
	Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h)	% 3.7	na	7.7	9.1	5.9	5.2	2.7	43.5	6.5
2008-09										
	Number of Indigenous children in preschool	no. 2 608	561	1 268	2 622	1 370	285	122	1 364	10 200
	Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h)	% 4.0	0.9	8.0	8.9	6.3	4.9	3.0	43.2	4.9

(a) As NSW does not discriminate between child care and preschool services, children counted in child care services includes the count of children accessing designated preschool services. Data are for children attending funded licensed services during the survey week in September. In NSW, children using child care services and children using preschool services should not be added together as a total and should be interpreted with caution. All NSW licensed and funded long day care centres offer a preschool program. There is an under-representation of Indigenous children attending preschool in NSW data, as Indigenous children attending long day care centres in the year before school are not included.

(b) Preschool services data refer to the number of children attending State funded kindergarten services, including those operating in centre-based long day care services.

(c) Queensland data from 2007-08 include Indigenous Community Pre-Preparatory and C&K community kindergarten services. Data for C&K community kindergarten services in 2008-09 are not comparable to data for previous years, as these data relate to children attending in the census week (as reported by the services responding to Child Care Services Census). Data for previous years were enrolment data. The 2008-09 census had a response rate of 93.6 per cent for preschools, and data for 2008-09 are potentially under reported.

(d) For WA preschool services, it is assumed the ratio of Indigenous students in the non-government system is the same as in the government system.

Table 3A.5

**Table 3A.5 Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2004-05 to 2008-09**

	<i>Unit</i>	NSW (a)	Vic (b)	Q/d (c)	WA (d)	SA	Tas (e)	ACT	NT (f)	Aust (g)
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(e) Tasmanian preschool services includes data for government preschools only.

(f) NT preschools data include Catholic Remote Indigenous Schools. Data for Indigenous children in preschools were collected during the week ending 1 August 2008, as part of the Age Grade Census.

(g) The totals for Australia are calculated as the sum of the states and territories for which data were available.

(h) Representation in preschool is Indigenous children enrolled in preschool as a proportion of all children enrolled in preschool..

na Not available.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished) 2006 *Census of Population and Housing*; 2010 Report, table 3A.17.

Table 3A.6

Table 3A.6 Children absent from non-government preschools, 2008 (a), (b), (c)

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Q/d	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Number of children enrolled										
Indigenous children	no.	2 371	677	844	296	299	39	–	149	4 675
Non-Indigenous children (d)	no.	54 103	72 798	16 371	7 817	6 023	1 563	557	129	159 361
<b>All children</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>56 474</b>	<b>73 475</b>	<b>17 215</b>	<b>8 113</b>	<b>6 322</b>	<b>1 602</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>164 036</b>
Number of children absent										
Indigenous children	no.	548	188	260	157	105	5	–	76	1 339
Non-Indigenous children (d)	no.	5 948	12 905	2 320	1 272	875	185	115	25	23 645
<b>All children</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>6 496</b>	<b>13 093</b>	<b>2 580</b>	<b>1 429</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>24 984</b>
Proportion of children absent										
Indigenous children	%	23.1	27.8	30.8	53.0	35.1	12.8	–	51.0	28.6
Non-Indigenous children (d)	%	11.0	17.7	14.2	16.3	14.5	11.8	20.6	19.4	14.8
<b>All children</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>15.2</b>
Non-government preschools										
Number of non-government preschools	no.	907	1512	365	239	110	56	10	10	3209
Proportion of all preschools (e)	%	90.2	100.0	92.9	27.7	22.1	25.1	11.5	7.9	68.4

(a) Data on attendance are limited to non-government preschools, and excludes government preschools.

(b) Attendance measured during the Census week of 28 July–1 August 20 2008. Children are counted as absent if they miss one or more of the sessions that they were enrolled in during this week. Absences due to illness may be higher during winter than at other times of the year.

(c) Preschool attendance is not compulsory.

(d) Data for Non-Indigenous children are derived from data on Indigenous children and All children.

(e) Non-government preschools as a proportion of all preschools (which includes government and non-government preschools) approached in the NPC. Preschool attendance data for jurisdictions with a small proportion of non-government schools should be interpreted with care.

– Nil or rounded to zero

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) *National Preschool Census 2008*; 2010 Report, table 3A.18.