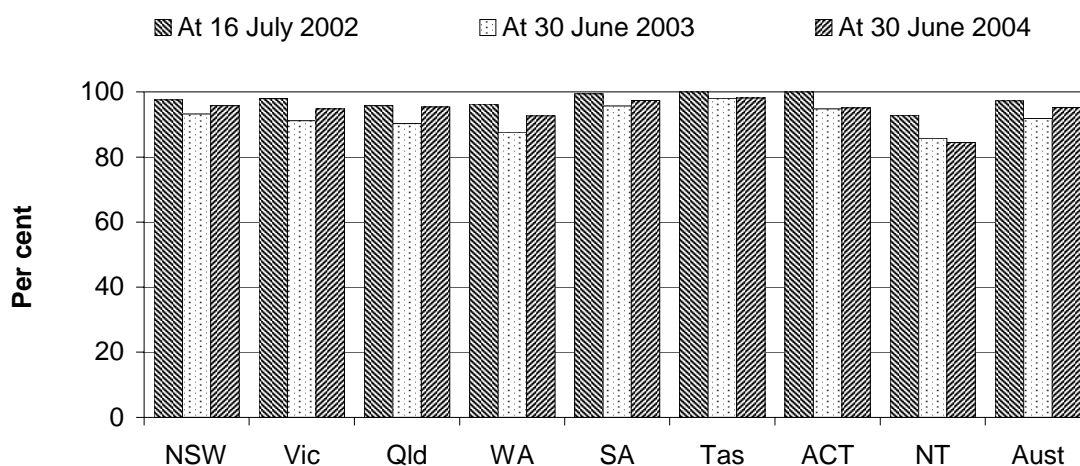


CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CHAPTER 14)

- The focus of this chapter is on government funded and/or provided child care and preschool services.
- Around 722 300 children attended Australian government funded and/or provided child care services in 2004 (approximately 471 000 children were aged 5 years or younger) (p. 14.8). At least 246 000 children attended State and Territory funded and/or provided preschool services in 2003-04 (approximately 218 000 children were in the year before commencing full time schooling) (p. 14.9). Some children attended both child care and preschool services.

Selection of results

Accredited centre-based long day care services as a proportion of services fully assessed under the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (QIAS) (p. 14.28)



See over for data and footnotes.

- Australian, State and Territory government expenditure on children's services in 2003-04 was approximately \$2.4 billion (compared with \$2.3 billion in real terms in 2002-03). Australian Government expenditure accounted for \$1.8 billion. The major component of this expenditure was financial support to families through assistance with fees, which accounted for \$1.4 billion. State and Territory government expenditure in 2003-04 was approximately \$608.3 million (p. 14.6).
- Australian Government expenditure in 2003-04 ranged from \$755 per child in Queensland to \$413 per child in WA (p. 14.31).

[MORE]

Progress since the 2004 Report

A full Australian Government Census of Child Care Services was conducted in March 2004 facilitating the reporting of current data. In addition, previously unreported data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2002 Child Care Survey is reported to provide insight into demand for (additional) child care services.

Data for chart on previous page

Accredited centre-based long day care services as a proportion of services fully assessed under the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System^{a, b}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
16 July 2002	97.6	98.0	95.8	96.3	99.5	100.0	100.0	92.9	97.3
30 June 2003	93.2	91.2	90.3	87.6	95.7	98.0	94.8	85.7	91.8
30 June 2004	95.7	94.8	95.4	92.6	97.3	98.2	95.1	84.4	95.2

^a Figures may change daily and are updated every six weeks following a National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) meeting. ^b Results for Tasmania, the ACT and the NT may be unduly influenced by the relatively small number of services (54, 77 and 38 services respectively at 30 June 2004) participating in the process.

Source: NCAC (unpublished); table 14A.2.

[END]

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before Thursday 27 January 2005.

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