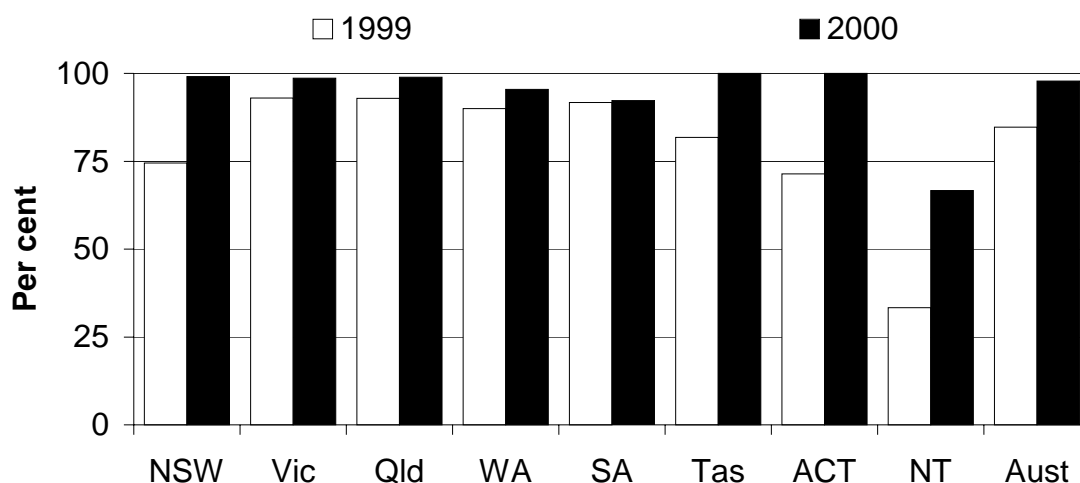


CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CHAPTER 14)

- The focus of this chapter is on government funded and/or provided child care and preschool services.
- Around 643 000 children accessed government funded and/or provided child care services in 2000-01 (428 000 aged 5 years or younger) (p. 750). At least 252 964 children attended government funded and/or provided preschool services in the same year (216 646 of these were in the year before commencing full time schooling) (p. 752). Some children attended both child care and preschool services.

Selection of results

Proportion of Commonwealth approved family day care services providing nonstandard hours of care, May 1999 and August 2000.



See over for data and footnotes.

- Representation of children from rural and remote areas in Commonwealth supported child care services in August 2000 was below their representation in the community in all jurisdictions (excluding the ACT which did not have rural and remote areas attendees and the NT for which no data were published). Representation of children from single parent families for the same period was above their community representation (excluding the NT for which no data were published) (p. 763).
- Commonwealth Government recurrent funding per hour of service for centre based long day care services ranged from \$2.25 in Queensland to \$1.31 in the ACT in 1999-2000. Commonwealth Government recurrent funding per hour of service for family day care services for the same period ranged from \$3.39 in SA to \$1.82 in the NT Commonwealth Government recurrent funding per hour of service for outside school hours care services for the same period ranged from \$1.41 in Queensland to \$1.04 in NSW (p. 769).

[MORE]

Progress since 2001 Report

The implementation of the child care benefit scheme resulted in a reduced Commonwealth Census of Child Care Services being conducted in 2001. This limited the data available for reporting when compared with previous years. A full census is planned for 2002 and will facilitate more comprehensive reporting in the 2003 Report.

Progress has been made in a number of areas including: restructuring of the performance indicator framework, the addition of two quality indicators ((1) staff qualifications and (2) licensing, accreditation and registration) although no data for these indicators are available for this Report, and refinement to data counting rules and collection processes (which is expected to improved comparability of data across jurisdictions).

Data for chart on previous page

Proportion of Commonwealth approved family day care services providing nonstandard hours of care, May 1999 and August 2000.

	<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>
1999 ^a	74.5	93.0	92.9	90.0	91.7	81.8	71.4	33.3	84.7
2000 ^b	99.1	98.6	98.9	95.5	92.3	100.0	100.0	66.7	97.9

^a Data from the May 1999 Commonwealth Census of Child Care Services. ^b Data from Centrelink administrative systems as at August 2000.

Source: table 14A.13.

[END]

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before Wednesday 30 January 2002.

Media copies of this report are available from Clair Angel on 03 9653 2244.

Other requests for this report should be directed to Government Info Shops. The report can also be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.pc.gov.au/> on the morning of release.