
9A CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Definitions for the descriptors and indicators in this attachment are in Section 9A.4. Unsourced information has been obtained from Commonwealth, State or Territory Governments. Data include both Commonwealth and State and Territory data unless otherwise specified.

9A.1 Jurisdiction comments

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Commonwealth Government comments

Development of agreed performance indicators for this Review of Commonwealth/State Services Provision for both child care and preschool has been a valuable Commonwealth/State cooperative exercise which will require ongoing commitment to development and refinement over future years.

The framework for performance indicators is consistent with that used for other service provision areas. While there are good reasons for maintaining this consistency, it is anticipated that there will be scope over coming years for more variation in the structure of the framework to better reflect the nature of the children's services sector.

Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services data collection processes have provided significant input into this year's review. This is the first year of collection and it will take time to ensure that future data are collected in all jurisdictions in the format required for reporting under these performance indicators.

We have some concern that reporting of State and Territory preschools covers only one year and this is not a full and reliable statement of provision in this sector.

Commonwealth involvement in child care continues to be responsive to issues of choice, affordability, supply and quality

The Commonwealth's proposed National Planning Framework, National Information Strategy and new service delivery agency are initiatives which will facilitate the provision of and access to services in areas where they are needed as well as assisting services by easing the burdens of administration and claiming arrangements.

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New South Wales Government comments

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In NSW in 1995–96 there were approximately 4160 child care services operating with a capacity of 145 000 child care places for children under 12 years of age. The majority of this provision (80 per cent of services and 77 per cent of capacity) is for preSchool–aged children (0 to 5 years). For this group, it is estimated that 295 000 children attended child care service in 1995–96. This represents 60 per cent of this age group. Services are operated by the private sector, Local Government, non-profit community organisation and Government agencies such as the Department of School Education, Department of Health and the Technical and Further Education Commission.

The Department of Community Services has responsibility for the licensing of all services for preSchool–aged children and also provides financial assistance to over 1800 services throughout the State from a recurrent funding budget of \$84 million in 1995–96.

The NSW Government has recently introduced new regulations that define appropriate minimum standards for the conduct and operation of centres and has announced new funding measures amounting to an additional \$22 million for recurrent and capital initiatives to improve access to services for disadvantaged families, rural families and for children 0 to 2 years. A guide for parents about choosing appropriate child care was recently distributed through more than 5000 outlets throughout the State, the first of its kind in Australia.

Data for NSW were not yet collected in exactly the categories needed for this Report and when examining data for NSW, the following points should be borne in mind:

- NSW Child Care regulations make it mandatory that the same staff:child ratios, staff qualifications and requirements concerning the provision of developmentally appropriate programs for children apply to all centre-based services whether they provide LDC, Preschool or Occasional Care. The educational and development programs offered in LDC are in the same form as those offered in preschools. Separating child care and child education data is not a relevant distinction in NSW.
- Data on injury and disease and non-compliance (Tables 9A.6 and 9A.7) has not been collected centrally up to now. It will be in future.
- Data on State expenditure per hour of service will not be collected on the basis required for Table 9A.8 until 1996–97.
- Financial data for Department of School Education preschools are currently reported as part of the larger school context in which they are run, affecting Tables 9A.4 and 9A.8.

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Victoria Government comments

“ There are approximately 3200 registered children's services centres for children under the age of 6 in Victoria. The Department of Human Services registers centres, monitors compliance with the regulations, investigates cases of non-compliance and conducts hearings or initiates prosecutions in the most serious cases. The Department also funds directly or manages Commonwealth/State Government funding allocated to approximately 1800 agencies providing children's services at approximately 2400 service delivery locations across the State. The size and complexity of this system and the strong role played by the State Government increases Victoria's expenditure on the administration of children's services.

In the last three years, Victoria has introduced changes to children's services. For example, flexibility in hours and models of operation and the development of integrated children's services which offer more than one type of program at a service delivery site have been encouraged, where arrangements best meet the needs of the local community.

Victoria has sought to enhance the quality of funded children's services through funding and service agreements, which contain many requirements in relation to programming, employment practices and parental involvement. Victoria is also playing a strong role in the implementation of the agreed *National Standards for Outside School Hours Care* and has issued separate guidelines to agencies to support them in implementing the standards. A quality assessment tool, designed for self-assessment by agencies, has been developed for the preschool sector, for implementation from 1997. Also in 1997, new children's services legislation and regulations will be implemented.

Victoria collects and analyses a considerable amount of data in relation to its registered and funded children's services. Funded agencies are required to submit annual data returns, all of which contain (at a minimum) information on utilisation, user characteristics and fee levels. During 1996, an integrated children's services database was developed and implemented. This database holds information on registration (licensing), investigations and prosecutions, funded service provision, funding allocations and payments. The new database will enhance Victoria's reporting capacity in future.

Unfortunately, much of the data currently held in this database was not collected and stored in the format required for this report, as data collection priorities had been determined previously on the basis of State needs. Hence only limited information is contained in this report in this first year of an agreed national data collection on children's services. In future, Victorian data collections will be modified wherever possible to take account of the agreed descriptors and indicators.”

Queensland Government comments

“ Children’s services in Queensland are administered by two separate Departments — the Department of Education and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. Opportunities for collaboration between the two Departments are actively promoted. Both Departments are closely involved with the Queensland Schools Curriculum Office in the development of preschool curriculum guidelines to inform practice in a range of early childhood settings, for instance.

The Department of Education provides free, sessional preschool education at State preschools for children in the year before Year 1. The Department of Education does not perceive preschool education as a form of child care but rather as an early education program. Department of Education funding also supports the provision of an equivalent year of sessional preschool education at community kindergartens and sessional programs for 3 year olds in kindergartens.

The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care funds, resources and licenses child care services, provides information on child care to the community, supports the ongoing development of a cohesive child care sector and promotes the provision of quality children's services.

In the past five years, Queensland has experienced enormous growth in the provision of long day care services. Supply has more than doubled since 1991, with the number of places growing at approximately 20 per cent per year. Significantly about 80 per cent of LDC centres are privately owned. Since 1991, over 40 per cent of Australia’s new private sector places have been established in Queensland.

The rapid growth in child care centres has resulted in pockets of over-supply in some areas (particularly along the more densely populated coastal strip), but under-supply exists in some areas for services with higher than average costs. For example, places for children under two are generally in short supply, as are services in rural and isolated communities. The Queensland Government is directing its funding predominantly into these areas.

The growth in LDC centres has also increased the licensing and monitoring responsibilities of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. This has affected the proportion of total expenditure spent on administration.

The descriptors and indicators used in this data collection reflect current thinking about the most significant elements of the provision of children's services nationally. The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care is revising its data collection in line with this performance assessment framework.”

Western Australia Government comments

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In WA, the rapid expansion of children's services has had a major impact on the role played by Family and Children's Services in licensing and monitoring services. In 1995–96 the Child Care Services Board approved 330 licences. This figure includes LDC centres which changed ownership and new Family Day Carers.

Overall expansion was almost exclusively in LDC where there was an 18 per cent growth in 1995–96. Expansion of the private sector in the metropolitan area may have impacted on utilisation levels of child care centres, which in some areas has resulted in a period of low utilisation. A yearly Utilisation Study is intended to follow this trend.

Major changes in the Education Department's Preschool and Kindergarten programs will continue to significantly impact on service provision in the coming years. These changes include the expansion of full time pre primary places by 3000 new places in 1996, and 6000 new places in 1997. In 2001 the provision of kindergarten programs will double and pre primary provision will expand from four to five days, and the eligible entry age of children will be raised.

A parental satisfaction survey is being developed to measure aspects of quality and accessibility for the future editions of this Report. WA already collects this type of information for state administered programs. In 1995–96, 97 per cent of parents surveyed, whose children attended vacation care or occasional care, indicated that their children's needs were being met to a moderate or high degree.

When examining data for WA, the following points should be considered:

- Measurement of administrative cost depends on how this is calculated and in this first report there are bound to be variations in the interpretation of the definition of administrative costs between states. The variations shown on in the corresponding administrative cost table should therefore be interpreted carefully. In addition WA incurs higher costs due to the extreme remoteness of many country services.
- With respect to provision of services to children from ethnically and culturally diverse backgrounds, research into acceptable child care practices in different cultural groups may explain interstate variations.
- The comparative figures between states should also be treated with caution because WA figures do not include children attending preschool type programs in LDC centres; these are included in figures for some other states.

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South Australia Government comments

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SA is committed to progressing the integration of service delivery to ensure convenient access for families to a range of education and child care services. 97 per cent of all before and after school hours care services operating in SA are located in schools. The 1992–96 National Child Care Strategy saw the development of 8 small child care services run in conjunction with rural preschools. These services were developed in areas where private child care operators were unlikely to establish services due to the small scale of the service. Cost efficiencies were gained through an integrated model of service delivery with the preschool by a joint management arrangement of the two services. A further 7 services are planned but their implementation is contingent upon the maintenance of operational subsidy for these services by the Commonwealth Government.

The majority of growth in child care centres has been through development by private child care operators and all but one private child care development has occurred within the greater Adelaide area. Of the 24 centres developed in SA during 1995–96 63 per cent (15) were developed by private operators and of these, half were developed by existing proprietors.

SA is committed to continuous improvement in quality. The national standards are currently being implemented in SA and it is planned that the national standards for FDC and OSHC will be in place by the end of 1997.

The licensing functions which are currently carried out by both a regional and central structure are currently being centralised. This will ensure consistency of application and the separation of the licensing and advisory functions of the Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS). Within this structure, the complaints handling mechanism will be centralised enabling SA to better report on complaints in future.

DECS continues a strong commitment to the early years of learning through the completion of the *Foundation Areas of Learning* which is a curriculum document for all early childhood settings catering for children from 3 to 6 years. *Aboriginal Perspectives on Foundation Areas of Learning* has also been progressed and the document will be published in 1997. Work has also commenced on a similar document for children 0 to 2 years.

A significant development has been the establishment of the Lillian de Lissa Chair of Early Childhood (Research) and the appointment of Professor Phillip Gammage. This is a collaborative initiative between the University of South Australia and the DECS. The chair will be a focal point for stimulating debate and research on issues which have direct impact on the quality of service provision in SA.

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Tasmania Government comments

“ The Tasmanian Government currently divides the provision of children’s services between two separate Departments: Community and Health Services which manages and provides child care services, and Education, Community and Cultural Development, which provides non-compulsory kindergarten (preschool) services as an entry to the education system.

Kindergarten is the part-time, universal, educational provision of 10 hours per week, within and primary school, for all children who are 4 years of age on or by the 1st of January each year.

The interface between kindergarten and child care services has been recognised as extremely important for children, parents and service staff. A number of innovative, integrated models are being tested in Tasmania at the present time.

However the major focus of review in Tasmania is the co-location and rationalisation of child care and kindergarten into the same Department and then progressively into one service system that is responsive to the needs of children and their parents. It is recognised that this will not be easy and that legislative, industrial and resourcing barriers will need to be overcome. However, the long term benefits to the State, families and children are paramount and the Tasmanian Government is committed to the improvement of the children’s services system across the State. A Tasmanian Government policy decision on this issue has not yet been finally determined.

New legislation, *Children, Young Persons and Families Bill* was tabled in Parliament late in 1996. Licensing Guidelines for prescribed forms of child care will be revised under the new legislation. Enactment of the legislation will ensure that the health, safety and developmental needs of children are met in an environment conducive to the well being of the child.

At the present time there is no systematic data collection across Steering Committee in Tasmania with which to inform this Report. The importance of developing the area of accountability is acknowledged. However the depth and breadth of data required to achieve this needs to be built up over time. The Tasmanian response is limited to data that the State already collects and which is deemed reliable. Historically the requested data sets have not been recorded. Considerable resources will be required to meet requirements of future collections.

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Australian Capital Territory Government comments

“ National standards are currently being implemented in the ACT which has meant changes in the staff to child ratios incurring higher costs for some long day care centres. Ratios have changed from one staff for every seven children aged between two and three years to one staff for every five children. It is expected that all centres will move to national standards by the end of 1996 and that centres will increase fees accordingly.

Some family day care schemes in the ACT are now employing caregivers under the new ACT Family Day Care Award which gives leave and superannuation provisions. This has increased the cost of family day care and made it equivalent to centre based care for these schemes.

There have been some increases in child care costs to families as a result of both these initiatives. The cessation of operational funding to long day care centres is also expected to increase the cost of child care to some families in the ACT. The ACT also has a high ratio of children under three years of age in care which incurs higher costs than older children. This impacts on the average cost of child care in the ACT making it higher than in States where there is a lower percentage of babies in care.

A new Bureau of Children's, Youth and Family Services has been created in the ACT encompassing child care licensing and funding services and preschool administration as well as youth and family services. It is hoped that the new Bureau will foster closer working relationships between preschool and child care services.

When ACT administrative costs are compared with costs incurred by other jurisdictions, it should be noted that the ACT Government combines the role of territory and municipal governments and is also the only jurisdiction that currently licenses Outside school hours care and Vacation care. ”

Northern Territory Government comments

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The NT has not been in a position to collect data for this Report, however an emphasis on service planning and evaluation is planned for 1997-98, when priority will be given to establishing effective data collection mechanisms.

Child care costs in the NT have been cushioned since 1983 by an operational subsidy provided by the NT Government to all licensed child care centres. The intent of this subsidy is to minimise the cost of care for parents.

Private sector provision of services in the NT is gradually increasing from a low of 5 per cent of centre-based care in 1991 to the current 21 per cent. Further expansion in child care centre places is anticipated over the next two years. The rate of increase remains substantially below the national average, with no growth in private sector service provision in remote and small communities. The cost of constructing facilities in remote locations can be more than double that in urban locations, reducing the viability of services. Similarly, the cost of administrative and support services in remote areas can be very high, and recruitment and retention of qualified staff problematic.

Minimum standards for child care centres, based on the national minimum standards, are being introduced in the NT. Implementation of these standards for indoor and outdoor playspace will potentially boost the viability of centres, partially offsetting the expected impact of the withdrawal of operational funding for the community-based centres.

While data included in this chapter indicate that there is low representation of Aboriginal children in children's services, the particular circumstances which exist in the NT need to be recognised. Aboriginal children live in some 600 communities throughout the NT, some of which have mobile populations of 50 or so. Demand for formal child care service models have not been appropriate or viable, and other types of service have developed, not necessarily reflected in the current data. For example, preschool education is available in all larger Aboriginal communities and outstations requesting such services, while a range of playgroup programs operate.

New approaches to meeting the emerging child care and child development service demand by Aboriginal families are being piloted currently.

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9A.2 All jurisdictions data

9A.2.1 Descriptors

Table 9A.1: Families receiving the Childcare Cash Rebate, 1994–95 to 1995–96 (number)

	<i>Families using formal care only</i>		<i>Families using informal care only</i>		<i>Families using formal and informal care</i>	
	<i>1994–95</i>	<i>1995–96</i>	<i>1994–95</i>	<i>1995–96</i>	<i>1994–95</i>	<i>1995–96</i>
NSW	70 390	87 324	2 672	2 984	2 614	3 486
Vic	44 687	54 069	2 186	2 413	1 679	2 300
Qld	35 711	44 709	1 680	1 954	1 548	2 156
WA	15 804	20 004	843	927	614	776
SA	14 108	16 449	602	670	460	608
Tas	4 786	5 639	145	177	132	200
ACT	7 789	9 049	359	392	394	524
NT	2 817	3 329	192	331	210	323

9A.3 Single jurisdiction data

9A.3.1 New South Wales

Descriptors

Table 9A.2: NSW size of system, children and staff, 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>As at June 30 1996</i>
<i>Children</i>		
Children using government funded/provided child care	No.	317 631
Children attending preschool	No.	73 618
<i>Staff</i>		
Paid primary contact staff ¹	FTE	9 410
Paid administrative staff ¹	FTE	1 003
Other paid staff ¹	FTE	817
Family day carers ²	FTE	5 400
Unpaid staff ²	FTE	2 200

1 Data excluded staff in State Government funded child care services.

2 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

Table 9A.3: NSW description of services, 1995–96

	<i>Number of places No.</i>	<i>Average fees per week \$²</i>	<i>Average hours of attendance³ Hrs</i>	<i>Services providing non-standard hours %⁴</i>
Long day care	73 119	147 ¹	18 ¹	3
Family day care ¹	19 151	129	21	100
Vacation care ¹	1 995	49	3	na
Outside school hours care ¹	22 097	6	9	38
Occasional care	3 863	3	2	na
Other care ¹	515	113	7	0
Preschool	27 296	105	10	100

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Occasional care fee is the average hourly fee; Outside school hours care fee is the sessional fee for After school hours care; and Other care fee is for Multifunctional services.

3 Data for Vacation care related to average number of days.

4 Data for Preschool referred to number of services offering the option of full and part day services.

Table 9A.4: NSW size of system, government expenditure, 1993–94 to 1995–96 (\$'000)

	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Child care</i>			
Administrative expenditure			
Commonwealth ¹	na	3 955	4 816
State	na	na	na
Other recurrent expenditure			
Commonwealth ²	52 291	55 362	56 975
State	na	20 174	21 188
Expenditure on assets			
Commonwealth ³	618	1 090	1 821
State	na	3 709	6 374
Income support			
Commonwealth ⁴	140 301	198 135	230 697
State	na	na	na
Total expenditure			
Commonwealth	193 210	258 542	294 309
State	na	23 883	27 562
<i>Preschool</i>			
Administrative expenditure ⁵	na	8 100	8 220
Other recurrent expenditure	na	65 040	68 181
Expenditure on assets	na	na	na
Income support	na	na	na
Total expenditure	na	73 140	76 401

na not available.

1 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate.

2 Recurrent expenditure included payments to Playgroup Associations but not Playgroups and funding for Vacation care, Program Support and Special Services. Data for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

3 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 included capital loans, loan repayments and equipment grants.

4 Data for 1993–94 excluded the Childcare Cash Rebate.

5 Administrative expenditure combined for preschool and child care services for Department of Community Services only.

Effectiveness

Table 9A.5: NSW representation of children in special needs groups, 1995–96 (per cent)

<i>Representation in:</i>	<i>Children from a non English speaking background</i>	<i>Children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background</i>	<i>Children from single parent families</i>	<i>Children with disabilities</i>	<i>Children from remote/rural areas</i>
Child care ¹	14.0	1.5	18.7	2.9	na
Preschool	6.7	1.7	0.6 ⁴	6.7 ⁴	22.4 ⁷
State	15.2 ²	1.3 ³	14.0 ⁵	6.7 ⁶	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data related to 1991.

3 Data related to 1994.

4 Data excluded children attending preschool services provided by the Department of School Education.

5 Data related to 1992.

6 Data related to 1993.

7 Data related to 1994–95.

Efficiency

Table 9A.6: NSW unit cost and administrative costs, 1993–94 to 1995–96

	Units	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service</i>				
Long day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	1.2
Family day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	1.5
School–aged care ^{1,2,3}	\$	na	na	0.5
Occasional care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	2.6
Other care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	na
Preschool ⁴	\$	na	na	2.1
<i>Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure on child care</i>				
Commonwealth ⁵	%	na	1.8	2.0
<i>Administrative expenditure as proportion of total expenditure on child care and preschool services</i>				
State	%	na	8.3	7.9

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data excluded administration expenditure.

3 School–aged care comprised Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

4 Data related to 1994–95.

5 Administration expenditure excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate. Total expenditure for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resources Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

9A.3.2 Victoria

Descriptors

Table 9A.7: Victoria size of system, children and staff, 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>As at June 30 1996</i>
<i>Children</i>		
Children using government funded/provided child care ¹	No.	122 700
Children attending preschool	No.	57 749
<i>Staff</i>		
Paid primary contact staff ²	FTE	8 597
Paid administrative staff ³	FTE	900
Other paid staff ³	FTE	500
Family day carers ³	FTE	5 300
Unpaid staff ³	FTE	1 500

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only. State Government data were collected on attendances, not individual children.

2 Data excluded paid primary contact staff receiving State Government funding only.

3 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

Table 9A.8: Victoria description of services, 1995–96

	<i>Number of places No.</i>	<i>Average fees per week \$²</i>	<i>Average hours of attendance⁵ Hrs</i>	<i>Services providing non-standard hours %⁷</i>
Long day care	36 306	146 ¹	24 ¹	14 ¹
Family day care ¹	16 383	117	17	100
Vacation care	8 971	73	2 ¹	na
Outside school hours care	21 324	5 ³	6 ⁶	19 ⁶
		50 ⁴		
Occasional care	1 656	4 ⁶	4 ⁶	na ⁶
Other care ¹	245	140	11	0
Preschool	57 749	9.50	10.6	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data for Occasional care related to the average hourly fee.

3 After school hours care sessional fee for services receiving Commonwealth and State Government funding.

4 Average weekly fee for Outside school hours care for services receiving State Government funding only.

5 Data for Vacation care related to average number of days.

6 Data for 1995–96 were not available for State Government supported programs as the data collection period is early 1997.

7 Data for Preschool referred to number of services offering the option of full and part day services.

Table 9A.9: Victoria size of system, government expenditure, 1993–94 to 1995–96 (\$'000)

	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Child care</i>			
Administrative expenditure			
Commonwealth ¹	na	2 809	3 411
State ²	na	5 375	5 388
Other recurrent expenditure			
Commonwealth ³	38 836	41 099	42 059
State	na	5 521	5 915
Expenditure on assets			
Commonwealth ⁴	371	442	3 351
State	na	na	na
Income support			
Commonwealth ⁵	111 263	148 018	174 340
State	na	na	na
Total expenditure			
Commonwealth	150 470	192 367	223 160
State ⁶	na	65 488	63 357
<i>Preschool</i>			
Administrative expenditure ⁷	na	na	na
Other recurrent expenditure	na	54 592	52 054
Expenditure on assets	0	0	0
Income support	0	0	0
Total expenditure ⁷	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate.

2 Data related to administration expenditure for child care services and preschool services and State administered joint Commonwealth/State or Commonwealth funded programs.

3 Recurrent expenditure included payments to Playgroup Associations but not Playgroups, and funding for Vacation care, Program Support and Special Services. Data for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resources, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

4 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 included capital loans, loan repayments and equipment grants.

5 Data for 1993–94 excluded the Childcare Cash Rebate.

6 Total expenditure on child care and preschool services.

7 Expenditure included under child care.

Effectiveness

Table 9A.10: Victoria representation of children in special needs groups, 1995–96 (per cent)

<i>Representation in:</i>	<i>Children from a non English speaking background</i>	<i>Children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background</i>	<i>Children from single parent families</i>	<i>Children with disabilities</i>	<i>Children from remote/rural areas</i>
Child care ¹	12.2	0.6	21.0	2.2	na
Preschool	16.5 ²	0.5	na	na	na
State	16.9 ³	0.4 ⁴	14.0 ⁵	6.7 ⁶	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 In Victoria, non English speaking background is defined in terms of the child's and/or parent's birthplace. This differs from the ABS definition of non English speaking background which is based on the language spoken at home.

3 Data related to 1991.

4 Data related to 1994.

5 Data related to 1992.

6 Data related to 1993.

Table 9A.11: Victoria incidence of non-compliance with regulations, 1995–96 (number)¹

	Total complaints per 1000 children ²	Substantiated complaints and alleged breaches of regulations	Substantiated complaints against which formal action was taken			
			Service provider fined	Service provider licence suspended	Service provider licence revoked	Some other action
Long day care	na	na	4	0	0	2
Family day care	na	na	na	na	na	na
Vacation care	na	na	na	na	na	na
Outside school hours care	na	na	na	na	na	na
Occasional care	na	na	1	0	0	0
Other care	na	na	na	na	na	na
Preschool	na	na	0	0	0	2

na not available.

1 Data related to children aged 0 to 6 years.

2 Data are not available by service type. However, there were 636 complaints between July 1995 and June 1996.

Efficiency

Table 9A.12: Victoria unit cost and administrative cost, 1993–94 to 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>1993–94</i>	<i>1994–95</i>	<i>1995–96</i>
<i>Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service</i>				
Long day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	1.2
Family day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	2.0
School-aged care ^{1,2,3}	\$	na	na	0.6
Occasional care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	2.3
Other care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	na
Preschool	\$	na	na	na
<i>Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure on child care</i>				
Commonwealth ⁴	%	na	1.7	1.8
<i>Administrative expenditure as proportion of total expenditure on child care and preschool services</i>				
State	%	na	8.2	8.5

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only. State Government expenditure is not available by service type.

2 Data excluded administration expenditure.

3 School-aged care comprised Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

4 Administration expenditure excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate. Total expenditure for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resources Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

9A.3.3 Queensland

Descriptors

Table 9A.13: Queensland size of system, children and staff, 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>As at June 30 1996</i>
<i>Children</i>		
Children using government funded/provided child care ¹	No.	148 348
Children attending preschool	No.	34 397
<i>Staff</i>		
Paid primary contact staff ²	FTE	8 296
Paid administrative staff ²	FTE	1 694
Other paid staff ²	FTE	400
Family day carers	FTE	4 800
Unpaid staff	FTE	1 600

1 Data excluded children attending neighbourhood occasional care services receiving State Government funding only.

2 Data excluded staff in Vacation care and Other care services receiving State Government funding only.

Table 9A.14: Queensland description of services, 1995–96

	<i>Number of places No.</i>	<i>Average fees per week \$²</i>	<i>Average hours of attendance⁴ Hrs</i>	<i>Services providing non-standard hours %⁵</i>
Long day care	50 732	139 ³	21 ³	21 ³
Family day care	10 682	116 ³	22	100
Vacation care	9 698	59	4 ³	na
Outside school hours care	10 962	5 ³	7	23
Occasional care	1 928	4 ³	4 ³	na
Other care	1 019	111 ³	5 ³	0
Preschool	na ¹	0	25	na

na not available.

1 Data not collected in previous years. However, data will be available from 1996.

2 Occasional care fee is the average hourly fee; Outside school hours care fee is the sessional fee for After school hours care; and Other fee is for Multifunctional services.

3 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

4 Data for Vacation care related to average number of days.

5 Data for Preschool referred to number of services offering the option of full and part day services.

Table 9A.15: Queensland size of system, government expenditure, 1993–94 to 1995–96 (\$'000)

	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Child care</i>			
Administrative expenditure			
Commonwealth ¹	na	2 634	3 175
State	3 500	3 600	3 700
Other recurrent expenditure			
Commonwealth ²	28 849	30 754	30 170
State	6 217	6 324	8 132
Expenditure on assets			
Commonwealth ³	1 250	652	2 019
State	3 300	2 800	3 820
Income support			
Commonwealth ⁴	146 008	198 907	226 218
State	0	0	0
Total expenditure			
Commonwealth	176 107	232 946	261 582
State	13 017	12 724	15 652
<i>Preschool</i>			
Administrative expenditure	3 477	3 696	na
Other recurrent expenditure	na	na	na
Expenditure on assets	3 616	6 629	na
Income support	na	na	na
Total expenditure	74 354	75 501	na

na not available.

1 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate.

2 Recurrent expenditure included payments to Playgroup Associations but not Playgroups and funding for Vacation care, Program Support and Special Services. Data for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

3 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 included capital loans, loan repayments and equipment grants.

4 Data for 1993–94 excluded the Childcare Cash Rebate.

Effectiveness

Table 9A.16: Queensland representation of children in special needs groups, 1995–96 (per cent)

<i>Representation in:</i>	<i>Children from a non English speaking background</i>	<i>Children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background</i>	<i>Children from single parent families</i>	<i>Children with disabilities</i>	<i>Children from remote/rural areas</i>
Child care ¹	4.5	2.4	21.0	2.5	na
Preschool	na	na	na	na	na
State	6.9 ²	2.5 ³	14.0 ⁴	6.7 ⁵	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data related to 1991.

3 Data related to 1994.

4 Data related to 1992.

5 Data related to 1993.

Efficiency

Table 9A.17: Queensland unit cost and administrative cost, 1993–94 to 1995–96

	Units	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service</i>				
Long day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	1.3
Family day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	2.1
School–aged care ^{1,2,3}	\$	na	na	0.5
Occasional care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	2.0
Other care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	na
Preschool	\$	na	na	na
<i>Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure on child care</i>				
Total	%	na	2.7	2.7
Commonwealth ⁴	%	na	1.2	1.3
State	%	26.9	28.3	23.6
<i>Administrative expenditure as proportion of total expenditure on preschools</i>				
State	%	4.7	4.9	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data excluded administration expenditure.

3 School–aged care comprised Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

4 Administration expenditure excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate. Total expenditure for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resources Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

9A.3.4 Western Australia

Descriptors

Table 9A.18: WA size of system, children and staff, 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>As at June 30 1996</i>
<i>Children</i>		
Children using government funded/provided child care	No.	46 100
Children attending preschool	No.	20 926
<i>Staff</i>		
Paid primary contact staff	FTE	4 052
Paid administrative staff ¹	FTE	400
Other paid staff ¹	FTE	200
Family day carers	FTE	1 100
Unpaid staff	FTE	600

1 Data excluded preschool staff.

Table 9A.19: WA description of services, 1995–96

	<i>Number of places No.</i>	<i>Average fees per week \$¹</i>	<i>Average hours of attendance² Hrs</i>	<i>Services providing non-standard hours %³</i>
Long day care	13 882	145	20	4
Family day care	3 689	125	19	100
Vacation care	750	59	3	na
Outside school hours care	4 738	5	8	21
Occasional care	559	4	5	na
Other care	269	140	14	0
Preschool	20 926	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Occasional care fee is the average hourly fee; Outside school hours care fee is the sessional fee for After school hours care; and Other care fee is for Multifunctional services.

2 Data for Vacation care related to average number of days.

3 Data for Preschool referred to number of services offering the option of full and part day services.

Table 9A.20: WA size of system, government expenditure, 1993–94 to 1995–96 (\$'000)

	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Child care</i>			
Administrative expenditure			
Commonwealth ¹	na	1 380	1 647
State ²	na	na	258
Other recurrent expenditure			
Commonwealth ³	14 010	14 669	14 975
State ^{2,4}	na	na	2 034
Expenditure on assets			
Commonwealth ⁵	186	181	483
State	na	na	201
Income support			
Commonwealth ⁶	42 919	53 817	61 887
State	na	na	0
Total expenditure			
Commonwealth	57 115	70 047	78 992
State	na	na	2 493
<i>Preschool</i>			
Administrative expenditure	na	na	na
Other recurrent expenditure	na	na	na
Expenditure on assets	na	na	na
Income support	na	na	na
Total expenditure	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate.

2 Excluded funding for District Children's Services Officers.

3 Recurrent expenditure included payments to Playgroup Associations but not Playgroups and funding for Vacation care, Program Support and Special Services. Data for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

4 Included Lotteries Commission Grants paid directly to services and funding for the Childcare Services Board.

5 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 included capital loans, loan repayments and equipment grants.

6 Data for 1993–94 excluded the Childcare Cash Rebate.

Effectiveness

Table 9A.21: WA representation of children in special needs groups,
1995–96 (per cent)

<i>Representation in:</i>	<i>Children from a non English speaking background</i>	<i>Children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background</i>	<i>Children from single parent families</i>	<i>Children with disabilities</i>	<i>Children from remote/rural areas</i>
Child care	7.6	2.8	26.5	2.4	na
Preschool	na	na	na	na	na
State	12.0 ¹	2.8 ²	14.0 ³	6.7 ⁴	na

na not available.

1 Data related to 1991.

2 Data related to 1994.

3 Data related to 1992.

4 Data related to 1993.

Table 9A.22: WA incidence of non-compliance with regulations, 1995–96 (number)¹

	Total complaints per 1000 children	Substantiated complaints and alleged breaches of regulations	Substantiated complaints against which formal action was taken			
			Service provider fined	Service provider licence suspended	Service provider licence revoked	Some other action
Long day care	7	66	na	0	0	9
Family day care	6	11	na	2	1	2
Vacation care	na	na	na	na	na	na
Outside school hours care	na	na	na	na	na	na
Occasional care	1	1	na	0	0	0
Other care	na	na	na	na	na	na
Preschool	na	na	na	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Data not available for services for children above six years of age, that is, Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

Efficiency

Table 9A.23: WA unit cost and administrative cost, 1993–94 to 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>1993–94</i>	<i>1994–95</i>	<i>1995–96</i>
<i>Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service</i>				
Long day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	1.2
Family day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	2.0
School-aged care ³				
Commonwealth ¹	\$	na	na	0.6
State ²	\$	na	na	0.4
Total	\$	na	na	0.5
Occasional care				
Commonwealth ¹	\$	na	na	2.6
State ²	\$	na	na	58.4
Total	\$	na	na	3.0
Other care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	na
Preschool	\$	na	na	na
<i>Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure on child care</i>				
Total	%	na	na	10.1
Commonwealth ⁴	%	na	2.2	2.4
State ²	%	na	na	10.4
<i>Administrative expenditure as proportion of total expenditure on preschools</i>				
State	%	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Data excluded Commonwealth administration expenditure.

2 Data excluded State Government funding for District Children's Services Officers.

3 School-aged care comprised Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

4 Administration expenditure excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate. Total expenditure for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

9A.3.5 South Australia

Descriptors

Table 9A.24: SA size of system, children and staff, 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>As at June 30 1996</i>
<i>Children</i>		
Children using government funded/provided child care		
Commonwealth	No.	40 800
State ¹	No.	8 330
Children attending preschool	No.	16 102
<i>Staff</i>		
Paid primary contact staff ²	FTE	1 700
Paid administrative staff ²	FTE	300
Other paid staff ²	FTE	100
Family day carers	FTE	2 100
Unpaid staff	FTE	400

1 Data related to 1994–95.

2 Data excluded staff in State Government funded child care services.

Table 9A.25: SA description of services, 1995–96

	<i>Number of places No.</i>	<i>Average fees per week \$¹</i>	<i>Average hours of attendance³ Hrs</i>	<i>Services providing non-standard hours %⁴</i>
Long day care	8 332	159 ²	19 ²	35
Family day care	5 134	125	15	100
Vacation care	4 215	57 ²	2 ²	na
Outside school hours care	5 350	5	5	17
Occasional care	3 469	3	4 ²	na
Other care	177	147	15	0
Preschool	18 722	na	20	na

na not available.

1 Occasional care fee is the average hourly fee; Outside school hours care fee is the sessional fee for After school hours care; and Other care fee is for Multifunctional services.

2 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

3 Data for Vacation care related to average number of days.

4 Data for Preschool referred to number of services offering the option of full and part day services.

Table 9A.26: SA size of system, government expenditure, 1993–94 to 1995–96 (\$'000)

	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Child care</i>			
Administrative expenditure			
Commonwealth ¹	na	1 129	1 161
State	1 565	1 371	1 974
Other recurrent expenditure			
Commonwealth ²	14 725	15 906	16 259
State	694	1 010	1 237
Expenditure on assets			
Commonwealth ³	1 079	702	1 631
State	1 557	1 939	2 729
Income support			
Commonwealth ⁴	33 418	43 411	50 138
State	0	0	0
Total expenditure			
Commonwealth	49 222	61 149	69 190
State	3 816	4 320	5 940
<i>Preschool</i>			
Administrative expenditure	45 856	46 262	42 298
Other recurrent expenditure	7 470	7 135	2 148
Expenditure on assets	1 380	1 687	2 946
Income support	0	0	0
Total expenditure ⁵	54 706	55 084	47 392

na not available.

1 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate.

2 Recurrent expenditure included payments to Playgroup Associations but not Playgroups and funding for Vacation care, Program Support and Special Services. Data for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

3 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 included capital loans, loan repayments and equipment grants.

4 Data for 1993–94 excluded the Childcare Cash Rebate.

5 Data included support costs for all children's services.

Effectiveness

Table 9A.27: SA representation of children in special needs groups, 1995–96 (per cent)

<i>Representation in:</i>	<i>Children from a non English speaking background</i>	<i>Children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background</i>	<i>Children from single parent families</i>	<i>Children with disabilities</i>	<i>Children from remote/rural areas</i>
Child care ¹	5.1	2.9	24.5	2.9	na
Preschool	9.2	5.0	na	na	38.5
State	10.8 ²	1.2 ³	14.0 ⁴	6.7 ⁵	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data related to 1991.

3 Data related to 1994.

4 Data related to 1992.

5 Data related to 1993.

Efficiency

Table 9A.28: SA unit cost and administrative cost, 1993–94 to 1995–96

	Units	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service</i>				
Long day care ¹	\$	na	na	1.2
Family day care ¹	\$	na	na	2.6
School-aged care ²				
Commonwealth ¹	\$	na	na	0.5
State	\$	na	na	0.0
Total	\$	na	na	0.3
Occasional care				
Commonwealth ¹	\$	na	na	3.0
State	\$	na	na	2.3
Total	\$	na	na	2.6
Other care	\$	na	na	na
Preschool ³	\$	na	na	2.8
<i>Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure on child care</i>				
Total	%	na	4.2	4.7
Commonwealth ⁴	%	na	2.1	1.9
State	%	40.9	31.7	33.2
<i>Administrative expenditure as proportion of total expenditure on preschools</i>				
State ³	%	92.5	92.8	89.3

na not available.

1 Data excluded Commonwealth administration expenditure.

2 School-aged care comprised Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

3 Data included support costs for all children's services.

4 Administration expenditure excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate. Total expenditure for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resources Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services which was transferred to the Family Services Program.

9A.3.6 Tasmania

Descriptors

Table 9A.29: Tasmania size of system, children and staff, 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>As at June 30 1996</i>
<i>Children</i>		
Children using government funded/provided child care ¹	No.	15 400
Children attending preschool ²	No.	5 923
<i>Staff</i>		
Paid primary contact staff		
Child care	No.	1 071
Preschool	FTE	144
Paid administrative staff ⁴	No.	104
Other paid staff ⁴	No.	76
Family day carers	FTE	500
Unpaid staff	FTE	200

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Estimated from mid-year National Schools Statistics Collection (student census) conducted in July/August.

3 Estimated from mid-year National Schools Statistics Collection (staff census).

4 Data excluded preschool staff.

Table 9A.30: Tasmania description of services, 1995–96

	<i>Number of places No.</i>	<i>Average fees per week \$¹</i>	<i>Average hours of attendance³ Hrs</i>	<i>Services providing non-standard hours %⁴</i>
Long day care	2 046	157 ²	13	2
Family day care	1 682	133	14	100
Vacation care	702	na	na	na
Outside school hours care	1 549	5 ²	5	6
Occasional care	754	3 ²	4 ²	na
Other care	27	na	14	0
Preschool	Universal	na	10	na

na not available.

1 Occasional care fee is the average hourly fee; Outside school hours care fee is the sessional fee for After school hours care; and Other care fee is for Multifunctional services.

2 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

3 Data for Vacation care related to average number of days.

4 Data for Preschool referred to number of services offering the option of full and part day services.

Table 9A.31: Tasmania size of system, government expenditure,
1993–94 to 1995–96 (\$'000)

	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Child care</i>			
Administrative expenditure			
Commonwealth ¹	na	480	491
State	na	na	na
Other recurrent expenditure			
Commonwealth ²	5 011	5 090	5 437
State	na	na	635
Expenditure on assets			
Commonwealth ³	398	612	785
State	na	650	353
Income support			
Commonwealth ⁴	9 192	11 768	12 640
State ⁵	na	113	119
Total expenditure			
Commonwealth	14 601	17 951	19 354
State	na	na	na
<i>Preschool</i>			
Administrative expenditure	na	na	na
Other recurrent expenditure	na	na	na
Expenditure on assets	na	na	na
Income support	na	na	na
Total expenditure ⁶	12 291	12 107	11 681

na not available.

1 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate.

2 Recurrent expenditure included payments to Playgroup Associations but not Playgroups and funding for Vacation care, Program Support and Special Services. Data for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

3 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 included capital loans, loan repayments and equipment grants.

4 Data for 1993–94 excluded the Childcare Cash Rebate.

5 Fee relief for neighbourhood model occasional care services.

6 Total in-school expenditure estimated from National Schools Statistics Collection for year ending 30 June.

Effectiveness

Table 9A.32: Tasmania representation of children in special needs groups, 1995–96 (per cent)

<i>Representation in:</i>	<i>Children from a non English speaking background</i>	<i>Children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background</i>	<i>Children from single parent families</i>	<i>Children with disabilities</i>	<i>Children from remote/rural areas</i>
Child care ¹	3.2	1.3	20.8	3.2	na
Preschool	na	4.9	na	na	41.4
State	4.0 ²	2.1 ³	14.0 ⁴	6.7 ⁵	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data related to 1991.

3 Data related to 1994.

4 Data related to 1992.

5 Data related to 1993.

Table 9A.33: Tasmania incidence of non-compliance with regulations, 1995–96 (number)

	Total complaints per 1000 children	Substantiated complaints and alleged breaches of regulations	Substantiated complaints against which formal action was taken			
			Service provider fined	Service provider licence suspended	Service provider licence revoked	Some other action
Long day care	na	na	0	na	na	na
Family day care	na	na	0	na	na	na
Vacation care ¹	na	0	0	0	0	na
Outside school hours care ¹	na	0	0	0	0	na
Occasional care	na	na	0	0	0	na
Other care	na	0	0	0	0	0
Preschool	na	na	0	0	0	0

na not available.

¹ These services not regulated by Tasmanian Government.

Efficiency

Table 9A.34: Tasmania unit cost and administrative cost, 1993–94 to 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>1993–94</i>	<i>1994–95</i>	<i>1995–96</i>
<i>Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service</i>				
Long day care ¹	\$	na	na	1.3
Family day care ¹	\$	na	na	2.0
School–aged care ^{1,2,3}	\$	na	na	0.5
Occasional care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	2.3
Other care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	na
Preschool	\$	na	na	na
<i>Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure on child care</i>				
Total	%	na	na	na
Commonwealth ⁴	%	na	3.0	3.0
State	%	na	na	na
<i>Administrative expenditure as proportion of total expenditure on preschools</i>				
State	%	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Data excluded Commonwealth administration expenditure.

2 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

3 School–aged care comprised Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

4 Administration expenditure excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate. Total expenditure for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resources Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

9A.3.7 Australian Capital Territory

Descriptors

Table 9A.35: ACT size of system, children and staff, 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>As at June 30 1996</i>
<i>Children</i>		
Children using government funded/provided child care	No.	16 507
Children attending preschool	No.	4 216
<i>Staff</i>		
Paid primary contact staff	FTE	1 082
Paid administrative staff	FTE	107
Other paid staff	FTE	39
Family day carers	FTE	900
Unpaid staff	FTE	100

Table 9A.36: ACT description of services, 1995–96

	<i>Number of places No.</i>	<i>Average fees per week \$¹</i>	<i>Average hours of attendance⁴ Hrs</i>	<i>Services providing non-standard hours %⁶</i>
Long day care	3 031	153	29 ⁵	0
Family day care	2 510	122	25	100
Vacation care	749	97	3 ⁵	na
Outside school hours care	1 810	7	8	3
Occasional care	531	3 ²	5 ⁵	na
		125 ³		
Other care	0	na	0	0
Preschool	4 595	5	11	5

na not available.

1 Outside school hours fee is the sessional fee for After school hours care; and Other care fee is for Multifunctional services.

2 Average hourly fee for services receiving Commonwealth and Territory Government funding.

3 Average weekly fee for services receiving Territory Government funding.

4 Data for Vacation care related to average number of days.

5 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

6 Data for Preschool referred to number of services offering the option of full and part day services.

Table 9A.37: ACT size of system, government expenditure, 1993–94 to 1995–96 (\$'000)

	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Child care</i>			
Administrative expenditure			
Commonwealth ¹	na	371	522
Territory ²	na	na	803
Other recurrent expenditure			
Commonwealth ³	4 792	4 973	5 106
Territory	na	na	1 785
Expenditure on assets			
Commonwealth ⁴	165	506	262
Territory	na	na	906
Income support			
Commonwealth ⁵	8 554	14 562	1 5623
Territory	na	na	0
Total expenditure			
Commonwealth	13 512	20 412	21 513
Territory	na	na	3 494
<i>Preschool</i>			
Administrative expenditure	na	na	580
Other recurrent expenditure	na	na	7 445
Expenditure on assets	na	na	510
Income support	na	na	0
Total expenditure	na	na	8 535

na not available.

1 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate.

2 Included the operation of the child care licensing/regulatory system and the community information service.

3 Recurrent expenditure included payments to Playgroup Associations but not Playgroups, and funding for Vacation care, Program Support and Special Services. Data for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

4 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 included capital loans, loan repayments and equipment grants.

5 Data for 1993–94 excluded the Childcare Cash Rebate.

Effectiveness

Table 9A.38: ACT representation of children in special needs groups, 1995–96 (per cent)

<i>Representation in:</i>	<i>Children from a non English speaking background</i>	<i>Children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background</i>	<i>Children from single parent families</i>	<i>Children with disabilities</i>	<i>Children from remote/rural areas</i>
Child care	10.4	0.8	18.9	3.1	na
Preschool	5.9	1.6	21.3	4.9	0.5
Territory	14.1 ¹	0.6 ²	14.0 ³	6.7 ⁴	na

na not available.

1 Data related to 1991.

2 Data related to 1994.

3 Data related to 1992.

4 Data related to 1993.

Table 9A.39: ACT health and safety, 1995–96

	<i>Serious injuries sustained per 1000 children</i>	<i>Notifiable outbreaks of disease per 1000 children</i>
Long day care	na	na
Family day care	0	na
Vacation care	na	na
Outside school hours care	0	na
Occasional care	na	na
Other care	0	na
Preschool	0	0

na not available.

Table 9A.40: ACT incidence of non-compliance with regulations, 1995–96 (number)

	Total complaints per 1000 children	Substantiated complaints and alleged breaches of regulations	Substantiated complaints against which formal action was taken				
			Service provider fined	Service provider licence suspended	Service provider licence revoked	Some other action	
Long day care	6	22	0	0	0	13	
Family day care	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vacation care	3	6	0	0	0	3	
Outside school hours care	1	4	0	0	0	3	
Occasional care	2	4	0	0	0	2	
Other care	na	0	0	0	0	0	
Preschool	0.5	0	0	0	0	2	

na not available.

Efficiency

Table 9A.41: ACT unit cost and administrative cost, 1993–94 to 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>1993–94</i>	<i>1994–95</i>	<i>1995–96</i>
<i>Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service</i>				
Long day care				
Commonwealth ¹	\$	na	na	0.7
Territory	\$	na	na	2.1
Total	\$	na	na	0.8
Family day care ¹	\$	na	na	1.5
School-aged care ²				
Commonwealth ¹	\$	na	na	0.4
Territory	\$	na	na	0.1
Total	\$	na	na	0.3
Occasional care ¹				
Commonwealth ¹	\$	na	na	1.3
Territory	\$	na	na	1.6
Total	\$	na	na	1.5
Other care ¹	\$	na	na	na
Preschool	\$	na	na	0.4
<i>Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure on child care</i>				
Total	%	na	na	7.4
Commonwealth ³	%	na	2.5	3.6
Territory ⁴	%	na	na	23.0
<i>Administrative expenditure as proportion of total expenditure on preschools</i>				
Territory	%	na	na	6.8

na not available.

1 Data excluded Commonwealth administration expenditure.

2 School-aged care comprised Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

3 Administration expenditure excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate. Total expenditure for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centre, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

4 Administration expenditure included the operation of the child care licensing and regulatory system and the community information service.

9A.3.8 Northern Territory

Descriptors

Table 9A.42: NT size of system, children and staff, 1995–96

	<i>Units</i>	<i>As at June 30 1996</i>
<i>Children</i>		
Children using government funded/provided child care ¹	No.	6 300
Children attending preschool	No.	na
<i>Staff</i>		
Paid primary contact staff ¹	FTE	300
Paid administrative staff ¹	FTE	50
Other paid staff ¹	FTE	30
Family day carers ¹	FTE	400
Unpaid staff ¹	FTE	80

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

Table 9A.43: NT description of services, 1995–96

	<i>Number of places No.</i>	<i>Average fees per week \$²</i>	<i>Average hours of attendance³ Hrs</i>	<i>Services providing non-standard hours %⁴</i>
Long day care ¹	1 415	132	25	0
Family day care ¹	860	117	26	100
Vacation care ¹	76	na	0	na
Outside school hours care ¹	638	7	8	0
Occasional care ¹	46	5	3	na
Other care ¹	221	127	7	0
Preschool	na	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Occasional care fee is the average hourly fee; Outside school hours care fee is the sessional fee for After school hours care; and Other care fee is for Multifunctional services.

3 Data for Vacation care related to average number of days.

4 Data for Preschool referred to number of services offering the option of full and part day services.

Table 9A.44: NT size of system, government expenditure, 1993–94 to 1995–96 (\$'000)

	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Child care</i>			
Administrative expenditure			
Commonwealth ¹	na	470	576
Territory	na	na	na
Other recurrent expenditure			
Commonwealth ²	4 735	4 840	4 441
Territory	na	na	na
Expenditure on assets			
Commonwealth ³	180	64	401
Territory	na	na	na
Income support			
Commonwealth ⁴	5 737	7 436	7 298
Territory	na	na	na
Total expenditure			
Commonwealth	10 653	12 809	12 716
Territory	na	na	na
<i>Preschool</i>			
Administrative expenditure	na	na	na
Other recurrent expenditure	na	na	na
Expenditure on assets	na	na	na
Income support	na	na	na
Total expenditure	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate.

2 Recurrent expenditure included payments to Playgroup Associations but not Playgroups and funding for Vacation care, Program Support and Special Services. Data for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resource Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services, which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

3 Data for 1994–95 and 1995–96 included capital loans, loan repayments and equipment grants.

4 Data for 1993–94 excluded the Childcare Cash Rebate.

Effectiveness

Table 9A.45: NT representation of children in special needs groups, 1995–96 (per cent)

<i>Representation in:</i>	<i>Children from a non English speaking background</i>	<i>Children from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background</i>	<i>Children from single parent families</i>	<i>Children with disabilities</i>	<i>Children from remote/rural areas</i>
Child care ¹	7.9	17.5	20.6	1.6	na
Preschool	na	na	na	na	na
Territory	9.3 ²	26.9 ³	14.0 ⁴	6.7 ⁵	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data related to 1991.

3 Data related to 1994.

4 Data related to 1992.

5 Data related to 1993.

Efficiency

Table 9A.46: NT unit cost and administrative cost, 1993–94 to 1995–96

	Units	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
<i>Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service</i>				
Long day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	1.1
Family day care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	1.6
School-aged care ^{1,2,3}	\$	na	na	0.6
Occasional care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	11.4
Other care ^{1,2}	\$	na	na	na
Preschool	\$	na	na	na
<i>Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure on child care</i>				
Total	%	na	na	na
Commonwealth ⁴	%	na	4.3	5.6
Territory	%	na	na	na
<i>Administrative expenditure as proportion of total expenditure on preschools</i>				
Territory	%	na	na	na

na not available.

1 Data related to Commonwealth Government supported child care services only.

2 Data excluded administration expenditure.

3 School-aged care comprised Outside school hours care and Vacation care.

4 Administration expenditure excluded costs to the Health Insurance Commission and Department of Social Security of administering Childcare Assistance and Childcare Cash Rebate. Total expenditure for 1995–96 excluded funding for Family Resources Centres, Youth Activity Services, Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies and out of scope services which were transferred to the Family Services Program.

9A.4 Performance indicator definitions and explanatory notes

Table 9A.47: Definition of indicators

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Proportion of special needs groups using services relative to their population proportions	Equals number of children from special needs groups using children's services divided by the total number of children using children's services. Results to be presented separately for child care and preschool services with special needs groups divided into children from a non English speaking background, children from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, children from single parent families, children with disabilities, and children from remote or rural areas. These will be compared with their representation in the community.
Serious injuries sustained and notifiable outbreaks of disease per 1000 children in child care and preschool services	Equals total number of serious injuries sustained by children/total children involved in notifiable outbreaks of disease divided by total number of children using government funded/provided children's services. Results to be presented separately by service type.
Complaints per 1000 children in child care and preschool services	Equals number of complaints divided by number of children using government funded/provided children's services. Results to be presented separately by service type with complaints being divided into total number of complaints and alleged breaches, substantiated complaints, and complaints against which formal action was taken (service provider being fined, service provider having licence suspended, service provider having licence revoked, and some other action taken).
Out of pocket costs relative to family income for children's services	Equals average amount paid for child care per week divided by average weekly income of families with children in care.
Government recurrent expenditure per hour of service	Equals total government recurrent funding on children's services divided by total hours of care provided by services receiving government funding. Results to be presented separately by service type.
Administrative expenditure as a proportion of total government expenditure	Equals total government administrative expenditure divided by total government expenditure. Results to be presented separately for child care and preschool services.

Table 9A.48: Definitions of variables

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Administration expenditure	Direct Salaries; Payroll and other taxes; Superannuation, Compensation; Accrued Leave; Training; Accommodation; Vehicles; Marketing; Information Systems; Printing; Postage; Telephone Expenses; Uniforms; Travel Expenses; Office Expenses; Office Equipment; Collection Fees; Management Fees; Consultants; and Overheads (Corporate Services/Unallocated expenses). Wherever possible accrual accounting data should be used.
Approved	Refers to preschool care that meets State and Territory licensing requirements (where such requirements exist).
Centre-based long day care	Care for children, usually aged 0 to 5 years, in a licensed child care centre which is open for a minimum of 8 hours a day, 5 days per week.
Child care	Care provided to a child by a person other than the child's parent or guardian.
Children	All resident male and female Australians less than 12 years of age.
Children from non English speaking backgrounds	Children living in situations where the main language spoken at home is not English.
Children's Services	Children's services includes all government funded and provided child care and preschool services.
Disability related care	Includes children who have a developmental delay or disability including intellectual, sensory, or physical impairment, or parent(s) with a disability.
Family day care	Long day care provided for children in the carer's own home. Largely aimed at children aged 0 to 5 years, but primary School-aged children may also receive care before and after school. A network of carers is organised and supported by a central coordination unit.
Formal child care	Organised care provided by a person other than the child's parent or guardian usually outside of the child's home. For example, centre-based long day care, family day care, outside of school hours care, vacation care, and occasional care (not including baby sitting).
Formal qualifications	Early Childhood related teaching, Primary teaching, Nursing (including Mothercraft Nursing), a Basic Childcare Certificate (one year), a Childcare Certificate or Associate Diploma (2 years), a Diploma or Bachelor in Childcare (3 years or more), or other qualifications relevant to the operation of a service (for example, Accountancy, Psychology, Social Work and Business Management)
Government funded/ provided	All government financed services; that is, services that either receive government contributions towards providing a specified service (funded services) and services for which the government has primary responsibility for delivering the service.

(cont.)

Table 9A.48: Description of variables (cont.)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Informal child care	Child care arrangements provided privately (for example, by friends, relatives, nannies) for which no government assistance is provided other than the Commonwealth's Childcare Cash Rebate. In most States and Territories it is unregulated.
Long day care	Service (usually in a centre or family day care scheme) which provides care for a minimum of 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, 48 weeks per year.
Notifiable outbreaks of disease	Situations where the relevant health department is notified and becomes involved.
Occasional care	This type of care is distinguished from other types by the fact that care is provided for short periods of time or at irregular intervals.
Operational place	A licensed place (where licensing system exists, or in receipt of government funding where not licensed) and able to accept children as at 30 June each year.
Other care	Services included in 'other care' are: multifunctional services, multifunctional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's services, mobiles and toy libraries.
Outside of School Hours Care	Care provided for School-aged children (5 to 12 years) during term time and during vacation time. Related terms are Before and After School Hours Care which refer to care during term time only and Year Round Outside School Hours Care which refers to linked before and/or after school hours care and vacation care.
Preschools	Services offered to children in the year before children begin full time schooling. These services are offered during school terms. Table 2 outlines the specific services falling under this definition.
Primary contact staff	Staff whose primary function is its to provide care/preschool services to children, while those involved in other tasks include people whose primary tasks are cleaning, maintenance management etc
Residential places	Residential care, which excludes child care, is defined as establishments where the main activity is to provide substitute care (accommodation, meals, some personal care, protection or control) for children. Includes juvenile hostels, family group homes, campus homes and other homes for children.
Serious injury	Those injuries requiring a visit to (or by a) doctor or hospitalisation.
Service	A certain type of activity eg long day care. A location may offer a number of services. For example, a given location may offer both preschool and occasional care services. Services may be offered at a number of locations. For example, year round care may have after school hours care at different locations.

(cont.)

Table 9A.48: Description of variables (cont.)

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Service type	The categories for which data are being collected are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centre-based long day care (CBLDC);• Family day care (FDC);• School-aged care (incorporating Outside school hours and Vacation care)• ‘Other’ care;• Occasional care; and• Preschools.
Vacation care	Services that provide care for school age children over vacation periods only.
