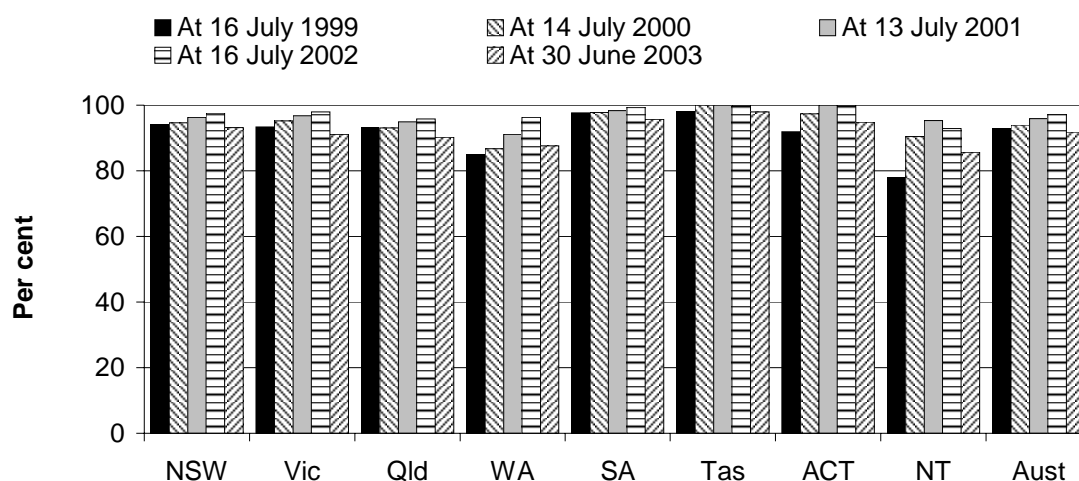


CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CHAPTER 14)

- The focus of this chapter is on government funded and/or provided child care and preschool services.
- Around 847 000 children accessed government funded and/or provided child care services in 2002-03 (572 000 aged 5 years or younger) (p. 14.7). At least 239 000 children attended government funded and/or provided preschool services in the same year (212 000 of these 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 centres as a proportion of centres fully assessed under the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (QIAS) (p. 14.26), (the QIAS system was modified on 1 January 2002 [p. 14.24]).



See over for data and footnotes.

- Australian, State and Territory government expenditure on children's services in 2002-03 was approximately \$2.3 billion (compared in real terms with \$1.8 billion in 1999-2000). This expenditure included Australian Government financial support to families through assistance with fees, which accounted for \$1.4 billion and State and Territory government expenditure of approximately \$571.4 million (pp. 14.5-6).
- Australian Government funding on children's services per child ranged from \$752 per child in Queensland to \$378 per child in WA in 2002-03 (p. 14.28).

Progress since the 2003 Report

A full Australian Government Census of Child Care Services was conducted in May 2002 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) published results from their 2002 survey of child care. Data from these surveys enabled more comprehensive reporting in the 2004 Report.

[MORE]

Progress has been made in reporting data on: an equity indicator — participation of children from low income families; several quality indicators — ongoing development of staff, licensing and registration and accreditation of centre-based long day care and family day care schemes; and an efficiency indicator — Australian Government total expenditure per child. There has also been further refinement to data counting rules and collection processes (which is expected to result in improved comparability of data across jurisdictions).

Data for chart on previous page

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

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
1999	94.2	93.3	93.2	85.1	97.7	98.1	91.9	78.0	93.0
2000	94.6	95.3	93.1	86.7	97.8	100.0	97.3	90.5	94.0
2001	96.3	96.8	94.9	91.2	98.4	100.0	100.0	95.3	95.9
2002	97.6	98.0	95.8	96.3	99.5	100.0	100.0	92.9	97.3
2003	93.2	91.2	90.3	87.6	95.7	98.0	94.8	85.7	91.8

^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 (58, 86 and 48 respectively at 30 June 2003) participating in the process.

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

[END]

Background information: Robyn Sheen, Head of Secretariat 03 9653 2184/0419 637 068

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

Please do not approach other parties for comment before Thursday, 29 January 2004.

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