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CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CHAPTER 3)

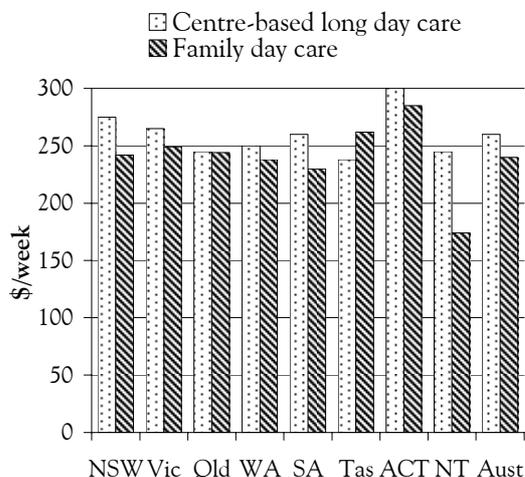
- The focus of this chapter is on government funded and/or provided child care and preschool services for children aged 12 years or younger.
- The Australian Government supported 668 124 child care places in 2007 (p. 3.8). In 2007-08, State and Territory governments supported approximately 62 652 child care places for children aged 12 years or younger and at least 167 686 preschool places (pp. 3.8-3.9).
- In 2008, approximately 760 825 children aged 12 years or younger attended Australian Government approved child care services. In 2007-08, a further 109 037 children attended State and Territory funded and/or provided child care services and 203 038 children attended State and Territory funded and/or provided preschool services (p. 3.9).
- Total Australian, State and Territory government expenditure on children's services was approximately \$3.3 billion in 2007-08 (p. 3.8).

Objectives of children's services

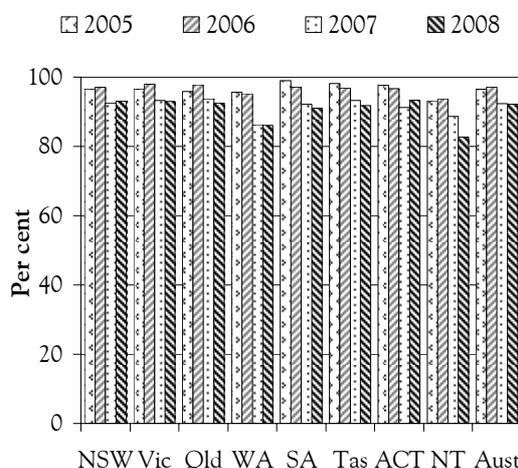
- Children's services aim to:
 - meet the care, education and development needs of children in a safe and nurturing environment
 - provide support for families in caring for their children
 - provide these services in an equitable and efficient manner (p. 3.11).

Selection of results

Median fees charged by Australian Government approved child care services, 2008 (\$/week)^a (p. 3.26)

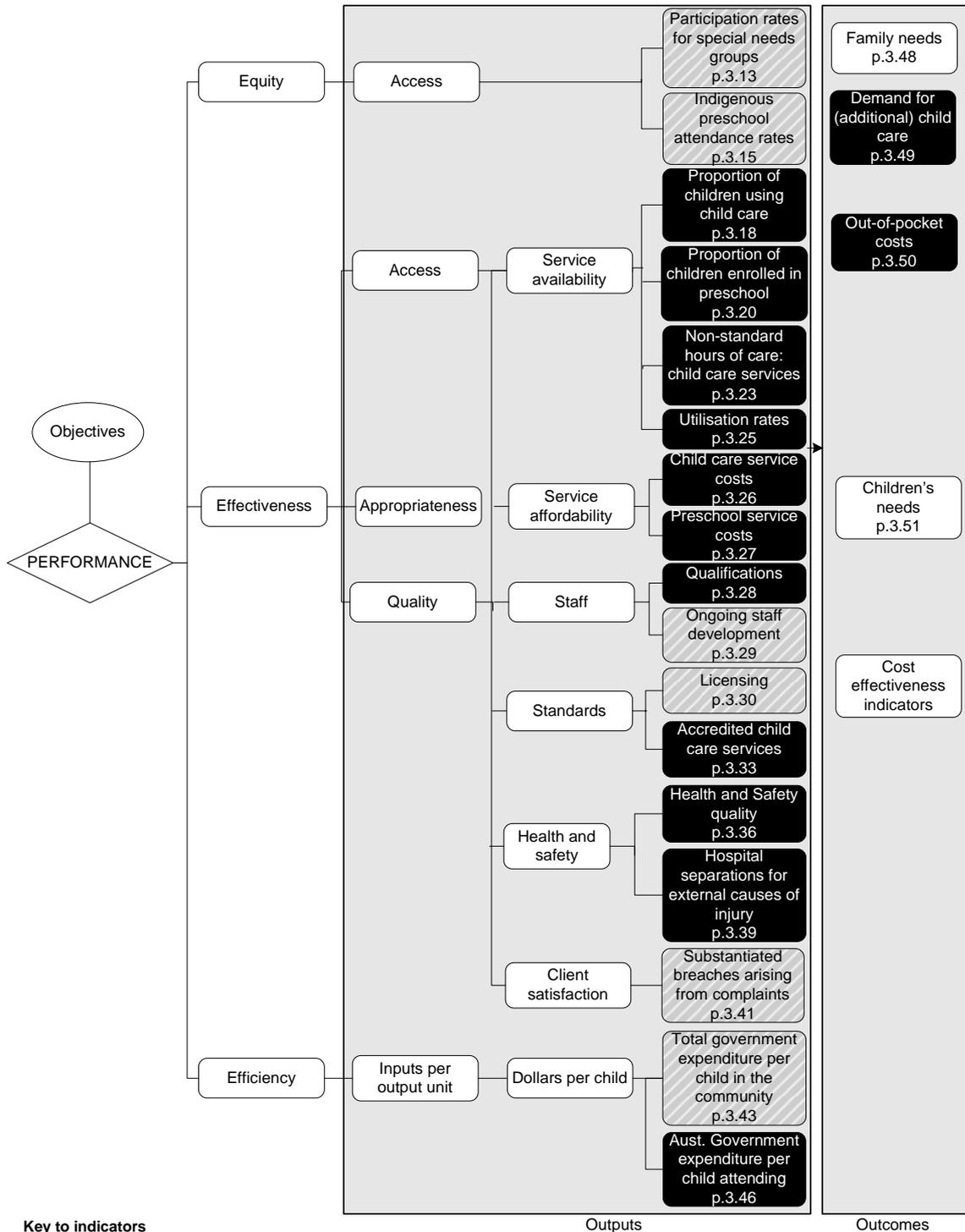


Accredited centres as a proportion of centres fully assessed under the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System^a (p. 3.35)



^a Data and caveats for these figures are available electronically on the CD-ROM enclosed with the Report and from the website for the Review of Government Service Provision (www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2009). Data may be subject to revision. The most recent data will be available on the Review website.

Performance indicators for Children's services (figure 3.2, p. 3.12)



Key to indicators

- Text Data for these indicators comparable, subject to caveats to each chart or table
- Text Data for these indicators are not complete, or not directly comparable
- Text These indicators yet to be developed or data not collected for this Report: chapter contains explanatory text

[MORE]

Developments in reporting since the 2008 Report

- The major improvements to reporting on children's services this year include:
 - measure and data for 'Indigenous preschool attendance' are reported for the first time (p. 3.15)
 - new indicator, measure and data are reported for 'Australian Government expenditure per child attending approved children's services' (p. 3.46).
- Additional improvements to the 2009 Report include a change in the calculation of child care service costs from 'average child care fees' to 'median child care fees' (p. 3.26), and the inclusion of a matrix showing basic information on child care and preschool education programs (such as agency responsibility, program names and starting ages) across State and Territory governments (table 3A.1).

[END]

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before Friday 30 January 2009.

Media copies of this report are available from Clair Angel on 02 6240 3239.

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Tables with an 'A' suffix (eg table 3A.5) are in the attachments on the CD-ROM or on the Review website.