

Report on Government Services 2013

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE
(CHAPTER 3)**

This chapter reports on government funded and/or provided child care and preschool services for children aged 12 years or younger.

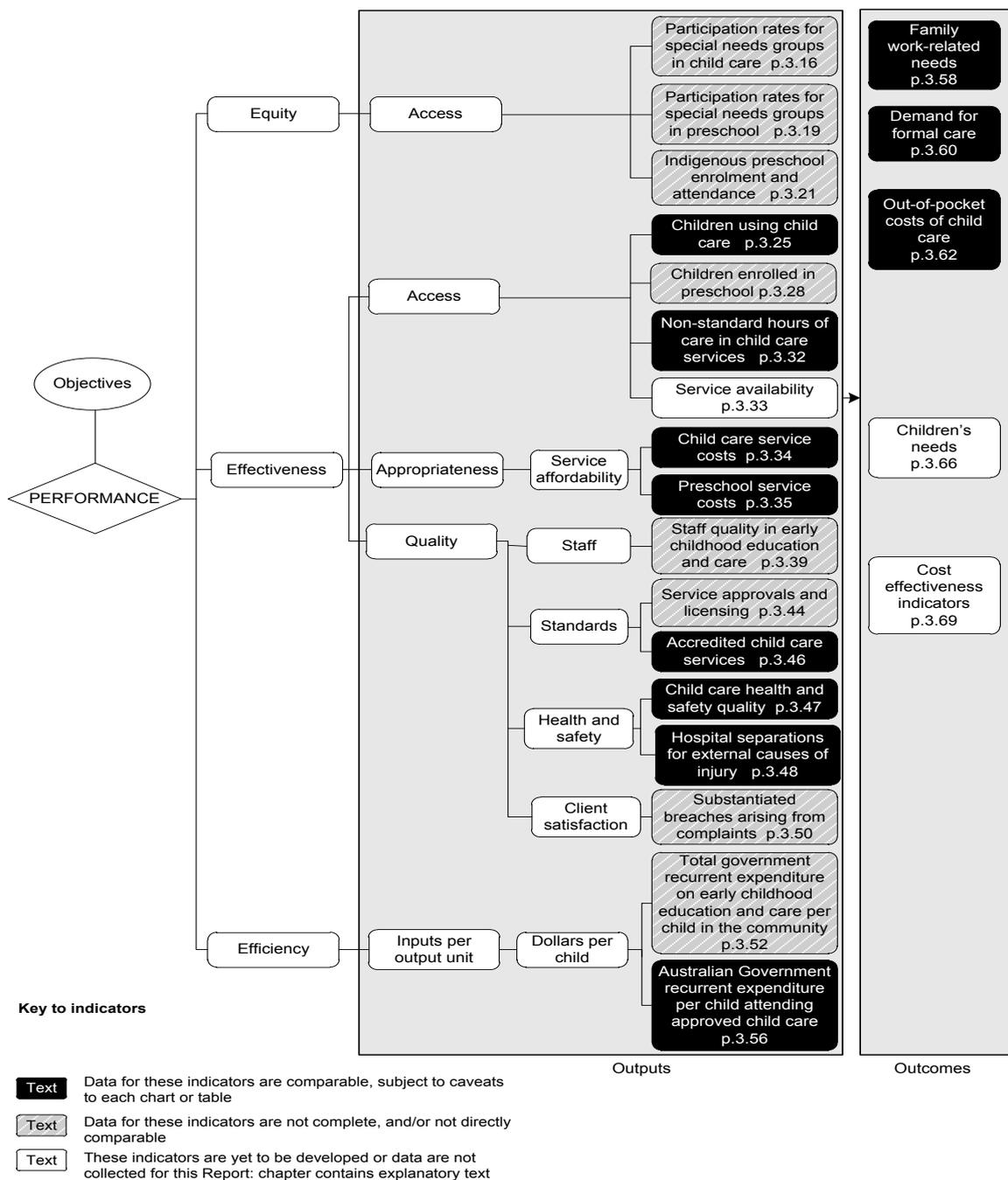
- In the March quarter 2012, 969 791 children aged 12 years or younger attended Australian Government approved child care services. In 2011-12, 118 621 children attended State and Territory funded and/or provided child care services and 237 247 children were enrolled in State and Territory funded and/or provided preschool services (p. 3.10-11).
- Total Australian, State and Territory government expenditure on early childhood education and care was approximately \$6.0 billion in 2011-12 (p. 3.8).

Objectives of early childhood education and care

Early childhood education and care services aim to:

- meet the care and education needs of all children in developmentally appropriate ways, in a safe and nurturing environment
 - provide these services across a range of settings delivered in an equitable and efficient manner, meeting individual need (p. 3.13).
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Performance indicators for early childhood education and care (figure 3.1, p. 3.15)



Background information: Lawrence McDonald, Head of Secretariat 03 9653 2178 / 0421 584 905

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

Please do not approach other parties for comment before 31 January 2013.

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Tables with a '3A' prefix (eg table 3A.5) are in the attachments on the Review website.

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