

3A Children's services — attachment

Definitions for the indicators and descriptors in this attachment are in section 3.6 of the chapter in the *Report on Government Services 2009* (2009 Report). Unsourced information was obtained from the Australian, State and Territory governments. Data in this Report are examined by the Children's Services Working Group, but have not been formally audited by the Secretariat.

This file is available in Adobe PDF format on the Review web page (www.pc.gov.au/gsp). Users without Internet access can contact the Secretariat to obtain these tables (see details on the inside front cover of the Report).

Attachment contents

Table 3A.1	Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2008
Table 3A.2	Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent)
Table 3A.3	Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2008
Table 3A.4	Representation of special needs groups in attendees at State and Territory Government child care and preschools, children aged 0–12, 2007-08 (number)
Table 3A.5	Children absent from non-government preschools, 2007

Table 3A.1

Table 3A.1 Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2008

		CHILD CARE				PRESCHOOL			
		2 years before Year One		1 year before Year One					
Agency (a)	Program name	Age of entry	Agency (a)	Program name	Age of entry	Agency (a)	Program name	Age of entry	Agency (a)
NSW (b)	Dept of Community Services Preschool	generally 3 and 4 year olds	Dept of Community Services (licensing for all services, funding for community based services)	Kindergarten	5 by 31 July	Dept of Education and Training	Kindergarten	5 by 31 July	Dept of Education and Training
			Dept of Education & Training (funding for government run preschools)						
Vic	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	4 by 30 April	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	Kindergarten	4 by 30 April	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	Prep	5 by 30 April	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development
Qld	Dept of Communities	4 by 30 June	Dept of Communities (licensing)	Kindergarten	4 by 30 June	Dept of Education, Training & the Arts	Preparatory Year (Prep)	5 by 30 June	Dept of Education, Training & the Arts
			Dept of Education, Training & the Arts (funding to approved community kindergartens)						
			Dept of Education, Training & the Arts (fund access across 35 Indigenous Communities)						
WA	Dept for Communities	4 by 30 June	Dept of Education and Training	Kindergarten	4 by 30 June	Dept of Education and Training	Pre-primary	5 by 30 June	Dept of Education and Training
SA (c)	Dept of Education and Children's Services	entry after 4th birthday	Dept of Education and Children's Services	Preschool Kindergarten	entry after 4th birthday	Dept of Education and Children's Services	Reception	entry after 5 th birthday	Dept of Education and Children's Services
Tas	Dept of Education	4 by 1 January	Dept of Education	Kindergarten	4 by 1 January	Dept of Education	Preparatory	5 by 1 January	Dept of Education
ACT (d)	Dept of Disability, Housing and Community Services	4 by 30 April	Dept of Education and Training (government preschools)	Preschool	4 by 30 April	Dept of Education and Training (government preschools)	Kindergarten	5 by 30 April	Dept of Education and Training
NT (e)	Dept of Health and Community Services	continuous entry after 4 th birthday	Dept of Employment, Education & Training	Preschool	continuous entry after 4 th birthday	Dept of Employment, Education & Training	Transition	5 but some schools 4.5. Trial: 5 by 30 June	Dept of Employment, Education & Training

Table 3A.1 Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2008

CHILD CARE		PRE-SCHOOL	
2 years before Year One		1 year before Year One	
Agency (a)	Age of entry	Program name	Agency (a)
(a)	The responsibility of agencies varies between child care and preschool. Agency responsibility refers to licensing services for child care, licensing and/or funding services for preschool programs 2 years before Year One, and funding and/or providing services for preschool programs 1 year before Year One.		
(b)	In NSW, all licensed children's services for under 6 year olds (who have not commenced Kindergarten) are required to offer programs that meet children's educational and developmental needs.		
(c)	In SA, exceptions include: Indigenous children and children under the guardianship of the Minister can enter from 3 years, children with additional needs (which includes gifted children) and those living in small rural communities may commence at 3 ½ years.		
(d)	In the ACT, private preschools are licensed by Dept of Disability, Housing and Community Services.		
(e)	In the NT, responsibility for child care will move to Dept of Employment, Education & Training from 1 July 2008.		

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); 2009 Report, table 3A.1.

Table 3A.2

Table 3A.2 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent) (a), (b)

	<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>
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds (c)									
Representation in child care services									
2002 (d)	16.3	12.3	5.9	7.2	6.4	2.4	11.0	6.3	10.8
2004 (d)	17.4	13.5	6.3	7.9	6.9	3.4	12.1	8.1	11.6
2006 (e)	17.0	12.8	5.1	6.4	8.0	2.5	9.7	8.5	10.9
2008	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Representation in the community (f)	23.2	21.7	11.9	15.5	13.7	7.2	16.2	36.8	18.8
Indigenous children (g)									
Representation in child care services									
2002 (d)	1.5	0.5	2.7	1.7	1.4	1.2	0.7	9.8	1.7
2004 (d)	1.6	0.6	2.5	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.7	10.7	1.6
2006 (e)	1.6	0.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.4	0.7	11.1	1.7
2008	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Representation in the community (f)	4.1	1.2	6.2	5.6	3.3	6.5	2.3	39.2	4.4
Children from low-income families (h)									
Representation in child care services									
2002 (d)	29.1	29.0	35.2	34.3	35.4	33.6	13.7	19.1	31.2
2004 (d)	28.0	28.3	33.8	32.6	33.0	31.5	12.4	18.8	29.9
2006 (e)	25.2	26.5	28.6	27.6	29.3	29.1	10.4	17.5	26.6
2008	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Representation in the community (i)	27.2	27.0	28.9	25.3	30.3	34.2	9.4	13.2	27.3
Children with a disability (j)									
Representation in child care services									
2002 (d)	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.6	3.3	2.5	2.1	2.0	2.3
2004 (d)	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.7	3.5	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.1
2006 (e)	3.1	2.4	2.2	2.5	3.8	2.3	1.8	3.7	2.7
2008	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Representation in the community	8.0	6.8	7.6	8.9	8.8	6.2	7.5	np	7.7
Children from regional and remote areas									
Regional									
Representation in child care services									
2002 (d)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004 (d)	25.9	22.5	38.9	18.2	16.2	99.6	–	74.0	28.8
2006 (e)	25.6	25.0	36.6	18.9	17.9	99.4	0.1	77.3	29.0
2008	25.0	23.5	30.9	17.2	17.2	96.4	0.2	81.1	27.0
Representation in the community (f)	28.9	28.2	45.9	24.8	26.7	97.9	0.2	51.4	33.1

Table 3A.2

Table 3A.2 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent) (a), (b)

	<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>
Remote									
Representation in child care services									
2002 (d)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004 (d)	0.4	0.1	1.6	5.0	2.0	0.4	..	26.0	1.4
2006 (e)	0.3	–	1.3	3.7	2.0	0.6	..	22.7	1.1
2008	0.2	–	0.8	2.9	1.5	0.6	..	18.9	0.8
Representation in the community (f)	0.7	0.1	4.4	8.6	4.4	2.0	..	50.7	3.0

- (a) Data for 2002, 2004 and 2006 are weighted from the AGCCCS, while data for 2008 are drawn from DEEWR administrative data collected through the Child Care Benefit (CCB) payments system. Data for 2008 are not comparable to previous years due to the change in the source for data collection.
- (b) Children attending approved services in 2002, 2004 and 2006 may be counted more than once if attending more than one service during the reference week. Children attending approved services in 2008 are counted once, even if attending more than one type of service during the reference week.
- (c) Children from non-English speaking backgrounds' are defined in the AGCCCS as children who speak, or whose parent/guardian speak a language other than English at home. The 'representation in the community' data refer to the proportion of children who do not speak English as their main language at home.
- (d) Data exclude children from multifunctional aboriginal children's services, multifunctional children's services, Aboriginal playgroups and enrichment programs and mobile and toy library services.
- (e) Excludes Aboriginal playgroups and enrichment programs.
- (f) Data for representation in the community are estimated from the ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, except for 'children from low-income families' and 'children with a disability'.
- (g) 'Indigenous children' in the AGCCCS as children who child care services identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. The "representation in the community data" refer to children of an Indigenous descent who identify as being Indigenous.
- (h) Data relate to children aged 0-12 years from families with a gross annual parental income of less than the cut-off point for receiving the maximum amount of child care benefits. In May 2006, this cut-off was \$33 361.
- (i) The data showing representation children from low income families in the community were obtained from the ABS 2005-06 Survey of Income and Housing Costs. Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution.
- (j) Children with a disability' are defined in the AGCCCS as children who child care services identify as having a continuing disability including intellectual, sensory or physical impairment. The 'representation in the community' data refer to children with any limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. These data were obtained from the ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Due to the small sample size, data for the NT are not published.

na Not available. **..** Not applicable. **–** Nil or rounded to zero. **np** Not published.

Source: DEEWR (unpublished); FaCSIA (unpublished), derived from *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2002 and 2004*; DEEWR (unpublished), derived from *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2006*; ABS (unpublished), derived from *2006 Census of Population and Housing*; ABS (unpublished), derived from *Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2005-06*, ABS (unpublished), derived from *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*; 2009 Report, table 3A.22.

Table 3A.3

Table 3A.3 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2008 (a), (b)

		Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds (c)											
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	24.6	23.2	12.8	16.8	14.8	8.1	17.8	37.0	20.1	
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	22.1	20.5	11.2	14.5	12.8	6.5	14.9	36.5	17.7	
Indigenous children (d)											
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 0–5 in the community (e)	%	4.1	1.2	6.4	5.6	3.4	6.6	2.2	38.9	4.4	
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 6–12 in the community (e)	%	4.1	1.2	6.1	5.5	3.3	6.4	2.3	39.4	4.3	
Children from low-income families											
Children aged 0–5 in child care services (f)	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 0–5 in the community (h)	%	23.9	27.2	29.0	27.7	25.8	32.7	7.7	np	26.1	
Children aged 6–12 in child care services (f)	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 6–12 in the community (g)	%	29.9	26.8	28.8	23.5	34.1	35.3	10.7	np	28.2	
Children with a disability											
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 0–5 in the community (h)	%	4.7	4.6	5.1	6.0	7.0	4.4	9.1	np	5.2	
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 6–12 in the community (h)	%	10.7	8.5	9.5	11.4	10.2	7.7	6.2	np	9.8	
Children from regional areas (i)											
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	27.1	26.5	44.6	23.9	25.8	98.0	0.1	50.9	31.6	
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	30.3	29.7	47.1	25.5	27.4	97.8	0.3	51.9	34.3	
Children from remote areas (j)											
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 0–5 in the community	%	0.7	0.1	4.6	8.9	4.3	2.0	..	50.6	3.1	
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	%	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children aged 6–12 in the community	%	0.7	0.1	4.3	8.4	4.4	2.1	..	50.7	3.0	

(a) Data for representation in the community are estimated from the ABS 2006 *Census of Population and Housing*, except for 'children from low-income families' and 'children with a disability'.

(b) Australian Government data for 2008 for children aged 0–5 years and 6–12 years in child care services were not available at the time of publication. Data were previously sourced from the AGCCCS.

(c) 'Children from non-English speaking backgrounds' are defined as children who speak, or whose parent/guardian speak a language other than English at home. The 'representation in the community' data refer to the proportion of children who do not speak English as their main language at home.

(d) 'Indigenous children' as children who child care services identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. The 'representation in the community data' refer to children of an Indigenous descent who identify as being Indigenous.

Table 3A.3 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2008 (a), (b)

	<i>Unit</i>	<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>
(e)	The ABS Census Post Enumeration Survey has estimated an undercount of Indigenous people in the 2006 Census, and the estimates of the proportional representation in the community of Indigenous children should be treated with caution.									
(f)	Data relate to children from families with a gross annual household income that is less than or equal to the cut-off point for receiving the maximum amount of child care benefits.									
(g)	Data on 'children from low-income families' in the community were obtained from the ABS 2005-06 Survey of Income and Housing Costs. Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution.									
(h)	'Children with a disability' are defined by DEEWR as children who child care services identify as having a continuing disability including intellectual, sensory or physical impairment. The 'representation in the community' data refer to children with any limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. These data were obtained from the ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Due to the small sample size, data for the NT are not published. Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution.									
(i)	The data include Inner Regional and Outer Regional areas of Australia.									
(j)	The data include Remote and Very Remote areas of Australia.									
	na Not available. .. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero. np Not published.									

Source: DEEWR (unpublished); ABS (unpublished), derived from *2006 Census of Population and Housing*; ABS (unpublished), derived from *Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2005-06*; ABS (unpublished), derived from *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*; 2009 Report, table 3A.23.

Table 3A.4

Table 3A.4 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at State and Territory Government child care and preschools, children aged 0–12, 2007–08 (number) (a)

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)		(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
Number of children										
Representation of children from non-English speaking backgrounds in:										
	Child care services	no. 12 341	405	150	na	200	9	na	na	13 105
	Preschool services	no. 6 435	10 466	810	na	2 160	na	307	na	20 178
	The general community (j)	no. 259 780	177 501	82 731	52 871	32 876	5 804	8 625	15 229	635 676
Representation of Indigenous children in:										
	Child care services	no. 3 181	3	154	na	70	7	na	na	3 415
	Preschool services	no. 2 341	612	1 326	2 494	1 280	310	102	1 477	9 942
	The general community (j)	no. 45 973	9 603	43 060	18 904	8 035	5 202	1 215	16 227	148 273
Representation of children with disabilities in:										
	Child care services	no. 5 218	46	57	na	280	15	na	na	5 616
	Preschool services	no. 3 982	3 694	1 280	861	3 200	na	166	181	13 364
	The general community (j)	no. 89 728	56 175	51 528	29 922	21 410	5 127	4 178	np	259 937
Representation of children from regional/remote areas:										
Regional										
	Child care services	no. 27 406	na	610	na	640	715	na	na	29 371
	Preschool services	no. 19 946	17 381	15 432	6 492	5 990	5 887	38	1 545	72 711
	The general community (j)	no. 322 922	230 948	318 365	84 285	64 083	78 883	109	21 306	1 121 078
Remote										
	Child care services	no. 1 018	na	457	na	220	49	na	na	1 744
	Preschool services	no. 807	86	1 816	2 399	1 190	103	na	1 849	8 250
	The general community (j)	no. 8 273	793	30 770	29 373	10 548	1 652	..	20 988	102 888

Table 3A.4

Table 3A.4 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at State and Territory Government child care and preschools, children aged 0–12, 2007-08 (number) (a)

Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)		(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
Proportion of children									
Representation of children from non-English speaking backgrounds in:									
Child care services	%	12.0	32.7	10.1	na	8.6	1.2	na	12.0
Preschool services	%	10.1	17.1	4.7	na	10.5	na	na	9.9
The general community (j)	%	23.2	21.7	11.9	15.5	13.7	7.2	16.2	36.8
Representation of Indigenous children in:									
Child care services	%	3.1	0.2	10.3	na	3.0	0.9	na	3.1
Preschool services	%	3.7	1.0	7.7	9.1	6.2	5.2	2.7	43.5
The general community (j)	%	4.1	1.2	6.2	5.6	3.3	6.5	2.3	39.2
Representation of children with disabilities in:									
Child care services	%	5.1	3.7	3.8	na	12.1	2.0	na	5.2
Preschool services	%	6.3	6.1	7.4	3.1	15.5	na	4.4	6.6
The general community (j)	%	8.0	6.8	7.6	8.9	8.8	6.2	7.5	7.7
Representation of children from regional/remote areas:									
Regional									
Child care services	%	26.6	na	40.9	na	27.6	93.6	na	26.9
Preschool services	%	31.4	28.5	89.5	23.6	29.0	98.3	1.0	45.5
The general community (j)	%	28.9	28.2	45.9	24.8	26.7	97.9	0.2	51.4
Remote									
Child care services	%	1.0	na	30.6	na	9.5	6.4	na	1.6
Preschool services	%	1.3	0.1	10.5	8.7	5.8	1.7	na	54.5
The general community (j)	%	0.7	0.1	4.4	8.6	4.4	2.0	..	50.7

Table 3A.4

Table 3A.4 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at State and Territory Government child care and preschools, children aged 0–12, 2007-08 (number) (a)

Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(i)

(a) Data for representation of special needs groups in the general community relate to children aged 0 to 12 years. In 2007-08, all data except for 'children with a disability' are estimated from the ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Data showing Indigenous and regional/remote representation in 2002-03 to 2003-04 were sourced from the ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing and relate to 0 to 14 year olds. Data showing Indigenous and regional/remote representation in 2004-05 to 2005-06 were obtained from the ABS Estimated resident population. Data showing children with a disability were obtained from the ABS 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Due to the various data sources used in different years, caution should be used when making comparisons across the years.

(b) As NSW does not discriminate between child care and preschool services, special needs children counted in child care services includes the count of children accessing designated preschool services. Data are for children attending funded licensed services during the survey week in September 2007. In NSW, total special needs children using child care services and total special needs children using preschool services should not be added together as a total and should be interpreted with caution.

(c) As at 30 June 2008 the State Government funded 203 effective full time (EFT) Adult and Community Further Education (ACFE) places. An EFT is equal to 1920 hours of care. Victoria does not report on 540 'Take A Break' EFTs as the Commonwealth contributes 70 per cent of the funding for these places. Preschool services data refer to the number of children attending State funded kindergarten services, including those operating in centre-based long day care services. For children with disabilities in preschool services, data refers to children identified as having additional needs by the kindergarten staff.

(d) For Queensland, child care data are based on an annual voluntary census, and response rates are variable by service type and over time. The reduction in preschool figures for 2007-08 is due to the cessation of preschool at the end of 2006 and the introduction of the Preparatory Year from 2007. Preparatory Year data are included in data on School Education. 2007-08 includes Indigenous Community Pre-Preparatory and Creche and Kindergarten enrolments which are primarily in regional locations.

(e) For WA preschool services, it is assumed the ratio of disabled students and Indigenous students in the non government system is the same as in the government system.

(f) Tasmanian preschool services includes data for government preschools only.

(g) In the ACT there are no regions classified as remote.

(h) NT preschools data for 2006-07 and 2007-08 include Catholic Mission Schools.

(i) Data for Australia are calculated as the sum of the states and territories for which data were available.

(j) Representation of children in the general community are children aged 0-12 years.

na Not available. np Not published. .. Not applicable.

Table 3A.4

Table 3A.4 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at State and Territory Government child care and preschools, children aged 0–12, 2007-08 (number) (a)

<i>Unit</i>	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(i)

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished), derived from 2006 *Census of Population and Housing*; ABS (unpublished), 2001 *Census of Population and Housing*; ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2009 (cat. no. 3238.0); ABS (unpublished), derived from 2003 *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*; ABS (unpublished), derived from *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Cat. no. 3101.0; 2009 Report, table 3A.24.

Table 3A.5

Table 3A.5 Children absent from non-government preschools, 2007 (a), (b), (c)

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT (e)	NT	Aust (f)
All children enrolled	no.	58 137	74 530	17 120	6 151	3 285	1 638	407	275	161 543
Number of all children absent	no.	7 921	13 621	3 060	1 362	482	232	89	160	26 927
Proportion all children absent	%	13.6	18.3	17.9	22.1	14.7	14.2	21.9	58.2	16.7
Total Indigenous children enrolled	no.	2 276	589	792	289	89	48	np	150	4 233
Number of Indigenous children absent	no.	669	184	295	127	44	9	np	131	1 459
Proportion Indigenous children absent	%	29.4	31.2	37.2	43.9	49.4	18.8	np	87.3	34.5
Total non-Indigenous children enrolled (d)	no.	55 861	73 941	16 328	5 862	3 196	1 590	np	125	157 310
Number of non-Indigenous children absent	no.	7 252	13 437	2 765	1 235	438	223	np	29	25 468
Proportion non-Indigenous children absent	%	13.0	18.2	16.9	21.1	13.7	14.0	np	23.2	16.2

(a) Data on attendance are limited to non-government preschools, and excludes government preschools. At the national level, around 70 per cent of children are in preschools considered to be 'non-government', though this percentage varies across jurisdictions.

(b) Attendance measured during the Census week of 30 July to 3 August 2007. Children are counted as absent if they miss one or more of the sessions that they were enrolled in during this week. Absences due to illness may be higher during winter than at other times of the year.

(c) Preschool attendance is not compulsory.

(d) Non-Indigenous children' derived by subtracting 'Indigenous children' from 'all children'.

(e) Data are suppressed for the ACT due to the small number of Indigenous children enrolled in non-government preschools.

(f) The Australian totals include jurisdictions for which data are published only.

na Not available. .. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero. np Not published.

Source: DEEWR (unpublished), derived from *National Preschool Census, 2007*; 2009 Report, table 3A.25.