

## 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 2010* (2010 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](http://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

---

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Table 3A.1</b> | Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2009   |
| <b>Table 3A.2</b> | Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2008-09 |
| <b>Table 3A.3</b> | Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent)    |
| <b>Table 3A.4</b> | Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09      |
| <b>Table 3A.5</b> | Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2004-05 to 2008-09                                       |
| <b>Table 3A.6</b> | Children absent from non-government preschools, 2008  |

Table 3A.1

Table 3A.1 Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2009 (a)

|         |  | <i>Child care</i>                        |  |   | <i>Preschool</i>                         |  | <i>Transition to primary school</i><br>Year prior to Year One (b) |                                      |
|---------|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
|         | Agency (b)   | Program                                  | Age of entry   | Agency (b)  | Program                                  | Age of entry   | School year   | Age of entry                         |
| NSW (c) | Dept of Community Services                         | Preschool                                | generally 3 and 4 year olds                                | Dept of Community Services (licensing for all services, funding for community based services) | Preschool                                | generally 3 and 4 year olds                                | Kindergarten  | 5 by 31 July                         |
| Vic     | Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development  | Kindergarten                             | 4 by 30 April  | Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development   | Kindergarten                             | 4 by 30 April  | Preparatory (Prep)  | 5 by 30 April                        |
| Qld (d) | Dept of Education and Training                     | Kindergarten, Pre-Preparatory (Pre-Prep) | 4 by 30 June   | Dept of Education and Training  | Kindergarten, Pre-Preparatory (Pre-Prep) | 4 by 30 June   | Preparatory Year (Prep)   | 5 by 30 June                         |
| WA      | Dept for Communities                               | Kindergarten                             | 4 by 30 June   | Dept of Education and Training  | Kindergarten                             | 4 by 30 June   | Pre-primary   | 5 by 30 June                         |
| SA (e)  | Dept of Education and Children's Services          | Preschool Kindergarten                   | entry after 4th birthday                                   | Dept of Education and Children's Services   | Preschool Kindergarten                   | entry after 4th birthday                                   | Reception   | entry after 5 <sup>th</sup> birthday |
| Tas     | Dept of Education                                  | Kindergarten                             | 4 by 1 January   | Dept of Education   | Kindergarten                             | 4 by 1 January   | Preparatory   | 5 by 1                               |
| ACT (f) | Dept of Disability, Housing and Community Services | Preschool                                | 4 by 30 April  | Dept of Education and Training (government preschools)  | Preschool                                | 4 by 30 April  | Kindergarten  | 5 by 30 April                        |
| NT (g)  | Dept of Education and Training                     | Preschool                                | 4 by 30 June, or 3 for Indigenous children in remote areas | Dept of Education and Training  | Preschool                                | 4 by 30 June, or 3 for Indigenous children in remote areas | Transition  | 5 by 30 June                         |

(a) The Children's services chapter reports data for child care and preschool services only. Data on primary school are reported in the School education chapter (2010 Report, chapter 4), but relate to 2008. Information on the first year of primary school are included here to show the point at which children can transition from preschool to the first year of primary school in each jurisdiction.

(b) The departmental responsibility of agencies varies between child care and preschool. Agency responsibility refers to licensing services for child care, and licensing, funding and/or providing services for preschool programs. State and Territory education departments are responsible for primary school.

**Table 3A.1 Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2009 (a)**

- (c) 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.
- (d) All licensed children's services in Queensland are required to provide an appropriate program that is designed to stimulate and develop each child's creative, emotional, intellectual, lingual, physical, recreational and social potential.
- (e) In SA, some children are entitled to enrol in preschool earlier. 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. The compulsory school starting age in SA is 6 years at the oldest.
- (f) In the ACT, private preschools are licensed by Dept of Disability, Housing and Community Services.
- (g) In the NT, Indigenous children aged 3 years in remote Indigenous communities can attend preschool if accompanied by an adult.

Source : State and Territory governments (unpublished); 2010 Report, table 3A.1.

Table 3A.2

**Table 3A.2 Representation of special needs groups in attendees at Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

|  | Unit | NSW  | Vic  | Qld  | WA   | SA   | Tas  | ACT  | NT   | Aust |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Children from non-English speaking backgrounds |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Children aged 0–5 in child care services       | %    | 17.9 | 18.1 | 7.4  | 10.3 | 9.8  | 4.0  | 12.1 | 11.0 | 13.6 |
| 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      | %    | 18.0 | 14.9 | 6.8  | 7.8  | 8.5  | 4.4  | 8.2  | 12.3 | 11.9 |
| 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                            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Children aged 0–5 in child care services       | %    | 2.6  | 0.6  | 2.8  | 2.2  | 2.0  | 1.6  | 1.5  | 7.9  | 2.2  |
| Children aged 0–5 in the community             | %    | 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      | %    | 2.5  | 1.5  | 4.0  | 3.2  | 2.3  | 2.3  | 1.6  | 15.9 | 2.8  |
| Children aged 6–12 in the community            | %    | 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       | %    | 26.0 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 22.3 | 24.8 | 26.3 | 10.5 | 16.9 | 24.8 |
| Children aged 0–5 in the community             | %    | 23.0 | 22.8 | 22.3 | 23.1 | 25.5 | 28.6 | 13.1 | 21.5 | 22.9 |
| Children aged 6–12 in child care services      | %    | 20.0 | 23.1 | 22.9 | 23.6 | 24.3 | 22.0 | 7.8  | 14.8 | 22.0 |
| Children aged 6–12 in the community            | %    | 25.8 | 23.3 | 19.6 | 19.3 | 27.4 | 37.8 | 8.6  | 16.1 | 23.3 |
| Children with a disability                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Children aged 0–5 in child care services       | %    | 3.7  | 2.1  | 1.9  | 2.3  | 3.7  | 2.3  | 1.8  | 2.8  | 2.7  |
| Children aged 0–5 in the community             | %    | 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      | %    | 4.2  | 3.2  | 4.3  | 3.0  | 8.0  | 3.5  | 2.1  | 5.5  | 4.3  |
| Children aged 6–12 in the community            | %    | 10.7 | 8.5  | 9.5  | 11.4 | 10.2 | 7.7  | 6.2  | np   | 9.8  |
| Children from regional areas                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Children aged 0–5 in child care services       | %    | 26.8 | 25.4 | 33.6 | 21.1 | 21.4 | 99.0 | 0.1  | 76.9 | 29.2 |
| 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      | %    | 24.3 | 22.9 | 30.1 | 18.6 | 16.3 | 99.6 | 0.0  | 83.5 | 26.6 |
| 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                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Children aged 0–5 in child care services       | %    | 0.3  | –    | 1.2  | 4.0  | 2.1  | 1.1  | ..   | 23.2 | 1.1  |
| 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      | %    | 0.2  | –    | 0.8  | 2.0  | 1.1  | 0.4  | ..   | 16.5 | 0.7  |
| Children aged 6–12 in the community            | %    | 0.7  | 0.1  | 4.3  | 8.4  | 4.4  | 2.1  | ..   | 50.7 | 3.0  |

(a) Refer to table 3A.3 for complete footnotes.

(b) Excludes children aged 6–12 years attending Occasional Care services. The number of children aged 6–12 years using Occasional care services were too small to be included here.

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

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) administrative data collection, *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2006* and *Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey 2007-08*; ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2007-08*, Cat. no. 6523.0, *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*, Cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra; 2010 Report, table 3A.14.

Table 3A.3

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

|  | <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 (e) |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| Representation in child care services              |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| 2004   | 17.4       | 13.5       | 6.3        | 7.9       | 6.9       | 3.4        | 12.1       | 8.1       | 11.6        |
| 2006   | 17.0       | 12.8       | 5.1        | 6.4       | 8.0       | 2.5        | 9.7        | 8.5       | 10.9        |
| 2008   | ..         | ..         | ..         | ..        | ..        | ..         | ..         | ..        | ..          |
| 2008-09  | 18.0       | 17.2       | 7.3        | 9.7       | 9.3       | 4.2        | 10.3       | 11.5      | 13.2        |
| 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              |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| 2004   | 1.6        | 0.6        | 2.5        | 1.8       | 1.3       | 1.0        | 0.7        | 10.7      | 1.6         |
| 2006   | 1.6        | 0.7        | 2.2        | 2.1       | 2.1       | 1.4        | 0.7        | 11.1      | 1.7         |
| 2008   | ..         | ..         | ..         | ..        | ..        | ..         | ..         | ..        | ..          |
| 2008-09  | 2.5        | 0.9        | 3.1        | 2.4       | 2.1       | 1.8        | 1.4        | 10.6      | 2.3         |
| 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              |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| 2004   | 28.0       | 28.3       | 33.8       | 32.6      | 33.0      | 31.5       | 12.4       | 18.8      | 29.9        |
| 2006   | 25.2       | 26.5       | 28.6       | 27.6      | 29.3      | 29.1       | 10.4       | 17.5      | 26.6        |
| 2008   | ..         | ..         | ..         | ..        | ..        | ..         | ..         | ..        | ..          |
| 2008-09  | 24.4       | 23.7       | 24.7       | 22.7      | 24.6      | 24.8       | 9.6        | 16.2      | 23.9        |
| Representation in the community (i)                | 24.5       | 23.1       | 20.9       | 21.0      | 26.6      | 33.8       | 10.8       | 18.9      | 23.2        |
| Children with a disability (j)                     |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| Representation in child care services              |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| 2004   | 2.1        | 2.0        | 2.0        | 1.7       | 3.5       | 2.2        | 2.1        | 2.4       | 2.1         |
| 2006   | 3.1        | 2.4        | 2.2        | 2.5       | 3.8       | 2.3        | 1.8        | 3.7       | 2.7         |
| 2008   | ..         | ..         | ..         | ..        | ..        | ..         | ..         | ..        | ..          |
| 2008-09  | 3.8        | 2.5        | 2.6        | 2.5       | 5.5       | 2.7        | 1.9        | 3.7       | 3.2         |
| Representation in the community (j)                | 8.0        | 6.8        | 7.6        | 8.9       | 8.8       | 6.2        | 7.5        | np        | 7.7         |
| Children from regional and remote areas (k)        |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| Regional   |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| Representation in child care services              |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| 2004   | 25.9       | 22.5       | 38.9       | 18.2      | 16.2      | 99.6       | –          | 74.0      | 28.8        |
| 2006   | 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        |
| 2008-09  | 26.3       | 24.6       | 32.5       | 20.5      | 19.4      | 99.2       | 0.1        | 79.1      | 28.5        |
| Representation in the community (f)                | 28.9       | 28.2       | 45.9       | 24.8      | 26.7      | 97.9       | 0.2        | 51.4      | 33.1        |
| Remote   |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| Representation in child care services              |            |            |            |           |           |            |            |           |             |
| 2004   | 0.4        | 0.1        | 1.6        | 5.0       | 2.0       | 0.4        | ..         | 26.0      | 1.4         |
| 2006   | 0.3        | –          | 1.3        | 3.7       | 2.0       | 0.6        | ..         | 22.7      | 1.1         |

Table 3A.3

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

|                                     | <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> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 2008                                | 0.2        | –          | 0.8        | 2.9       | 1.5       | 0.6        | ..         | 18.9      | 0.8         |
| 2008-09                             | 0.2        | –          | 1.1        | 3.4       | 1.7       | 0.8        | ..         | 21.0      | 1.0         |
| Representation in the community (f) | 0.7        | 0.1        | 4.4        | 8.6       | 4.4       | 2.0        | ..         | 50.7      | 3.0         |

- (a) Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution.
- (b) Data for 2004 and 2006 are drawn from the respective AGCCCS, while data for 2008 and 2008-09 are drawn from the AGCCPS and DEEWR administrative data. Data for 2008 and 2008-09 are not comparable to previous years due to the change in the source for data collection.
- (c) Children attending approved services in 2004 and 2006 may be counted more than once if attending more than one service during the reference week. In 2008 and 2008-09, children are counted once for each care type they use.
- (d) Excludes Aboriginal Playgroups and Enrichment Programs, Mobile and Toy Library services and Aboriginal Playgroups as data from these service types were not available.
- (e) Children from non-English speaking backgrounds in child care services are children who speak, or whose parent/guardian speak a language other than English at home. Data on representation in the community refer to the proportion of children who do not speak English as their main language at home.
- (f) Data for representation in the community are estimated from the ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing.
- (g) Indigenous children in child care services are children who child care services identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. The representation in the community data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing refer to children of an Indigenous descent who identify as being Indigenous. The ABS Census Post Enumeration Survey has estimated an undercount of Indigenous people in the 2006 Census, and the data on the proportion of Indigenous represented in children in the community should be treated with caution.
- (h) Children from low income families include those families in receipt of the maximum rate of Child Care Benefit (CCB). The maximum CCB rate was \$31755 in 2003-04, \$33361 in 2005-06, \$35478 in 2007-08, and \$36573 in 2008-09.
- (i) The data showing representation children from low income families in the community are drawn from the *ABS Survey of Income and Housing 2007-08*.
- (j) Children with a disability in child care services are children who child care services identify as having a continuing disability including intellectual, sensory or physical impairment. Data on representation in the community 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 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*. Due to the small sample size, data for the NT are not published.
- (k) Regional and remote areas based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification of Remoteness Areas (ASGC) (ABS 2006). Regional areas include inner regional and outer regional areas. Remote areas include remote, very remote and migratory areas. Children can use care in multiple regions and states, and may be counted in more than one region.

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

*Source:* DEEWR (unpublished) administrative data collection, *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2006* and *Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey 2007-08*; FaCSIA (unpublished) *Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2004*; ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2007-08*, Cat. no. 6523.0, *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*, Cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra; 2010 Report, table 3A.15.

Table 3A.4

**Table 3A.4 Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

|  | Unit | NSW (c) | Vic    | Qld (d) | WA (e) | SA (f) | Tas (g) | ACT (h) | NT (i) | Aust (j) |
|--|------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Children from non-English speaking backgrounds |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Number of children                             |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                            | no.  | 11 756  | 138    | 39      | na     | 260    | 5       | na      | na     | 12 198   |
| Preschool services                             | no.  | 6 601   | 10 598 | 608     | na     | 2 380  | na      | 710     | na     | 20 897   |
| Preschool in the year before full time school  | no.  | na      | 10 598 | na      | na     | na     | na      | 710     | na     | 11 308   |
| Representation in children's services          |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                            | %    | 11.0    | 10.3   | 4.0     | na     | 11.3   | 0.7     | na      | na     | 10.8     |
| Preschool services                             | %    | 10.1    | 16.9   | 3.8     | na     | 11.0   | na      | 17.3    | na     | 12.3     |
| Preschool in the year before full time school  | %    | na      | 17.0   | na      | na     | na     | na      | 18.0    | na     | 17.1     |
| Representation in the community                |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Children aged 3-5 years                        | %    | 23.2    | 21.6   | 11.6    | 15.6   | 13.5   | 7.2     | 16.1    | 38.7   | 18.7     |
| Children aged 0-12 years                       | %    | 23.2    | 21.7   | 11.9    | 15.5   | 13.7   | 7.2     | 16.2    | 36.8   | 18.8     |
| Indigenous children                            |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Number of children                             |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                            | no.  | 3 649   | -      | 44      | na     | 70     | 8       | na      | na     | 3 771    |
| Preschool services                             | no.  | 2 608   | 561    | 1 268   | 2 622  | 1 370  | 285     | 122     | 1 364  | 10 200   |
| Preschool in the year before full time school  | no.  | na      | 561    | na      | 2 483  | na     | na      | 122     | 1 154  | 4 320    |
| Representation in children's services          |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                            | %    | 3.4     | -      | 4.5     | na     | 3.0    | 1.2     | na      | na     | 3.4      |
| Preschool services                             | %    | 4.0     | 0.9    | 8.0     | 8.9    | 6.3    | 4.9     | 3.0     | 43.2   | 4.9      |
| Preschool in the year before full time school  | %    | na      | 0.9    | na      | 8.9    | na     | na      | 3.1     | 40.8   | 4.5      |
| Representation in the community                |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Children aged 3-5 years                        | %    | 4.1     | 1.2    | 6.4     | 5.8    | 3.5    | 6.4     | 2.3     | 41.8   | 4.5      |
| Children aged 0-12 years                       | %    | 4.1     | 1.2    | 6.2     | 5.6    | 3.3    | 6.5     | 2.3     | 39.2   | 4.4      |



Table 3A.4

**Table 3A.4 Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

|   | Unit | NSW (c) | Vic    | Qld (d) | WA (e) | SA (f) | Tas (g) | ACT (h) | NT (i) | Aust (j) |
|---|------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Children with a disability (k)                |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Number of children                            |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                           | no.  | 4 662   | 16     | 10      | na     | 270    | 14      | na      | na     | 4 972    |
| Preschool services                            | no.  | 3 510   | 4 139  | 351     | 895    | 3 050  | na      | 138     | 161    | 12 244   |
| Preschool in the year before full time school | no.  | na      | 4 139  | na      | 847    | na     | na      | 138     | 138    | 5 262    |
| Representation in children's services         |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                           | %    | 4.3     | 1.2    | 1.0     | na     | 11.7   | 2.1     | na      | na     | 4.4      |
| Preschool services                            | %    | 5.4     | 6.6    | 2.2     | 3.0    | 14.1   | na      | 3.4     | 5.1    | 6.1      |
| Preschool in the year before full time school | %    | na      | 6.6    | na      | 3.0    | na     | na      | 3.5     | 4.9    | 5.4      |
| Representation in the community               |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Children aged 3-5 years                       | %    | 7.7     | 6.5    | 8.6     | 10.2   | 8.3    | 7.2     | 14.3    | np     | 8.0      |
| Children aged 0-12 years                      | %    | 8.0     | 6.8    | 7.6     | 8.9    | 8.8    | 6.2     | 7.5     | np     | 7.7      |
| Children from regional areas                  |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Number of children                            |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                           | no.  | 28 241  | 241    | 465     | na     | 570    | 614     | na      | na     | 30 131   |
| Preschool services                            | no.  | 19 256  | 15 366 | 6 476   | 2 866  | 5 720  | 5 749   | 33      | 1 466  | 56 932   |
| Preschool in the year before full time school | no.  | na      | 15 228 | 5 620   | 2 714  | 14 810 | na      | na      | na     | 38 372   |
| Representation in children's services         |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                           | %    | 26.3    | 18.0   | 47.5    | na     | 24.7   | 91.8    | na      | na     | 26.8     |
| Preschool services                            | %    | 29.4    | 24.6   | 40.8    | 9.7    | 26.4   | 98.6    | 0.8     | 46.5   | 27.3     |
| Preschool in the year before full time school | %    | na      | 24.4   | 39.1    | 9.7    | 94.7   | na      | na      | na     | 31.9     |
| Representation in the community               |      |         |        |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Children aged 3-5 years                       | %    | 28.0    | 27.5   | 45.1    | 24.5   | 26.2   | 97.7    | 0.1     | 48.2   | 32.3     |
| Children aged 0-12 years                      | %    | 28.9    | 28.2   | 45.9    | 24.8   | 26.7   | 97.9    | 0.2     | 51.4   | 33.1     |

Table 3A.4

**Table 3A.4 Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

|   | Unit | NSW (c) | Vic | Qld (d) | WA (e) | SA (f) | Tas (g) | ACT (h) | NT (i) | Aust (j) |
|---|------|---------|-----|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| Children from remote areas                    |      |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Number of children                            |      |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                           | no.  | 1 077   | -   | 213     | na     | 230    | 55      | ..      | na     | 1 575    |
| Preschool services                            | no.  | 674     | 49  | 1 177   | 2 492  | 1 330  | 81      | ..      | 1 689  | 7 492    |
| Preschool in the year before full time school | no.  | na      | 49  | 591     | 2 361  | 830    | na      | ..      | na     | 3 831    |
| Representation in children's services         |      |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Child care services                           | %    | 1.0     | -   | 21.8    | na     | 10.0   | 8.2     | ..      | na     | 1.4      |
| Preschool services                            | %    | 1.0     | 0.1 | 7.4     | 8.5    | 6.1    | 1.4     | ..      | 53.5   | 3.7      |
| Preschool in the year before full time school | %    | na      | 0.1 | 4.1     | 8.5    | 5.3    | na      | ..      | na     | 3.2      |
| Representation in the community               |      |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| Children aged 3-5 years                       | %    | 1.0     | 0.1 | 6.2     | 11.8   | 5.8    | 2.6     | ..      | 68.2   | 4.2      |
| Children aged 0-12 years                      | %    | 0.7     | 0.1 | 4.4     | 8.6    | 4.4    | 2.0     | ..      | 50.7   | 3.0      |

(a) Data for representation in the community are estimated from the *ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006*, except for 'children with a disability'. Data for the representation of children with a disability in the community were obtained from the *ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*. Due to the various data sources used in different years, caution should be used when making comparisons across the years.

(b) Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution.

(c) 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. 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.

Table 3A.4

**Table 3A.4 Representation of children aged from special needs groups in State and Territory Government child care and preschool services, 2008-09 (a), (b)**

|     | Unit   | NSW (c) | Vic | Qld (d) | WA (e) | SA (f) | Tas (g) | ACT (h) | NT (i) | Aust (j) |
|-----|--|---------|-----|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| (d) | Queensland child care data are based on an annual voluntary census and response rates are variable by service type and over time. Child care data for 2008-09 relate to State funded occasional care services only and are potentially under reported, as data for vacation care and other services (which specifically target children with special needs) were not available. Preschool data include Indigenous Community Pre-Preparatory services and C&K community kindergarten services. Data for 2008-09 on children with a disability and children in regional and remote areas in C&K community kindergarten services are not comparable to data in previous Reports, due to changes in data definitions. For 2008-09, children with a disability are those children with a diagnosed disability attending in the census week. Data on regional and remote areas are children attending in the census week, based on location of services according to the Australian Standard Geographic Classification. Queensland is unable to disaggregate children with special needs enrolled in preschool in the year before full time school from all children with special needs enrolled in preschool. |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| (e) | For WA, it is assumed that the ratio of Indigenous and disabled students in the non-government system is the same as the government system.  |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| (f) | In SA, children in preschool in the year before full time school include 4 year old children only.   |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| (g) | Tasmanian preschool services includes data for government preschools only.   |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| (h) | In the ACT there are no regions classified as remote.  |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| (i) | NT preschools data include Catholic Remote Indigenous schools. Data for children from non-English speaking backgrounds are of a quality too poor to report. Data for Indigenous children in preschools were collected during the week ending 1 August 2008, as part of the Age Grade Census. Data for children with a disability in preschools are an average over the whole year. Indigenous children and children with a disability in preschools include 3 year old children. Indigenous children aged 4 years in preschool are a proxy for children in preschool in the year before full time school. Children with a disability aged 4 and 5 years in preschool are a proxy for children in preschool in the year before full time school.  |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| (j) | Data for Australia for children from non-English speaking backgrounds and children with a disability in children's services are the total of the sum of the states and territories for which data are available, and should not be interpreted as national data. All other data for Australia represent all states and territories and can be considered national data.  |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |
| (k) | Data are not directly comparable between jurisdictions because there is no national definition or standard on children with a disability. In Victoria, children with a disability in preschool services are children identified as having additional needs by the qualified early childhood teacher delivering the funded kindergarten program. In Queensland, the definition of disability refers to a diagnosed disability.  |         |     |         |        |        |         |         |        |          |

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

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2007-08*, Cat. no. 6523.0, 2006 *Census of Population and Housing and Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2003*, Cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra; 2010 Report, table 3A.16.

Table 3A.5

Table 3A.5 Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2004-05 to 2008-09

|  | Unit | NSW (a) | Vic (b) | Q/d (c) | WA (d) | SA    | Tas (e) | ACT | NT (f) | Aust (g) |
|--|------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------|---------|-----|--------|----------|
| 2004-05  |      |         |         |         |        |       |         |     |        |          |
| Number of Indigenous children in preschool             | no.  | 1 824   | na      | 3 454   | 2 282  | 1 170 | 328     | 111 | 1 403  | 10 572   |
| Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h) | %    | 2.9     | na      | 5.6     | 8.9    | 5.5   | 5.2     | 3.1 | 41.2   | 5.7      |
| 2005-06  |      |         |         |         |        |       |         |     |        |          |
| Number of Indigenous children in preschool             | no.  | 1 912   | na      | 3 894   | 2 523  | 1 210 | 337     | 108 | 1 414  | 11 398   |
| Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h) | %    | 3.1     | na      | 6.1     | 9.6    | 5.7   | 5.5     | 3.1 | 42.5   | 6.1      |
| 2006-07  |      |         |         |         |        |       |         |     |        |          |
| Number of Indigenous children in preschool             | no.  | 2 384   | na      | 3 858   | 2 322  | 1 240 | 285     | 106 | 1 389  | 11 584   |
| Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h) | %    | 3.6     | na      | 6.1     | 9.1    | 5.9   | 4.8     | 3.0 | 42.3   | 6.1      |
| 2007-08  |      |         |         |         |        |       |         |     |        |          |
| Number of Indigenous children in preschool             | no.  | 2 341   | na      | 1 326   | 2 494  | 1 280 | 310     | 102 | 1 477  | 9 330    |
| Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h) | %    | 3.7     | na      | 7.7     | 9.1    | 5.9   | 5.2     | 2.7 | 43.5   | 6.5      |
| 2008-09  |      |         |         |         |        |       |         |     |        |          |
| Number of Indigenous children in preschool             | no.  | 2 608   | 561     | 1 268   | 2 622  | 1 370 | 285     | 122 | 1 364  | 10 200   |
| Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (h) | %    | 4.0     | 0.9     | 8.0     | 8.9    | 6.3   | 4.9     | 3.0 | 43.2   | 4.9      |

(a) As NSW does not discriminate between child care and preschool services, 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. In NSW, children using child care services and children using preschool services should not be added together as a total and should be interpreted with caution. All NSW licensed and funded long day care centres offer a preschool program. There is an under-representation of Indigenous children attending preschool in NSW data, as Indigenous children attending long day care centres in the year before school are not included.

(b) Preschool services data refer to the number of children attending State funded kindergarten services, including those operating in centre-based long day care services.

(c) Queensland data from 2007-08 include Indigenous Community Pre-Preparatory and C&K community kindergarten services. Data for C&K community kindergarten services in 2008-09 are not comparable to data for previous years, as these data relate to children attending in the census week (as reported by the services responding to Child Care Services Census). Data for previous years were enrolment data. The 2008-09 census had a response rate of 93.6 per cent for preschools, and data for 2008-09 are potentially under reported.

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

Table 3A.5

**Table 3A.5 Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2004-05 to 2008-09**

|  | <i>Unit</i> | NSW (a) | Vic (b) | Q/d (c) | WA (d) | SA | Tas (e) | ACT | NT (f) | Aust (g) |
|--|-------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|----|---------|-----|--------|----------|
|--|-------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|----|---------|-----|--------|----------|

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

(f) NT preschools data include Catholic Remote Indigenous Schools. Data for Indigenous children in preschools were collected during the week ending 1 August 2008, as part of the Age Grade Census.

(g) The totals for Australia are calculated as the sum of the states and territories for which data were available.

(h) Representation in preschool is Indigenous children enrolled in preschool as a proportion of all children enrolled in preschool..

na Not available.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished) 2006 *Census of Population and Housing*; 2010 Report, table 3A.17.

Table 3A.6

Table 3A.6 Children absent from non-government preschools, 2008 (a), (b), (c)

|                                     | Unit       | NSW           | Vic           | Q/d           | WA           | SA           | Tas          | ACT         | NT          | Aust           |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Number of children enrolled         |            |               |               |               |              |              |              |             |             |                |
| Indigenous children                 | no.        | 2 371         | 677           | 844           | 296          | 299          | 39           | –           | 149         | 4 675          |
| Non-Indigenous children (d)         | no.        | 54 103        | 72 798        | 16 371        | 7 817        | 6 023        | 1 563        | 557         | 129         | 159 361        |
| <b>All children</b>                 | <b>no.</b> | <b>56 474</b> | <b>73 475</b> | <b>17 215</b> | <b>8 113</b> | <b>6 322</b> | <b>1 602</b> | <b>557</b>  | <b>278</b>  | <b>164 036</b> |
| Number of children absent           |            |               |               |               |              |              |              |             |             |                |
| Indigenous children                 | no.        | 548           | 188           | 260           | 157          | 105          | 5            | –           | 76          | 1 339          |
| Non-Indigenous children (d)         | no.        | 5 948         | 12 905        | 2 320         | 1 272        | 875          | 185          | 115         | 25          | 23 645         |
| <b>All children</b>                 | <b>no.</b> | <b>6 496</b>  | <b>13 093</b> | <b>2 580</b>  | <b>1 429</b> | <b>980</b>   | <b>190</b>   | <b>115</b>  | <b>101</b>  | <b>24 984</b>  |
| Proportion of children absent       |            |               |               |               |              |              |              |             |             |                |
| Indigenous children                 | %          | 23.1          | 27.8          | 30.8          | 53.0         | 35.1         | 12.8         | –           | 51.0        | 28.6           |
| Non-Indigenous children (d)         | %          | 11.0          | 17.7          | 14.2          | 16.3         | 14.5         | 11.8         | 20.6        | 19.4        | 14.8           |
| <b>All children</b>                 | <b>%</b>   | <b>11.5</b>   | <b>17.8</b>   | <b>15.0</b>   | <b>17.6</b>  | <b>15.5</b>  | <b>11.9</b>  | <b>20.6</b> | <b>36.3</b> | <b>15.2</b>    |
| Non-government preschools           |            |               |               |               |              |              |              |             |             |                |
| Number of non-government preschools | no.        | 907           | 1512          | 365           | 239          | 110          | 56           | 10          | 10          | 3209           |
| Proportion of all preschools (e)    | %          | 90.2          | 100.0         | 92.9          | 27.7         | 22.1         | 25.1         | 11.5        | 7.9         | 68.4           |

(a) Data on attendance are limited to non-government preschools, and excludes government preschools.

(b) Attendance measured during the Census week of 28 July–1 August 20 2008. 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) Data for Non-Indigenous children are derived from data on Indigenous children and All children.

(e) Non-government preschools as a proportion of all preschools (which includes government and non-government preschools) approached in the NPC. Preschool attendance data for jurisdictions with a small proportion of non-government schools should be interpreted with care.

– Nil or rounded to zero

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) *National Preschool Census 2008*; 2010 Report, table 3A.18.