
3 Children's services

CONTENTS

Indigenous data in the Children's services chapter	42
Framework of performance indicators	43
Equity	45
Access — participation rates for special needs groups in child care	45
Access — Participation rates for special needs groups in preschool	47
Access — Indigenous preschool attendance	49
Future directions in performance reporting	51
COAG developments	51
Definitions of key terms and indicators	52
List of attachment tables	53
References	53

Attachment tables

Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this Indigenous Compendium by an 'A' prefix (for example, in this chapter, table 3A.1). As the data are directly sourced from the 2012 Report, the Compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the 2012 Report can be found. For example, where the Compendium refers to '2012 Report, p. 3.1' this is page 1 of chapter 3 of the 2012 Report, and '2012 Report, table 3A.1' is attachment table 1 of attachment 3A of the 2012 Report. A full list of attachment tables referred to in the Compendium is provided at the end of this chapter, and the attachment tables are available from the Review website at www.pc.gov.au/gsp.

The Children's services chapter (chapter 3) in the *Report on Government Services 2012* (2012 Report) reports on the performance of children's services in each Australian state and territory. Data are reported for Indigenous people for a subset

of the performance indicators reported in that chapter — those data are compiled and presented here.

Children's services aim to meet the care, education and development needs of children. In this chapter, child care services are those provided to children aged 0–12 years, usually by someone other than the child's parents or guardian. Preschool services are provided to children, mainly in the year or two before they begin full time schooling.

Most of the data in this chapter relate to services that are supported by the Australian, State and Territory governments and provided for children aged 0–12 years. Local governments also plan, fund and deliver children's services. Due to data limitations, the only local government data included are where Australian, State and Territory government funding and/or licensing are involved.

The major improvements to reporting on children's services this year include:

- refinement of the presentation of indicators and measures reported, including specification as to whether the indicator relates to child care or preschool or both
- inclusion for the first time of new data quality information (DQI) documentation for the indicators 'children using child care' and 'children enrolled in preschool'.

Indigenous data in the Children's services chapter

The Children's services chapter in the 2012 Report contains the following data items on Indigenous people:

- representation of Indigenous children in Australian Government approved child care services (compared to their representation in the community), 2010
- representation of Indigenous children in State and Territory Government child care and preschools (compared to their representation in the community), 2010
- Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory Government preschool services, 2006-07 to 2010-11

The arrangements for departmental responsibility for early childhood education and care vary across State and Territory governments. There are also differences across states and territories for early childhood education program names and starting ages. Table 3A.1 shows basic information on child care and preschool education programs, such as agency responsibility, program names and starting ages.

The Australian Government provides supplementary funding to support the participation of Indigenous children in eligible preschool programs. In 2010,

\$13.0 million was provided on a per person and project basis to 1538 government and non-government preschools. The funding covered 9707 full time equivalent Indigenous preschool enrolments (DEEWR unpublished).

Framework of performance indicators

The Children's services performance indicator framework outlined in figure 3.1 identifies the performance indicators reported in the 2012 Report. Data for Indigenous people are reported for a subset of the performance indicators and are presented here. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework. The framework shows which data are comparable. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.

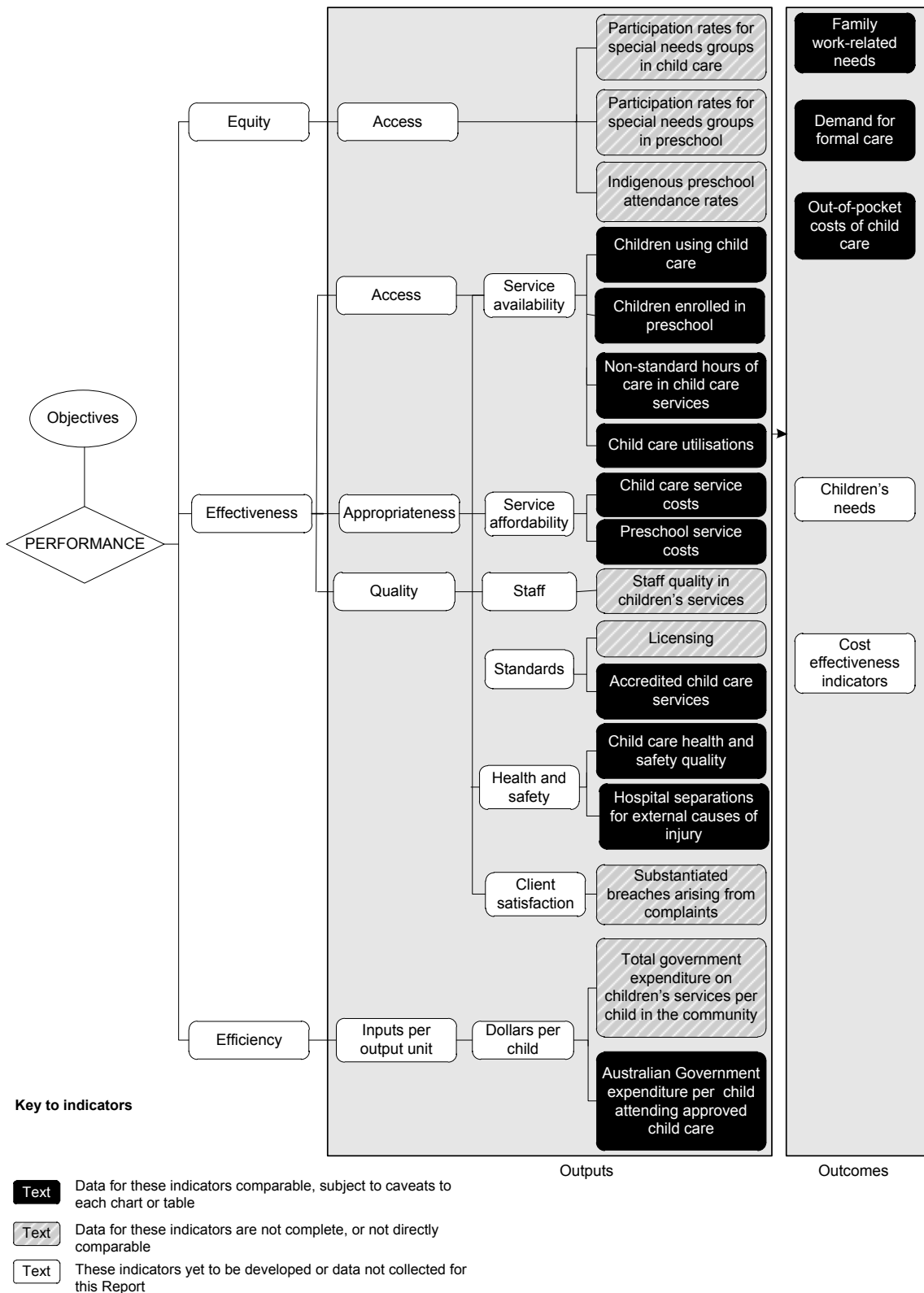
COAG has agreed to six National Agreements (NAs) to enhance accountability to the public for the outcomes achieved or outputs delivered by a range of government services, (see 2012 Report, chapter 1 for more detail on reforms to federal financial relations).

There are no service specific NAs that relate to children's services. However, the *National Indigenous Reform Agreement* (NIRA) establishes specific outcomes for reducing the level of disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Australians, and includes an indicator relating to access to quality early childhood education for Indigenous children. Data developments for reporting against the agreed indicator were underway at the time of preparing this Report. It is anticipated that this indicator will be included in the 2013 Report.

A performance indicator framework consistent with the objectives for children's services is shown in figure 3.1. The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of Children's services. The framework shows which data are provided on a comparable basis in the 2012 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability from a Report-wide perspective (2012 Report, see section 1.6).

The Report's statistical appendix contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this chapter. These data cover a range of demographic and geographic characteristics, including age profile, geographic distribution of the population, income levels, education levels, tenure of dwellings and cultural heritage (including Indigenous and ethnic status) (appendix A).

Figure 3.1 Children's services performance indicator framework



Source: 2012 Report, figure 3.2, p. 3.16.

Equity

Access — participation rates for special needs groups in child care

‘Participation rates for special needs groups in child care’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that services are provided in an equitable manner to all special needs groups in the community, and that there is consideration of the needs of those groups which can have special difficulty in accessing services (box 3.1).

Box 3.1 Participation rates for special needs groups in child care

‘Participation rates for special needs groups in child care’ is defined as the proportion of children using child care services who are from targeted special needs groups, compared with the representation of these groups in the community. Data are reported for children in child care aged 0–5 and 6–12 years.

Targeted special needs groups include children from non-English speaking backgrounds, Indigenous children, children from low income families, children with disability, and children from regional and remote areas.

A high or increasing participation rate is desirable. If the representation of special needs groups among child care services users is broadly similar to their representation in the community, this suggests more equitable access.

Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable.

Data quality information for this indicator is under development.

Data for participation by special needs groups using Australian Government approved child care services for 2010 were drawn from the *National ECEC Workforce Census 2010* and DEEWR administrative systems. Box 3.2 contains more information on the census.

Box 3.2 Australian Government National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census

The *National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census* (National ECEC Workforce Census) was conducted in 2010 and is an initiative of the Australian Government in partnership with State and Territory governments. The information collected aims to provide comprehensive, current and nationally consistent data on access to early childhood education and care services, and staff qualifications and experience.

This chapter presents final data for 2010 from the 2010 National ECEC Workforce Census, updating preliminary data for 2010 included in the 2011 Report.

This National ECEC Workforce Census replaced the Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey (AGCCPS) conducted in 2008-09 and the Australian Government Census of Child Care services (AGCCC) conducted in earlier years, as the source of non-administrative data available from the Australian Government.

The National ECEC Workforce Census collected information on children with special needs and staff in Australian Government approved child care services. The same information was collected in the AGCCPS and the AGCCC, although different methods were used. Variations in collection methods and different weighting methods affect the comparability of data across the collections. Therefore comparisons across time should be made with caution.

Source: DEEWR (2010).

At a national level, Indigenous children aged 0–12 years had a lower representation in child care services (2.0 per cent) than their representation in the community (4.7 per cent). This was also the case for both the 0–5 years age group and the 6–12 years age group (tables 3.1 and 3A.14).

Data on representation of special needs groups in State and Territory government funded and/or provided child care for children aged 0–12 years are presented in table 3A.16.

Table 3.1 Proportion of children aged 0–12 years attending Australian Government approved child care services from special needs groups, 2010 (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>
<i>Children from non-English speaking backgrounds</i>									
In child care services	19.7	17.2	6.5	9.8	7.8	3.2	13.1	11.0	13.7
In the community, 2006	23.2	21.7	11.9	15.5	13.7	7.2	16.2	36.8	18.8
<i>Indigenous children</i>									
In child care services	2.1	0.6	2.9	2.1	1.4	1.5	0.9	9.3	2.0
In the community, 2010	4.4	1.2	6.5	5.9	3.6	7.0	2.4	43.4	4.7
<i>Children from low income families</i>									
In child care services	24.1	24.0	24.9	22.7	24.1	24.8	8.8	14.4	23.9
In the community, 2009-10	28.4	26.6	26.9	23.8	23.9	30.5	11.5	23.0	26.6
<i>Children with disability</i>									
In child care services	3.3	2.2	1.9	2.2	3.6	2.0	1.9	2.7	2.6
In the community, 2009	7.4	5.7	5.8	8.2	5.9	8.4	8.3	5.4	6.6
<i>Children from regional areas</i>									
In child care services	26.0	23.6	32.4	20.6	18.7	100.4	1.1	79.9	28.0
In the community, 2006	28.8	28.2	45.6	24.7	26.6	97.7	0.2	51.0	33.0
<i>Children from remote areas</i>									
In child care services	0.2	–	1.2	3.3	1.8	0.6	–	20.2	0.9
In the community, 2006	0.7	0.1	4.4	8.6	4.4	2.0	–	50.3	3.0

^a Data on children in child care services represent the population of children attending child care in 2010. Data on representation in the community are reported for different years due to the availability of data and are sourced from either the ABS *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009*, the *2006 Census of Population and Housing*, the *Survey of Income and Housing 2009-10*, or *Experimental Estimates and Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1991 to 2009*. ^b Data on children in child care services for 2010 are not directly comparable with previous years data (presented in table 3A.15) due to a change in data source. 2010 data in this report are updated final data from the National ECEC Workforce Census (preliminary 2010 data were reported in the 2011 Report). Refer to box 3.1 and table 3A.15 for more information. ^c See table 3A.15 for complete footnotes and definitions. ^d Data in italics have relative standard errors above 25 per cent, and need to be used with caution. – Nil or rounded to zero

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) administrative data collection and *National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census, 2010*; ABS (unpublished) *Survey of Income and Housing 2009-10*, Cat. no. 6523.0, *2006 Census of Population and Housing*, Cat. no. 2031.0; *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009*, Cat no. 4430.0 and *Experimental Estimates and Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1991 to 2009* (Series B), Cat. no. 3238.0; table 3A.15; 2012 Report, table 3.4, p. 3.20.

Access — Participation rates for special needs groups in preschool

‘Participation rates for special needs groups in preschool’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that services are provided in an equitable manner to all special needs groups in the community, and that there is consideration of the needs of those groups which can have special difficulty in accessing services (box 3.3).

Box 3.3 Participation rates for special needs groups in preschool

'Participation rates for special needs groups in preschool' is defined as the proportion of children using preschool services who are from targeted special needs groups, compared with the representation of these groups in the community. Data are reported for children enrolled in preschool services aged 3–5 years.

Targeted special needs groups include children from non-English speaking backgrounds, Indigenous children, children with disability, and children from regional and remote areas.

A high or increasing participation rate is desirable. If the representation of special needs groups among preschool services users is broadly similar to their representation in the community, this suggests more equitable access.

Data reported for this indicator are not directly comparable.

Data quality information for this indicator is under development.

Data on the representation of special needs groups for children in State and Territory government funded and/or provided preschools are provided in table 3.2. Nationally, the representation of Indigenous children aged 3–5 years in preschool (5.4 per cent) was higher than their representation in the community (4.7 per cent) though this varies across jurisdictions.

Data on the representation of special needs groups in preschool in the year before full time school are presented in table 3A.16.

Table 3.2 Proportion of children (aged 3–5 years) enrolled in State and Territory government funded or provided preschools from special needs groups, 2010-11 (per cent)^{a, b, c}

	<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^d</i>
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds									
In preschool services	11.2	14.2	7.8	na	11.9	na	23.0	na	12.3
In the community, 2006	23.2	21.6	11.6	15.6	13.5	7.2	16.1	38.7	18.7
Indigenous children									
In preschool services	5.1	1.4	6.8	8.8	6.3	6.3	4.6	42.9	5.4
In the community, 2010	4.4	1.2	6.7	5.8	3.6	6.9	2.4	42.5	4.7
Children with disability									
In preschool services ^e	6.2	4.2	2.8	3.1	13.0	na	4.7	5.0	5.4
In the community, 2009	7.3	3.9	7.3	6.8	5.5	7.2	7.3	np	6.3
Children from regional areas									
In preschool services	38.0	24.7	37.4	21.5	26.7	98.4	1.6	48.0	31.4
In the community, 2006	28.0	27.5	45.1	24.5	26.2	97.7	0.1	48.2	32.3
Children from remote areas									
In preschool services	1.3	0.1	7.0	8.0	5.2	1.6	..	52.0	3.6
In the community, 2006	0.7	0.1	4.7	9.0	4.4	2.0	..	53.1	3.2

^a Data on children in preschool services represent the population of children enrolled in preschool in 2010-11. Data on representation in the community are reported for different years due to the availability of data and are sourced from the ABS *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009*, *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and the *Experimental Estimates and Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1991 to 2009*. ^b See table 3A.16 for complete footnotes and definitions. ^c Data exclude innovative or flexible services that receive direct funding from the Australian Government and are targeted towards children from these groups. Data on preschool services can include some children aged 3 years or 5 years for all jurisdictions. Preschool data in the NT include some children aged greater than 5 years. ^d Data for Australia for children from non-English speaking backgrounds, children with disability and children from remote areas, in preschool, are the total of the sum of the states and territories for which data are available, and should not be interpreted as national data. Data for Australia for Indigenous children in preschool, and data on the representation in the community represent all states and territories and can be interpreted as national data. ^e Data on children with a disability are not directly comparable because the definition of disability varies across jurisdictions. **na** Not available. **np** Not published. **..** Not applicable.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished) *2006 Census of Population and Housing*, Cat. no. 2031.0; *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009*, Cat. no. 4430.0 and *Experimental Estimates and Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1991 to 2009* (Series B), Cat. no. 3238.0; table 3A.16; 2012 Report, table 3.5, p. 3.22.

Access — Indigenous preschool attendance

Indigenous preschool attendance is an indicator of governments' objective to ensure that services are provided in an equitable manner to all special needs groups in the community, and that there is consideration of the needs of those groups which can have special difficulty in accessing services (box 3.4).

Box 3.4 Indigenous preschool attendance

'Indigenous preschool attendance' is measured by absentee rates. The measure is defined as the number of Indigenous children absent from non-government preschools, as a proportion of all Indigenous children enrolled in non-government preschools.

Data on Indigenous preschool attendance rates are limited to Indigenous children enrolled in non-government preschools, as data on Indigenous children enrolled in government preschools are not available. Non-government preschools include preschool programs delivered in government funded, registered, licensed and/or approved services, and these arrangements vary across jurisdictions. Preschool programs operated by commercial providers are excluded.

A child is deemed absent if they missed one or more of the sessions they were enrolled in during the reference week. Preschool attendance is not compulsory (DEEWR unpublished).

A low or decreasing absentee rate indicates a high or increasing rate of attendance at preschools, and is desirable.

Data reported for this indicator are not complete.

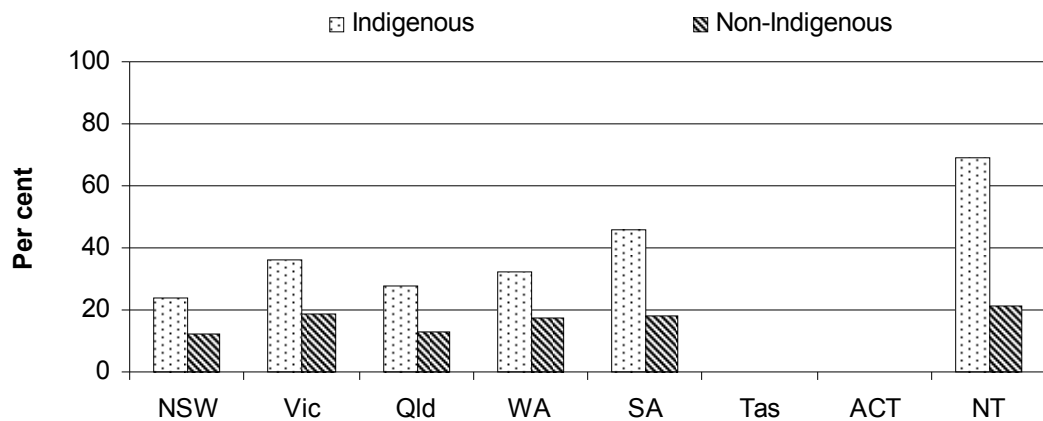
Data quality information for this indicator is under development.

Indigenous preschool enrolments provide a broad indication of access to preschool. Data on Indigenous preschool enrolments were provided for all jurisdictions. Nationally in 2010-11, 12 052 Indigenous children were enrolled in State and Territory government funded and/or provided preschool. Of these Indigenous children, at least 6457 were enrolled in preschool in the year before full time school (table 3A.16). Data on Indigenous children's representation in preschool compared with their representation in the community are presented in table 3.2. Data on Indigenous children enrolled in preschool for the period 2006-07 to 2010-11 are presented in table 3A.17.

'Indigenous preschool attendance' provides a broad indication of the participation of Indigenous children in preschools. These data are sourced from the National Preschool Census (NPC) and relate only to non-government preschools. These data can overlap with the preschools data provided by State and Territory governments and are therefore not directly comparable with other preschool data included in this Report. The NPC collected data from 97.5 per cent of the 3367 non-government preschools in scope for the 2010 NPC (DEEWR unpublished). This represents approximately 68.2 per cent of all government and non-government preschools, though this proportion varies considerably across jurisdictions (table 3A.18). Data for jurisdictions with a small number of non-government preschools should be interpreted with care.

In 2010, for jurisdictions where data were available (all except Tasmania and ACT), non-attendance by Indigenous children was higher than non-attendance by non-Indigenous children (figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2 Enrolled children absent from non-government preschools, 2010^{a, b, c, d, e}



^a Data on attendance are limited to non-government preschools. At the national level, approximately 68 per cent of children are in preschools deemed to be non-government, though this percentage varies across jurisdictions: 89.7 per cent in NSW, 100 per cent in Victoria, 93.1 per cent in Queensland, 27.6 per cent in WA, 16.5 per cent in SA, 25.7 per cent in Tasmania, 14.1 per cent in the ACT, and 7.1 per cent in the NT. Preschool attendance data for jurisdictions with a small proportion of non-government preschools should be interpreted with care. ^b Preschool attendance is not compulsory. ^c Attendance was measured during the week of 2-6 August 2010. Children are counted as absent if they are absent for one or more of the sessions that they were enrolled in during this week. Absences due to illness can be higher during winter than at other times of the year. ^d Data for non-Indigenous children are derived from data on Indigenous children and all children. ^e Tasmania and ACT Indigenous data and non-Indigenous data were not published for 2010 due to privacy reasons, therefore the Australian total was not published.

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) *National Preschool Census 2010*; table 3A.18; 2012 Report, figure 3.3, p. 3.24.

Future directions in performance reporting

COAG developments

Report on Government Services alignment with National Agreement reporting

It is anticipated that future editions of the Children's services chapter will align with applicable NIRA indicators. Further reporting changes may result from future developments in National Agreement reporting.

Definitions of key terms and indicators

Australian Government approved child care service	A service approved by the Australian Government to receive Child Care Benefit (CCB) on behalf of families.
Centre-based long day care	<p>Centre based child care services providing all-day or part-time care for children (services may cater to specific groups within the general community).</p> <p>Long day care primarily provide services for children aged 0-5 years. Some long day care may also provide preschool and kindergarten programs and care for school children before and after school and during school holidays, where State and Territory government regulations allow this. The service may operate from stand-alone or shared premises, including those on school grounds.</p>
Child care services	The meeting of a child's care, education and developmental needs by a person other than the child's parent or guardian. The main models of service are centre-based long day care, family day care, outside school hours care (before/after school hours and 'pupil free days' care), vacation care, occasional care and other care.
Children	All resident male and female Australians aged 12 years or younger at 30 June of each year (unless otherwise stated).
Children from low income families	Families who are receiving the maximum rate of Child Care Benefit.
Children's services	All government funded and/or provided child care and preschool services (unless otherwise stated).
Full time equivalent staff numbers	A measure of the total level of staff resources used. A full time staff member is employed full time and engaged solely in activities that fall within the scope of children's services covered in the chapter. The full time equivalent of part time staff is calculated on the basis of the proportion of time spent on activities within the scope of the data collection compared with that spent by a full time staff member solely occupied by the same activities.
Government funded or/and provided	All government financed services — that is, services that receive government contributions towards providing a specified service (including private services eligible for Child Care Benefit) and/or services for which the government has primary responsibility for delivery.
Indigenous children	Children of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin who self identify or are identified by a parent or guardian to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander origin.
Occasional care	Comprises services usually provided at a centre on an hourly or sessional basis for short periods or at irregular intervals for parents who need time to attend appointments, take care of personal matters, undertake casual and part time employment, study or have temporary respite from full time parenting. These services provide developmental activities for children, and are aimed primarily at 0-5 year olds. Centres providing these services usually employ a mix of qualified and other staff.
Other services	Comprise government funded services to support children with additional needs or in particular situations (including children from an Indigenous or non-English speaking background, children with disability or of parents with disability, and children living in regional and remote areas). 'Other services' include in-home care which comprises services where an approved carer provides care in the child's home.

Preschool services	Comprises services that deliver early childhood education programs provided by a qualified teacher that are aimed at children in the year before they commence full time schooling, although different starting ages occur across jurisdictions.
Regional and remote areas	Geographic location is based on the ABS's Australian Standard Geographical Classification of Remoteness Areas, which categorises areas as 'major cities', 'inner regional', 'outer regional', 'remote', 'very remote' and 'migratory'. The criteria for remoteness areas are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia, which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest urban centre in each of five size classes. The 'regional' classification used in the chapter is derived by adding data for inner regional and outer regional areas. The 'remote' classification is derived by adding data for remote, very remote and migratory areas.
Special needs group	An identifiable group within the general population who can have special difficulty accessing services. Special needs groups for which data are reported in this chapter include: children from a non-English speaking background; Indigenous children; children from low income families (Australian Government child care only); children with disability; and children from regional or remote areas.

List of attachment tables

Attachment tables for data within this chapter are contained in the attachment to the Compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by a '3A' prefix (for example, table 3A.1 is table 1 in the Children's services attachment). Attachment tables are on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/gsp).

Table 3A.1	Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2011
Table 3A.14	Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2010
Table 3A.15	Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent)
Table 3A.16	Representation of children from special needs groups in State and Territory government child care and preschool services, 2010-11
Table 3A.17	Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory government preschool services, 2006-07 to 2010-11
Table 3A.18	Children absent from non-government preschools, 2010

References

DEEWR (Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations) 2010, *National Quality Framework – National Workforce Census*, www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Pages/NationalWorkforceCensus.aspx (accessed 7 October 2011).

3A Children's services — attachment

Tables in this attachment are sourced from the Children's services attachment of the 2012 Report. Table numbers refer to the 2012 Report, for example, a reference to '2012 Report, table 3A.15' refers to attachment table 15 of attachment 3A of the 2012 Report.

Definitions for indicators and descriptors in this attachment are in the Children's services chapter of the Compendium.

Data in this Compendium are examined by the Children's Services Working Group, but have not been formally audited by the Secretariat. Unsourced information was obtained from the Australian, State and Territory governments.

This file is available in Adobe PDF format on the Review web page (www.pc.gov.au/gsp).

Attachment contents

All jurisdiction data

Table 3A.1	Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2011
Table 3A.14	Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2010
Table 3A.15	Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent)
Table 3A.16	Representation of children from special needs groups in State and Territory government child care and preschool services, 2010-11
Table 3A.17	Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory government preschool services, 2006-07 to 2010-11
Table 3A.18	Children absent from non-government preschools, 2010

Table 3A.1

Table 3A.1 Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia, as at 30 June 2011 (a)

	Child care			Preschool		Transition to primary school	
	Agency (b)	Program	Age of entry	Agency (b)	School year	Year prior to	Age of entry
NSW (c)	Dept of Family and Community Services	Preschool	generally 3 and 4 year olds	Dept of Family and Community Services (licensing for all services, funding for community based services)	Kindergarten	Kindergarten	5 by 31 July
Vic	Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	Kindergarten	4 by 30 April	Dept of Education & Communities (funding for government run preschools)	Kindergarten	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	Preparatory Year (Prep)	5 by 30 June
WA	Dept for Communities	Kindergarten	4 by 30 June	Dept of Education	Kindergarten	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	Reception	entry after 5 th birthday
Tas	Dept of Education	Kindergarten	4 by 1 January	Dept of Education	Kindergarten	Preparatory	5 by 1 January
ACT (f)	Community Services Directorate	Preschool	4 by 30 April	Education and Training Directorate	Preschool	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	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 (chapter 4), but relate to 2010. 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 2011 (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 children turning four after 30 June are eligible to enrol in a preschool program after their birthday, if places are available and with the understanding that the child will access more than 12 months of preschool. Indigenous children living in remote areas are eligible to enrol in preschool if they turn three on or prior to 30 June of the same year.

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished).

Table 3A.14

Table 3A.14 Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2010 (a), (b), (c)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	21.0	18.5	7.2	10.8	9.2	3.5	14.5	11.7	15.0
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	16.4	15.3	4.8	6.6	6.0	2.7	10.6	9.3	11.1
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	2.2	0.6	2.8	2.1	1.4	1.3	0.9	8.2	2.0
Children aged 0–5 in the community	4.5	1.2	6.6	5.7	3.6	7.2	2.4	41.9	4.7
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	1.8	0.6	3.1	2.0	1.3	1.9	0.9	11.5	1.9
Children aged 6–12 in the community	4.2	1.3	6.5	6.0	3.6	6.8	2.5	44.8	4.7
Children from low-income families									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	25.6	24.2	26.1	22.5	24.3	26.3	9.6	14.9	24.8
Children aged 0–5 in the community	30.3	26.4	26.7	22.5	25.2	35.0	8.8	18.0	27.1
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	19.5	23.5	22.1	23.3	23.9	21.8	7.1	13.6	21.6
Children aged 6–12 in the community	26.7	26.8	27.1	24.8	22.6	26.5	14.3	28.0	26.1
Children with a disability									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	3.4	2.1	1.6	2.1	2.9	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.5
Children aged 0–5 in the community	4.6	2.8	4.0	5.2	3.4	4.7	3.7	np	4.0
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.6	4.7	1.8	2.0	4.1	2.9
Children aged 6–12 in the community	9.8	8.3	7.4	10.9	8.2	11.8	12.9	8.5	9.0
Children from regional areas									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	26.6	24.3	33.5	21.2	20.5	99.2	1.6	77.9	28.7
Children aged 0–5 in the community	27.0	26.5	44.3	23.8	25.7	97.8	0.1	50.6	31.5
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	23.6	22.1	29.6	18.5	15.7	99.8	0.0	84.3	25.8
Children aged 6–12 in the community	30.2	29.6	46.6	32.0	27.3	97.6	0.3	51.4	34.2
Children from remote areas									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services	0.2	–	1.2	3.8	2.2	0.8	–	22.4	1.0
Children aged 0–5 in the community	0.7	0.1	4.6	8.9	4.3	2.0	–	50.5	3.1
Children aged 6–12 in child care services	0.2	–	1.0	2.0	1.2	0.2	–	15.8	0.7
Children aged 6–12 in the community	0.7	0.1	4.2	8.3	4.4	2.1	–	50.1	3.0

(a) Refer to table 3A.15 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.

(c) Data in italics have relative standard errors greater than 25 per cent and need to be used with caution.

.. np Not published. – Nil or rounded to zero.

Table 3A.14 Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government approved child care services (per cent), by age group, 2010 (a), (b), (c)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
--	-----	-----	-----	----	----	-----	-----	----	------

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) *National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census, 2010*; 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 2009-10*, Cat. no. 6523.0, *2006 Census of Population and Housing* and *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009*, Cat. no. 4430.0, Canberra. *Experimental Estimates and Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1991 to 2009 (Series B)*, Cat. no. 3238.0, Canberra.

Table 3A.15

Table 3A.15 Representation of special needs groups attending 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), (f)									
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
2008-09	18.0	17.2	7.3	9.7	9.3	4.2	10.3	11.5	13.2
2010	19.7	17.2	6.5	9.8	7.8	3.2	13.1	11.0	13.7
Representation in the community (g)	23.2	21.7	11.9	15.5	13.7	7.2	16.2	36.8	18.8
Indigenous children (h)									
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
2008-09	2.5	0.9	3.1	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.4	10.6	2.3
2010	2.1	0.6	2.9	2.1	1.4	1.5	0.9	9.3	2.0
Representation in the community (h)	4.4	1.2	6.5	5.9	3.6	7.0	2.4	43.4	4.7
Children from low-income families (i)									
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
2008-09	24.4	23.7	24.7	22.7	24.6	24.8	9.6	16.2	23.9
2010	24.1	24.0	24.9	22.7	24.1	24.8	8.8	14.4	23.9
Representation in the community (j)	28.4	26.6	26.9	23.8	23.9	30.5	11.5	23.0	26.6
Children with a disability (k)									
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
2008-09	3.8	2.5	2.6	2.5	5.5	2.7	1.9	3.7	3.2
2010	3.3	2.2	1.9	2.2	3.6	2.0	1.9	2.7	2.6
Representation in the community (k)	7.4	5.7	5.8	8.2	5.9	8.4	8.3	5.4	6.6
Children from regional and remote areas (l)									
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
2008-09	26.3	24.6	32.5	20.5	19.4	99.2	0.1	79.1	28.5
2010	26.0	23.6	32.4	20.6	18.7	100.4	1.1	79.9	28.0
Representation in the community (g)	28.8	28.2	45.6	24.7	26.6	97.7	0.2	51.0	33.0

Table 3A.15

Table 3A.15 Representation of special needs groups attending 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>
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
2008-09	0.2	–	1.1	3.4	1.7	0.8	..	21.0	1.0
2010	0.2	–	1.2	3.3	1.8	0.6	–	20.2	0.9
Representation in the community (g)	0.7	0.1	4.4	8.6	4.4	2.0	–	50.3	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 2008-09 are drawn from the AGCCPS and DEEWR administrative data. Data from 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, 2006 and 2010 may be counted more than once if attending more than one service during the reference week. In 2008-09, children are counted once for each care type they used.
- (d) Data for 2010 are weighted data drawn from the *National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census*. 2010 Data were collected for all services except vacation care during the reference week 31 May- 6 June (excluding Tasmania where the reference week was 21-27 June 2010). The reference week for vacation care was 5-11 July 2010 (excluding Tasmania, where the reference week was 7-13 June 2010).
- (e) Excludes Aboriginal Playgroups and Enrichment Programs, Mobile and Toy Library services and Aboriginal Playgroups as data from these service types were not available.
- (f) 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.
- (g) Data for representation in the community are estimated from the ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing.
- (h) 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 are from the ABS Experimental Estimates and Projections of the the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.
- (i) 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, \$36573 in 2008-09 and \$37960 in 2010-11.
- (j) The data showing representation children from low income families in the community are drawn from the *ABS Survey of Income and Housing 2009-10*.
- (k) Children with disability in child care services are children who child care services identify as having 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 2009*.
- (l) 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 territories, and may be counted in more than one region.

.. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero.

Table 3A.15 Representation of special needs groups attending 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>
<i>Source:</i>	DEEWR (unpublished) <i>National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census, 2010</i> ; administrative data collection, <i>Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2006</i> and <i>Australian Government Child Care Provider Survey 2007-08</i> ; FaCSIA (unpublished) <i>Australian Government Census of Child Care Services 2004</i> ; ABS (unpublished) <i>Survey of Income and Housing Costs 2009-10</i> , Cat. no. 6523.0, <i>2006 Census of Population and Housing and Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009</i> , Cat. no. 4430.0, <i>Experimental Estimates and Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1991 to 2009 (Series B)</i> , Cat. no. 3238.0, Canberra.								

Table 3A.16

Table 3A.16 Representation of children from special needs groups in State and Territory government child care and preschool services, 2010-11 (a), (b)

	Unit	NSW (c)	Vic	Qld (d)	WA (e)	SA (f)	Tas	ACT (g)	NT (h)	Aust (i)
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	14 730	470	78	na	250	6	na	na	15 534
Preschool services	no.	7 274	9 874	1 559	na	2 720	na	962	na	22 389
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	1 732	9 874	1 437	na	na	na	870	na	13 913
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	13.3	17.9	6.3	na	10.1	0.9	na	na	13.2
Preschool services	%	11.2	14.2	7.8	na	11.9	na	23.0	na	12.3
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	3.4	14.3	7.7	na	na	na	21.9	na	9.8
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.	5 210	9	45	na	70	14	na	na	5 348
Preschool services	no.	3 346	957	1 369	2 912	1 450	393	191	1 434	12 052
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	442	745	1 192	2 707	na	na	139	1 232	6 457
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	4.7	0.3	3.6	na	2.8	2.0	na	na	4.5
Preschool services	%	5.1	1.4	6.8	8.8	6.3	6.3	4.6	42.9	5.4
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	0.9	1.1	6.4	8.8	na	na	3.5	40.4	3.7
Representation in the community										
Children aged 3-5 years	%	4.4	1.2	6.7	5.8	3.6	6.9	2.4	42.5	4.7
Children aged 0-12 years	%	4.4	1.2	6.5	5.9	3.6	7.0	2.4	43.4	4.7

Table 3A.16

Table 3A.16 Representation of children from special needs groups in State and Territory government child care and preschool services, 2010-11 (a), (b)

	Unit	NSW (c)	Vic	Qld (d)	WA (e)	SA (f)	Tas	ACT (g)	NT (h)	Aust (i)
Children with a disability (j)										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	5 676	111	36	na	270	9	na	na	6 102
Preschool services	no.	4 037	2 920	558	1 036	2 970	na	198	167	11 886
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	113	2 920	535	963	na	na	133	69	4 733
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	5.1	4.2	2.9	na	10.9	1.3	na	na	5.2
Preschool services	%	6.2	4.2	2.8	3.1	13.0	na	4.7	5.0	5.4
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	0.2	4.2	2.9	3.1	na	na	3.4	2.3	2.7
Representation in the community										
Children aged 3-5 years	%	7.3	3.9	7.3	6.8	5.5	7.2	7.3	np	6.3
Children aged 0-12 years	%	7.4	5.7	5.8	8.2	5.9	8.4	8.3	5.4	6.6
Children from regional areas										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	29 076	2 619	637	na	690	646	na	na	33 668
Preschool services	no.	24 805	17 127	7 509	7 138	6 110	6 146	67	1 607	70 509
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	4 048	17 127	6 792	6 685	16 190	na	na	1 543	52 385
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	26.3	100.0	51.5	na	27.8	94.2	na	na	28.6
Preschool services	%	38.0	24.7	37.4	21.5	26.7	98.4	1.6	48.0	31.4
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	8.0	24.8	36.6	21.7	95.5	na	na	50.6	27.7
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	%	28.8	28.2	45.6	24.7	26.6	97.7	0.2	51.0	33.0

Table 3A.16

Table 3A.16 Representation of children from special needs groups in State and Territory government child care and preschool services, 2010-11 (a), (b)

	Unit	NSW (c)	Vic	Qld (d)	WA (e)	SA (f)	Tas	ACT (g)	NT (h)	Aust (i)
Children from remote areas										
Number of children										
Child care services	no.	1 071	–	163	na	230	40	..	na	1 504
Preschool services	no.	816	41	1 414	2 650	1 180	98	..	1 739	7 938
Preschool in the year before full time school	no.	80	41	1 186	2 464	760	na	..	1 504	6 035
Representation in children's services										
Child care services	%	1.0	–	13.2	na	9.3	5.8	..	na	1.3
Preschool services	%	1.3	0.1	7.0	8.0	5.2	1.6	..	52.0	3.6
Preschool in the year before full time school	%	0.2	0.1	6.4	8.0	4.5	na	..	49.4	3.2
Representation in the community										
Children aged 3–5 years	%	0.7	0.1	4.7	9.0	4.4	2.0	..	53.1	3.2
Children aged 0–12 years	%	0.7	0.1	4.4	8.6	4.4	2.0	–	50.3	3.0

(a) Data for representation in the community are estimated from the ABS *Census of Population and Housing 2006*, except for children with disability and Indigenous children. Data for the representation of children with disability in the community were obtained from the ABS *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009*, while Indigenous data are from ABS *Experimental Estimates and Projections*. Due to the various data sources used in different years, caution should be used when making comparisons.

(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.

(d) Queensland child care data are based on an annual voluntary census and response rates are variable by service type and over time. Preschool data include Indigenous Community Pre-Preparatory services and C&K community kindergarten services. 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.

(e) For WA, it is assumed that the ratio students with disability 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 and 5 year old children only.

Table 3A.16 Representation of children from special needs groups in State and Territory government child care and preschool services, 2010-11 (a), (b)

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

(g) In the ACT there are no regions classified as remote. Preschool students may be counted in more than one special needs groups.

(h) Data include remote Catholic preschools funded by the NT Government. All other non-government preschools are excluded. Data on children from non-English speaking backgrounds are of a quality too poor to report. 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 disability aged 4 and 5 years in preschool are a proxy for children in preschool in the year before full time school.

(i) Data for Australia for children in 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.

(j) Data are not directly comparable between jurisdictions because there is no national definition or standard on children with disability. Victorian data were collected in a disaggregated format for the first time in 2010-11. Therefore this may result in data quality issues. In Queensland, the definition of disability refers to a diagnosed disability.

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

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished) 2006 *Census of Population and Housing, Cat. no. 2031.0; Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009*, Cat. no. 4430.0, and *Experimental Estimates and Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 1991 to 2009 (Series B)*, Cat. no. 3238.0, Canberra.

Table 3A.17

Table 3A.17 Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory government preschool services, 2006-07 to 2010-11

	Unit	NSW (a)	Vic (b)	Qld (c)	WA	SA	Tas (d)	ACT	NT (e)	Aust (f)
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 (g)	%	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 (g)	%	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 (g)	%	4.0	0.9	8.0	8.9	6.3	4.9	3.0	43.2	4.9
2009-10										
Number of Indigenous children in preschool	no.	3 187	876	1 240	2 862	1 420	303	128	1 391	11 407
Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (g)	%	4.9	1.3	7.8	9.3	6.3	5.2	3.2	43.2	5.3
2010-11										
Number of Indigenous children in preschool	no.	3 346	957	1 369	2 912	1 450	393	191	1 434	12 052
Representation of Indigenous children in preschool (g)	%	5.1	1.4	6.8	8.8	6.3	6.3	4.6	42.9	5.4

(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) In Victoria in 2009-10, 145 Indigenous children attended a program as part of the Early Start Kindergarten for the Three Year Old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children initiative.

(c) Queensland data from 2007-08 include Indigenous Community Pre-Preparatory and C&K community kindergarten services. Data for C&K community kindergarten services from 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. Queensland data for 2011 relate to attendance at community kindergarten services and enrolment in pre-preparatory services.

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

Table 3A.17 Indigenous children enrolled in State and Territory government preschool services, 2006-07 to 2010-11

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

(e) Data includes remote Catholic preschools funded by the NT government. All other non-government preschools are excluded.

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

(g) 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)

Table 3A.18

Table 3A.18 Children absent from non-government preschools, 2010 (a), (b), (c)

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Q/ld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT (d)	NT	Aust
Number of children enrolled										
Indigenous children	no.	2 992	923	795	271	299	64	12	103	5 459
Non-Indigenous children (e)	no.	51 887	75 528	16 390	8 091	3 743	1 640	854	135	158 268
All children	no.	54 879	76 451	17 185	8 362	4 042	1 704	866	238	163 727
Number of children absent										
Indigenous children	no.	712	331	223	87	136	np	np	71	1 569
Non-Indigenous children (e)	no.	6 235	14 232	2 096	1 390	668	np	np	29	25 078
All children	no.	6 947	14 563	2 319	1 477	804	265	172	100	26 647
Proportion of children absent										
Indigenous children	%	23.8	35.9	28.1	32.1	45.5	np	np	68.9	28.7
Non-Indigenous children (e)	%	12.0	18.8	12.8	17.2	17.8	np	np	21.5	15.8
All children	%	12.7	19.0	13.5	17.7	19.9	15.6	19.9	42.0	16.3
Non-government preschools										
Number of non-government preschools	no.	862	1600	362	238	77	56	13	9	3217
Proportion of all preschools (f)	%	89.7	100.0	93.1	27.6	16.5	25.7	14.1	7.1	68.2

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

(b) Attendance measured during the Census week of 2-6 August 2010. 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 Tasmania and ACT Indigenous and non-Indigenous children absent for 2010 are not provided for privacy reasons.

(e) Data for Non-Indigenous children are derived from data on Indigenous children and All children.

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

np Not published.

Source: DEEWR (unpublished) *National Preschool Census 2010*.