
3 Early childhood education and care

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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 2015 Report, the Compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the 2015 Report can be found. For example, where the Compendium refers to '2015 Report, p. 3.1' this is page 1 of chapter 3 of the 2015 Report, and '2015 Report, table 3A.1' is attachment table 1 of attachment 3A of the 2015 Report. A list of attachment tables referred to in the Compendium is provided at the end of this chapter, and the full attachment tables are available from the Review website at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services.

The Early childhood education and care (ECEC) (chapter 3) in the *Report on Government Services 2015* (2015 Report) reports on the performance of early childhood education and care in Australia. Data are reported for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for a subset of the performance indicators reported in this chapter — those data are compiled and presented here.

The ECEC aims to meet the care, educational and developmental 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(s). 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. Local governments also plan, fund and deliver ECEC. Due to data limitations, the only local government data included are those which involve Australian, State and Territory government funding and/or licensing.

Improvements to the reporting of ECEC in this edition include additional data by State and Territory for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children for the ‘children enrolled in preschool’ and ‘children attending preschool’ indicators, reporting data from the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data in the ECEC chapter

The ECEC chapter in the 2015 Report contains the following data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children:

- representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–5, 6–12 and 0–12 years attending Australian Government Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved child care services
- representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 3–5 years in a preschool program
- proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling (YBFS), by remoteness area, national only
- proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS
- proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area, national only
- proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS
- proportion of enrolled children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by Indigenous status.

The arrangements for departmental responsibility for ECEC vary across State and Territory governments. Table 3A.1 provides information on child care and preschool programs, such as agency responsibility, program names and starting ages.

The Australian Government and State and Territory governments are working cooperatively to undertake national reforms in ECEC. Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), governments have endorsed a number of major funding agreements and initiatives as part of a wider early childhood reform agenda (box 3.1).

Box 3.1 **The COAG Early Childhood Reform Agenda**

The main Council of Australian Governments (COAG) national reform initiatives linked specifically to early childhood development, education and care include:

- the *National Early Childhood Development Strategy — Investing in the Early Years*, a collaboration between the Australian, State and Territory governments. The strategy broadly covers children from before birth to 8 years of age, and aims to improve outcomes for all children and their families, including reducing inequalities in outcomes between groups of children. The strategy, endorsed by COAG in July 2009, includes a range of long term national reform initiatives in the areas of education and care, health, protection, family support and housing
- the *National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (NP UAECE)* for the period July 2013 to December 2014 supporting universal access to and improved participation by children in quality early childhood education in the year before full time schooling (YBFS), with a focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged children. These include a range of performance indicators against which progress is measured. Performance measurement results published for these agreements may differ in some cases to those presented in this Report, due to differing definitions adopted for calculating national indicators. The *National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE)* preceded the NP UAECE and was implemented progressively from 2009 to June 2013
- the *National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA)* which includes a target to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years in remote communities have access to early childhood education by 2013. These reforms have been implemented progressively from 2009
- the *National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development* which aimed to establish 35 new Children and Family Centres (CFCs). The locations for 38 CFCs were agreed, exceeding the original target of 35. These reforms were implemented progressively until June 2014
- national workforce initiatives to improve the quality and supply of the ECEC workforce
- the *National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care (NP NQAECEC)*. This incorporates a National Quality Framework (NQF) for Early Childhood Education and Care and a National Quality Standard (NQS) to ensure high quality and consistent ECEC across Australia, including streamlined regulatory approaches, an assessment and rating system and an *Early Years Learning Framework* and a *Framework for School Age Care*.

The Australian Government is implementing these changes in partnership with each of the State and Territory governments.

Source: COAG (2009a and 2009b); Australian Government Department of Education (unpublished).

The Australian Government provides supplementary funding to support the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in eligible preschool programs. In 2013, \$14.8 million was provided on a per person and project basis to 1821 government and non-government preschool programs. The funding covered 10 926 full time equivalent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander preschool program enrolments (Australian Government Department of Education unpublished).

Framework of performance indicators

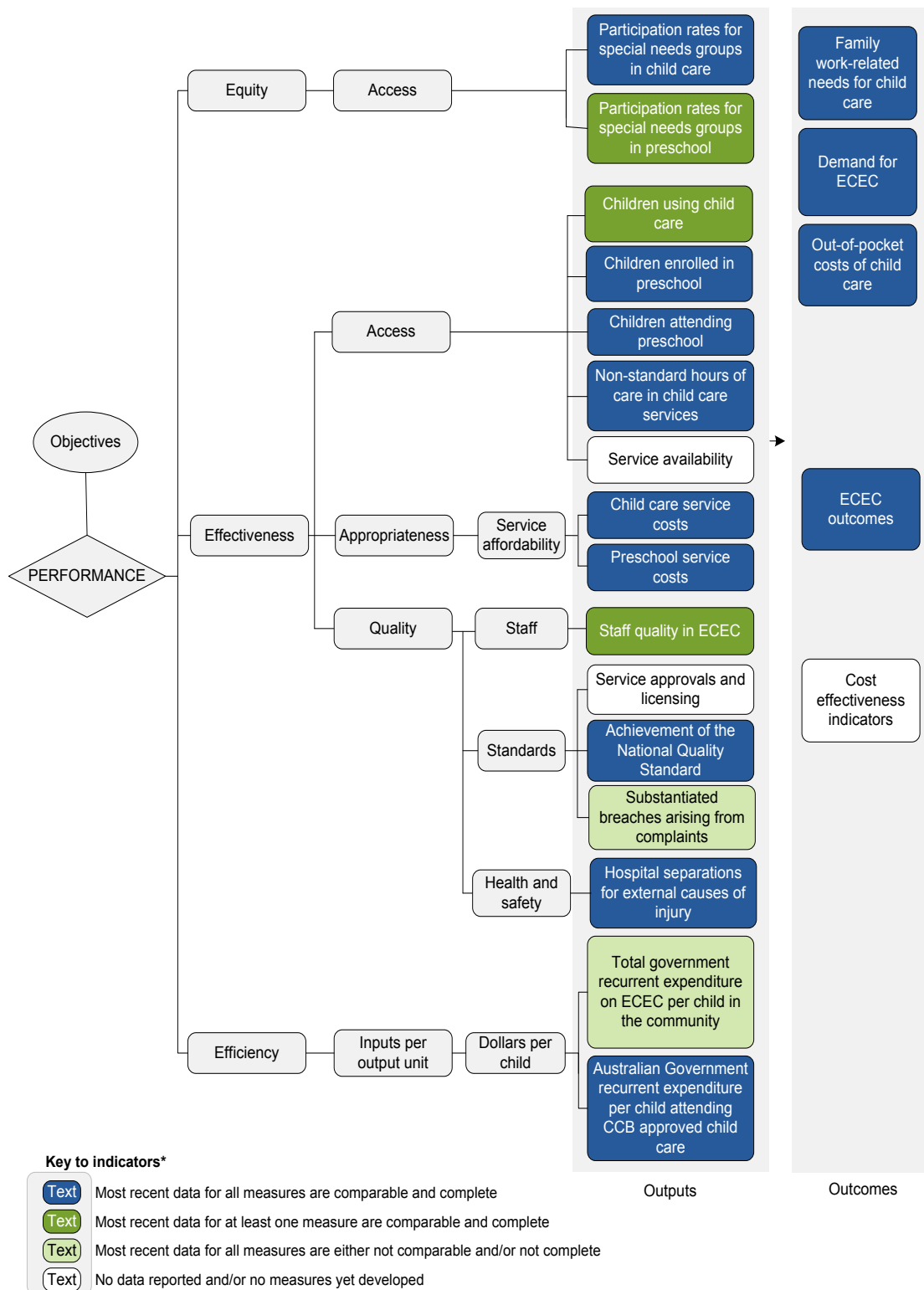
The ECEC performance indicator framework outlined in figure 3.1 identifies the performance indicators reported in the 2015 Report. Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are reported for a subset of the performance indicators and are presented here. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework.

The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of ECEC services (figure 3.1). The performance indicator framework shows which data are complete and comparable in the 2015 Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. Chapter 1 discusses data comparability and data completeness from a Report-wide perspective (2015 Report, section 1.6).

The Report's statistical context chapter 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and ethnic status) (chapter 2).

COAG agreed six National Agreements (NAs) to enhance accountability to the public for the outcomes achieved or outputs delivered by a range of government services (see chapter 1 for more detail on reforms to federal financial relations). There are no service specific NAs that relate to ECEC services. The NIRA includes one indicator relevant to this service area, and a performance indicator reported in this chapter is aligned with the NIRA performance indicator.

Figure 3.1 ECEC performance indicator framework



* A description of the comparability and completeness of each measure is provided in indicator interpretation boxes within the chapter

Source: 2015 Report, figure 3.2, p. 3.20.

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 that can have special difficulty in accessing services (box 3.2).

Box 3.2 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 (NESB), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions, but a break in series means that data prior to 2010 are not comparable to data from 2010
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2013 or 2014 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Data quality information for this indicator is under development.

Data for participation by special needs groups using Australian Government CCB approved child care services for 2013 were drawn from the *National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census (NECEWC) 2013* and Department of Education administrative systems. Box 3.6 in the 2015 Report, contains more information on the census.

Data on the representation of special needs groups for children in a preschool program are provided in table 3.1. Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–12 years had a lower representation in child care services in 2014 (2.4 per cent) than their representation in the community in 2013 (5.6 per cent). This was the case for both the 0–5 years age group and the 6–12 years age group (tables 3A.12–13).

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.14.

Table 3.1 Proportion of children aged 0–12 years attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services from special needs groups (per cent)^{a, b, c}

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Children from NESB</i>									
In child care services, 2013	21.3	24.8	9.0	13.4	10.4	3.5	16.0	10.6	17.3
In the community, 2011	23.7	23.4	13.2	18.0	15.7	7.3	19.2	40.0	20.0
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children</i>									
In child care services, 2014	2.6	0.8	3.8	2.5	1.6	5.3	1.2	9.7	2.4
In the community, 2013	5.4	1.6	7.9	6.4	4.5	9.3	2.8	41.6	5.6
<i>Children from low income families</i>									
In child care services, 2014	13.4	11.8	13.5	11.1	12.4	14.3	4.7	8.3	12.6
In the community, 2011-12	22.5	20.4	21.4	13.8	21.9	26.9	7.8	22.5	20.7
<i>Children with disability</i>									
In child care services, 2013	3.8	2.5	2.4	2.1	4.2	2.4	2.8	4.7	3.0
In the community, 2012	6.8	6.3	6.4	7.4	6.7	9.3	7.0	4.0	6.7
<i>Children from regional areas</i>									
In child care services, 2014 ^d	21.4	17.6	28.9	14.2	14.8	100.5	77.0	78.5	22.9
In the community, 2013	25.4	24.1	36.1	17.7	24.0	98.1	0.2	50.5	27.9
<i>Children from remote areas</i>									
In child care services, 2014	0.2	–	1.0	3.7	1.9	0.7	..	20.4	0.9
In the community, 2013	0.6	0.1	3.5	7.1	3.9	1.9	..	49.5	2.7

^a Data on children from NESB and children with disability in child care services represent the population of children attending child care in 2013 from those special needs groups. These 2013 data are from the *NECECWK*. Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from low income families and children from remote and regional areas are from administrative data for the March quarter 2014. Refer to box 3.6 in the 2015 Report and table 3A.13 for more information. ^b Data on representation in the community are reported for different years due to the availability of data and are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *2011 Census of Population and Housing; Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026; Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2012 and Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2013*. ^c See table 3A.13 for complete footnotes and definitions. ^d The proportion of children from regional areas attending child care services can exceed 100 per cent. This may occur because although the number of children in child care services is a unique count for each state and territory, children can attend, and be counted in, services located in more than one remoteness area. .. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero.

Source: Australian Government Department of Education (unpublished) administrative data collection and *National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census, 2013*; ABS (unpublished) *2011 Census of Population and Housing; Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12*, Cat. no. 6523.0; *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2012* TableBuilder, Cat. no. 4430.0 and *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026 (Series B)*, Cat. no. 3238.0; table 3A.13; 2015 Report, table 3.8, p. 3.25.

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 that 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 by two measures:

- the proportion of children aged 3–5 years enrolled in a preschool program who are from targeted special needs groups, compared with the representation of these groups in the community. Targeted special needs groups include children from NESB, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children with disability and children from regional and remote areas
- the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who are disadvantaged, compared with the representation of children who are disadvantaged in the community. Children who are disadvantaged are defined as residing in an area with a Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile of 1. The SEIFA IRSD quintile of 1 is used as a proxy for the most disadvantaged. The use of SEIFA IRSD as a proxy for disadvantage needs to be interpreted with care as it pertains to the area in which the child resides, rather than to the child specifically.

A high or increasing proportion of children from special needs groups and children who are disadvantaged enrolled in a preschool program is desirable. If the representation of special needs groups and disadvantage among children enrolled in a preschool program is broadly similar to their representation in the community, this suggests equitable access.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions for the special needs groups: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from regional and remote areas. Data are not comparable across jurisdictions for the special needs groups: NESB and children with disability. Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time for children who are disadvantaged
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period for children who are disadvantaged and most special needs groups. All required 2013 data are available for all jurisdictions for children who are disadvantaged but incomplete for the current reporting period for the NESB special needs group. All required NESB data were not available for WA and the NT.

Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services.

Proportion of children aged 3–5 years enrolled in a preschool program who are from targeted special needs groups

Data for participation by special needs groups in preschool programs are provided by State and Territory governments for children from NESB and children with disability. Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from regional and remote areas are drawn from the NECECC 2013.

Data on the representation of special needs groups for children in a preschool program are provided in table 3.2. Nationally, the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander children aged 3–5 years in a preschool program (4.7 per cent) was lower than their representation in the community (5.6 per cent) though this varies across jurisdictions.

Data on the representation of special needs groups in a preschool program in the YBFS are presented in table 3A.14.

Table 3.2 Proportion of children (aged 3–5 years) enrolled in a preschool program from special needs groups, 2013 (per cent)^{a, b, c, d}

	NSW	Vic ^e	Qld	WA	SA ^f	Tas	ACT	NT ^g	Aust ^h
Children from NESB									
In a preschool program	17.0	12.8	8.1	na	10.5	2.9	27.6	na	10.6
In the community, 2011	23.7	23.4	13.2	17.7	15.4	7.4	19.6	39.3	20.0
Children with disability									
In a preschool program ⁱ	9.6	4.1	2.6	3.1	13.2	4.6	4.9	4.9	5.6
In the community, 2012	6.2	6.9	4.2	7.1	9.2	9.0	4.7	np	6.2
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children									
In a preschool program	4.5	1.3	5.2	6.6	7.6	8.3	2.8	39.7	4.7
In the community, 2013	5.3	1.7	8.0	6.3	4.6	9.8	2.7	40.0	5.6
Children from regional areas									
In a preschool program	29.9	23.7	33.2	17.8	23.5	98.5	3.0	50.7	28.5
In the community, 2013	25.1	23.9	35.7	17.3	23.9	98.2	0.2	50.3	27.6
Children from remote areas									
In a preschool program	0.8	–	3.0	7.5	4.2	1.5	..	47.2	2.5
In the community, 2013	0.6	0.1	3.7	7.2	3.9	1.8	..	49.7	2.7

^a Preschool program data for children from NESB and children with disability are from State and Territory governments and include only State and Territory government funded and/or provided services. These data for NSW do not include children receiving a preschool program from a long day care centre. Preschool program data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from regional and remote areas are from the NECECC (August 2013), include children receiving a preschool program from a long day care centre, and relate to both Government funded and unfunded programs. Not all children undertaking a preschool program in a long day care setting in NSW are captured in the NECECC. Different sources are used for representation in the community. As a result of the different data sources for preschool and community data for special needs groups, caution should be used when making comparisons across special needs groups. ^b Data on children enrolled in preschool programs are for July/August 2013. An exception to this is SA data for children from NESB and children with disability which are reported for May 2014 due to the transition from a quarterly intake of preschool enrolments causing abnormal enrolment numbers in 2013. ^c Includes children aged 3–5 years on 1 July. However, some 3 year old children attending a preschool program may not be included in the NECECC and therefore data may represent an under count. ^d See table 3A.14 for complete footnotes and definitions. ^e Victorian data for children from NESB and with disability in preschool programs only include 3 year old children who have been approved to attend funded 4 year old kindergarten programs, and so do not include children in programs for 3 year olds. ^f SA data should be used with caution as enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake. ^g NT preschool data for children with disability may include some children aged over 5 years. ^h Data for Australia for children from NESB and children with disability enrolled in a preschool program, are the total of the sum of the states and territories for which data are available, and should not be interpreted as national data. ⁱ Data on children with disability are not directly comparable because the definition of disability varies across jurisdictions. **na** Not available. **..** Not applicable. **–** Nil or rounded to zero. **np** Not published.

Source: ABS (unpublished TableBuilder) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013*, Cat. no. 4240.0; State and Territory governments (unpublished); ABS (unpublished) *2011 Census of Population and Housing; Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia 2012 TableBuilder*, Cat. no. 4430.0, *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026 (Series B)*, Cat. no. 3238.0 and *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2013*, Cat. no. 3235.0; table 3A.14; 2015 Report, table 3.9, p. 3.28.

Effectiveness

Access — children enrolled in preschool

‘Children enrolled in preschool’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that all families have equitable access to preschool services (box 3.4).

Box 3.4 Children enrolled in preschool

‘Children enrolled in preschool’ is defined by three measures:

- the proportion of children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, calculated as the number of children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS as a proportion of children aged 4 years
- the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, calculated as the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS as a proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years
- the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS by remoteness area (national only), calculated as the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS as a proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years.

Children enrolled in the YBFS include 4 and 5 year old children and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year and is a proxy for the actual YBFS population. To be considered as enrolled, the child must have attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period, or be absent due to illness or extended holiday leave and expected to return.

The 4 year old population estimates used in these measures are sourced from ABS projected population estimates.

A high or increasing proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program can indicate a high or increasing level of service availability, and is desirable. However, this indicator can be difficult to interpret as:

- the preschool program starting age for children varies across states and territories. A higher proportion of children enrolled at a particular age can reflect the preschool program starting age in a particular jurisdiction
- participation in a preschool program is not compulsory. This indicator does not provide information on parental preferences for using preschool programs, or other factors, which can affect use of preschool programs

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Box 3.4 (continued)

- an overestimation of enrolment in some states and territories (for example, where enrolment rates exceed 100 per cent) may occur due to children: moving interstate during a preschool program year; attending multiple providers to access an appropriate amount of care; attending multiple service types and/or attending a preschool program for more than one year. Overestimation may also result from children enrolled in a preschool program in a jurisdiction different to the one in which they live, for example, between the ACT and NSW or because the measures are based on the number of 4 and 5 year olds who are enrolled as a proportion of the number of 4 year olds in the population.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time. Data are not on a jurisdiction basis (national only) for data by remoteness area so comparability is not applicable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2013 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services.

Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS

Nationally in 2013, 73.9 per cent of 4 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS. This proportion has increased from 65.0 per cent in 2012 (figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2 **Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS^{a, b, c, d, e, f, g}**



^a Data for children enrolled in the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year. ^b To calculate proportions, enrolment data (from the August NECECC which includes some 5 year olds) are divided by the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years (using ABS population projections as at 30 June). Other conceptual differences between the two data sources also affect their coherence. As a result, the proportion may exceed 100 per cent. Also, the projected population denominator may have particular limitations for smaller jurisdictions. ^d Not all children undertaking a preschool program in a long day care setting in NSW are captured in the NECECC, resulting in an undercount for NSW. ^e 2012 child level enrolment data for Queensland were not available. Episode of enrolment data were used instead for Queensland. An episode is a record of enrolment at a preschool program. Children may be enrolled in more than one preschool program so in these cases will be counted more than once in episode data. These data are included in the national total. Care should be taken when comparing Queensland data from 2012 to 2013. ^f SA 2013 data may not be fully comparable with 2012 data. Enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake. ^g 2012 totals for the ACT exclude data for preschools within independent schools, which were unavailable.

Source: Derived from ABS (2013 and 2014) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 and 2013*, Cat. no. 4240.0; ABS (2014) *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001-2026*, Cat. no. 3238.0; table 3A.19; 2015 Report, figure 3.8, p. 3.37.

Contextual data are provided for all jurisdictions on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program and enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS. These data are also presented by remoteness areas (table 3A.19).

Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS by remoteness area

National data on the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS are presented by remoteness areas (major cities; inner/outer regional areas; remote/very remote areas) in table 3A.18. In 2013, amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in major cities, 66.7 per cent were enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS. In regional areas, 73.9 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS. In remote areas, 85.0 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS is higher in 2013 than 2012 for each of the remoteness areas (table 3A.18).

Access — children attending preschool

‘Children attending preschool’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that all families have equitable access to preschool services (box 3.5).

Box 3.5 Children attending preschool

‘Children attending preschool’ is defined by three measures:

- the proportion of children who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS, calculated as the number of children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS as a proportion of children aged 4 years. The 4 year old population data are sourced from ABS population estimates
- the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS by remoteness area (national only), calculated as the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS as a proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years. The 4 year old population data are sourced from ABS projected population estimates
- the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who are attending by Indigenous status.

Children attending in the YBFS include 4 and 5 year old children and exclude children aged 5 years old who attended a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year and is a proxy for the actual YBFS population. A child is considered to be attending a preschool program if the child was enrolled and present for at least one hour during the reference period.

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Box 3.5 (continued)

A high or increasing proportion of children attending a preschool program can indicate a high or increasing level of service availability, and is desirable. However, this indicator should be interpreted with caution, as:

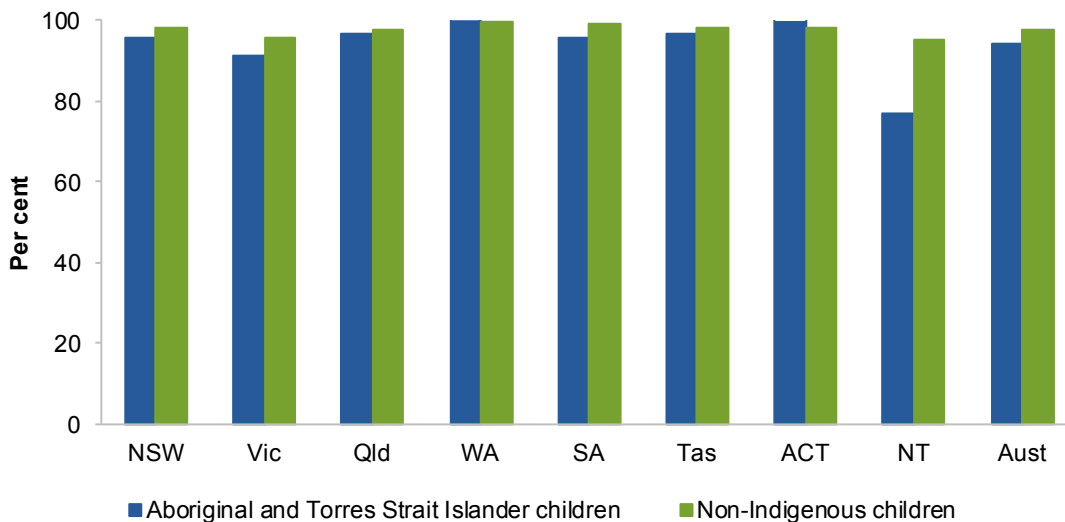
- the preschool program starting age for children varies across states and territories. A higher proportion of children attending at a particular age can reflect the preschool program starting age in a particular jurisdiction
- participation in a preschool program is not compulsory. This indicator does not provide information on parental preferences for using preschool programs, or other factors, which can affect use of preschool programs
- an overestimation of attendance in some states and territories (for example, where attendance rates exceed 100 per cent) may occur due to children: moving interstate during a preschool program year; attending multiple providers to access an appropriate amount of care; attending multiple service types and/or attending a preschool program for more than one year. Overestimation may also result from children attending a preschool program in a jurisdiction different to the one in which they live, for example, between the ACT and NSW or because measures are based on the number of 4 and 5 year olds attending as a proportion of the number of 4 year olds in the population.

Data reported for these measures are:

- comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time. Data are not on a jurisdiction basis (national only) for data by remoteness area so comparability is not applicable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area
- complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2013 data are available for all jurisdictions.

Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services.

Figure 3.3 Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who are attending, by Indigenous status, 2013^{a, b, c, d}



^a Data for children enrolled in the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year. ^b Enrolment and attendance data are very similar for some jurisdictions because enrolment requires the child to have attended that program for at least one hour during the reference period, or were absent due to illness or extended holiday leave and are expected to return. A child is considered to be attending a preschool program if he or she is enrolled and has attended for at least one hour during the reference period. In WA attendance rates have been applied to enrolment counts to estimate the number of children attending. This results in the proportion equalling 100 per cent. ^c Non-Indigenous data exclude children for whom Indigenous status is not stated/inadequately described. ^d SA data should be used with caution as enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake.

Source: Derived from ABS (2014) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013*, Cat. no. 4240.0; table 3A.27.

Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS by remoteness area

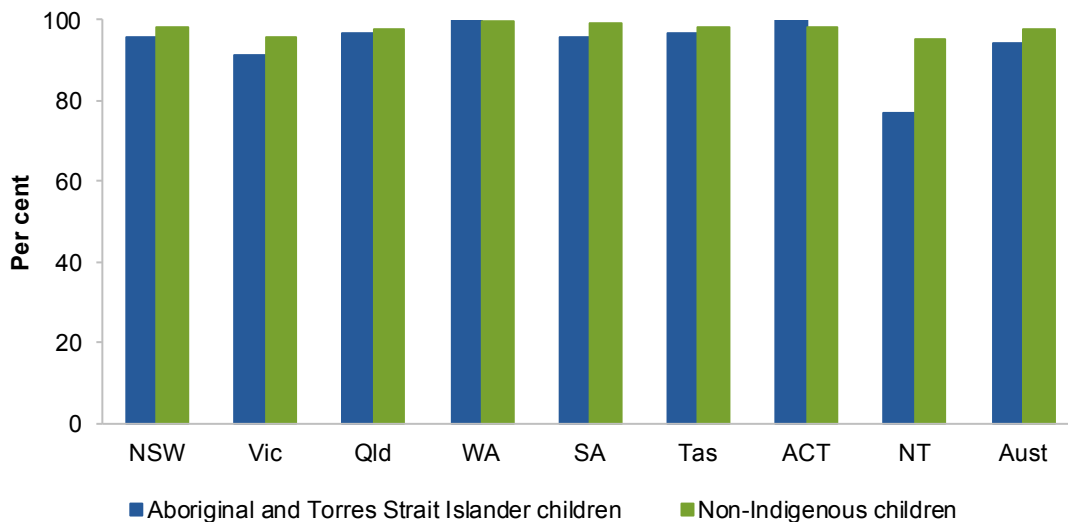
National data on the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attending a preschool program in the YBFS are presented by remoteness areas (major cities; inner/outer regional areas; remote/very remote areas) in table 3A.25. In 2013, amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in major cities, 65.1 per cent attended a preschool program in the YBFS. In regional areas, 70.7 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attended a preschool program in the YBFS. In remote areas, 74.9 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attended a preschool program in the YBFS. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attending a preschool program in the YBFS is higher in 2013 than 2012 for each of the remoteness areas (table 3A.25).

Contextual data are provided for all jurisdictions on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years who attended a preschool program and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years who attended a preschool program in the YBFS. These data are also presented by remoteness areas (table 3A.26).

Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who are attending by Indigenous status

Nationally in 2013, 94.5 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS were attending. In comparison, 97.7 per cent of non-Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS were attending (figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3 Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who are attending, by Indigenous status, 2013^{a, b, c, d}



^a Data for children enrolled in the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year. ^b Enrolment and attendance data are very similar for some jurisdictions because enrolment requires the child to have attended that program for at least one hour during the reference period, or were absent due to illness or extended holiday leave and are expected to return. A child is considered to be attending a preschool program if he or she is enrolled and has attended for at least one hour during the reference period. In WA attendance rates have been applied to enrolment counts to estimate the number of children attending. This results in the proportion equalling 100 per cent. ^c Non-Indigenous data exclude children for whom Indigenous status is not stated/inadequately described. ^d SA data should be used with caution as enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake.

Source: Derived from ABS (2014) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013*, Cat. no. 4240.0; table 3A.27; 2015 Report, figure 3.10, p. 3.42.

Definitions of key terms

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were previously reported as Indigenous children in RoGS.
Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved	A child care service approved by the Australian Government to receive Child Care Benefit (CCB) on behalf of families.
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 types of child care service are long day care, family day care, OSHC (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	Children in families who are receiving the maximum rate of CCB.
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds	Children living in situations where the main language spoken at home is not English.
Children with disability	A child that has a need for additional assistance in any of the following areas (learning and applying knowledge, education; communication; mobility; self-care; interpersonal interactions and relationships; other- including general tasks, domestic life, community and social life) compared to children of a similar age, that is related to underlying long term health condition or disability (long term is longer than six months).
Comparability	Data are considered comparable if (subject to caveats) they can be used to inform an assessment of comparative performance. Typically, data are considered comparable when they are collected in the same way and in accordance with the same definitions. For comparable indicators or measures, significant differences in reported results allow an assessment of differences in performance, rather than being the result of anomalies in the data.
Completeness	Data are considered complete if all required data are available for all jurisdictions that provide the service.
Government funded and/or provided	All government financed services — that is, services that receive government contributions towards providing a specified service (including private services eligible for CCB) and/or services for which the government has primary responsibility for delivery.
Long day care	Centre based child care services providing full time or part time care for children. Long day care primarily provides services for children aged 0–5 years. Some long day care may also provide preschool and kindergarten services (i.e. a preschool program) and outside school hours care (see below). The service may operate from stand-alone or shared premises, including on school grounds.
National Quality Framework (NQF) approved	Under the National Quality Framework (NQF) an approved provider must apply for and be granted a service approval for each education and care service it wants to operate. There are two types of approved services under the National Quality Framework: Centre-based service: which includes long day care, preschool or kindergarten and OSHC services Family day care service: where a number of educators formally linked to an education and care service provide education and care to children in residences or venues.
Occasional care	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 primarily aimed at 0–5 year olds. Centres providing these services usually employ a mix of qualified and other staff.

Other care	Is a category of service type that includes services which support children with additional needs or in particular situations (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from NESB, children with disability or of parents with disability, and children living in regional and remote areas). Other care services are State and Territory licensed (not NQF approved) and may include mobile services, playschools and nannies. The other care service type does not include 3 year old preschool/kindergarten services. Usage of other care services is reported only for State and Territory government funded and/or provided services (i.e. non-CCB approved services).
Outside school hours care	Services that provide care for school aged children before school, after school, during school holidays, and on pupil free days. OSHC may use stand-alone facilities, share school buildings and grounds and/or share facilities such as community halls.
Preschool program	<p>A preschool program is a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full time schooling. This definition of a preschool program is the same for all types of institutions that provide it, for all service settings and includes both government funded and privately provided preschool programs. Although various delivery models of preschool programs exist across jurisdictions, the YBFS is the term used to describe the 'preschool' program cohort.</p> <p>Preschool programs delivered to children in the year or two before full time schooling are intended to be available for a minimum of 600 hours per calendar year (or 15 hours per week for 40 weeks). Children aged 3 to 6 years may be enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS although the programs are typically delivered to 4 and 5 year olds.</p>
Preschool services	<p>Services which deliver a preschool program. The preschool service type (i.e. preschool programs) can be delivered from a range of service settings. Service settings include stand-alone preschools or kindergartens, preschools attached to a school and other service centres, such as long day care centres.</p> <p>Preschool services are aimed at children in the year before they commence full time schooling (that is when a child is 4 years old), although younger or older children may attend in most jurisdictions. There are also preschool services provided by a qualified teacher that are aimed specifically at 3 year old children in some jurisdictions. See definition of preschool programs for further information.</p>
Regional and remote areas	Regional and remote areas refer to remoteness areas based on the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The criteria for remoteness areas are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index (ARIA+) 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. Regional areas includes 'inner regional' and 'outer regional' areas. Remote areas includes 'remote' and 'very remote' areas.
Service	A service refers to an individual location or establishment providing an ECEC service. One service (i.e. location or establishment) may provide more than one ECEC service type, i.e. provide a long day care service and preschool service, or two child care service types.

Service type	<p>Refers to the following categories of ECEC services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long day care • family day care • OSHC • before/after school care • vacation care • occasional care • in home care (for CCB approved services) • other care (for State and Territory government funded and/or provided services) • preschool services. <p>All service type categories are considered child care services, except for preschool services.</p>
Special needs group	<p>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 NESB; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children; children from low income families (CCB approved child care services only); children with disability; and children from regional or remote areas.</p>

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 Early childhood education and care attachment). Attachment tables are on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services).

All jurisdictions data

Table 3A.1	Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Australia, as at 30 June 2014
Table 3A.12	Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services (per cent), by age group
Table 3A.13	Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent)
Table 3A.14	Representation of children from special needs groups in child care and preschool programs, 2013
Table 3A.18	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area, national only
Table 3A.19	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program
Table 3A.25	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area, national only
Table 3A.26	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attending a preschool program
Table 3A.27	Proportion of enrolled children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by Indigenous status, 2013

References

- COAG (Council of Australian Governments) 2009a, Investing in the Early Years — A National Early Childhood Development Strategy. An initiative of the Council of Australian Governments, 2 July 2009, www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/200907-02/docs/national_ECD_strategy.pdf (accessed 7 October 2011).
- 2009b, Communique 7 December 2009 Brisbane Meeting, Canberra, www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/200912-07/docs/20091207_communique.pdf (accessed 7 October 2011).

3A Early childhood education and care — attachment

Tables in this attachment are sourced from the Early childhood education and care attachment of the 2015 Report. Table numbers refer to the 2015 Report, for example, a reference to ‘2015 Report, table 3A.15’ refers to attachment table 15 of attachment 3A of the 2015 Report.

Definitions for indicators and descriptors in this attachment are in the Early childhood education and care chapter of the Compendium.

Data in this Compendium are examined by the Early Childhood Education and Care 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/research/recurring/report-on-government-services).

3A Early childhood education and care

All jurisdictions data

- Table 3A.1** Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Australia, as at 30 June 2014
- Table 3A.12** Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services (per cent), by age group
- Table 3A.13** Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent)
- Table 3A.14** Representation of children from special needs groups in child care and preschool programs, 2013
- Table 3A.18** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area, national only
- Table 3A.19** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program
- Table 3A.25** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area, national only
- Table 3A.26** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attending a preschool program
- Table 3A.27** Proportion of enrolled children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by Indigenous status, 2013

All jurisdictions data

TABLE 3A.1

Table 3A.1 **Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Australia, as at 30 June 2014 (a)**

	<i>Child care</i>	<i>Preschool</i>			<i>Transition to primary school</i> <i>Year prior to Year One</i>	
	<i>Agency (b)</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Age of entry</i>	<i>Agency (b)</i>	<i>School year</i>	<i>Age of entry</i>
NSW (c)	Department of Education and Communities	Preschool	Generally 4 and 5 year olds	Department of Education and Communities	Kindergarten	5 by 31 July
Vic (d)	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	Kindergarten	4 by 30 April	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	Preparatory (Prep)	5 by 30 April
Qld (e)	Department of Education, Training and Employment	Kindergarten	4 by 30 June	Department of Education, Training and Employment	Preparatory Year (Prep)	5 by 30 June
WA	Department of Local Government and Communities	Kindergarten	4 by 30 June	Department of Education	Pre Primary	5 by 30 June
SA (f)	Department for Education and Child Development	Preschool	4 by 1 May	Department for Education and Child Development	Reception	5 by 1 May
Tas	Department of Education	Kindergarten	4 by 1 January	Department of Education	Preparatory	5 by 1 January
ACT (g)	Education and Training Directorate	Preschool	4 by 30 April	Education and Training Directorate	Kindergarten	5 by 30 April
NT (h)	Department of Education	Preschool	4 by 30 June in urban areas and 3 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in remote areas	Department of Education	Transition	5 by 30 June

- (a) The ECEC 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 2013. 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.
- (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. NSW subsidises access to community preschool for 3 year old Aboriginal children and 3 year old children from low income families.

Table 3A.1 Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Australia, as at 30 June 2014 (a)

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- (d) In Victoria, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children known to child protection are eligible for free kindergarten through Early Start Kindergarten funding if they are aged 3 by 30 April of the year in which they are enrolled.
 - (e) 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.
 - (f) Children who are Aboriginal or under the Guardianship of the Minister are entitled to commence in a Department funded preschool after their 3rd birthday. The compulsory school starting age in SA is 6 years at the oldest. From 2014, children can start school at the beginning of the year in which they turn 5 years as at 1 May.
 - (g) In the ACT, private preschools are monitored and assessed by the ACT Community Services Directorate.
 - (h) 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. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.12

Table 3A.12 Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services (per cent), by age group (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</i>
Children from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB)									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2013	23.0	25.6	9.7	14.3	12.4	3.9	17.0	12.5	18.5
Children aged 0–5 in the community, 2011	25.0	24.8	14.1	18.9	16.7	8.1	20.8	38.7	21.2
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2013	17.6	23.2	7.8	11.2	7.3	2.5	14.4	7.1	14.8
Children aged 6–12 in the community, 2011	22.5	22.1	12.4	17.2	14.8	6.7	17.7	41.1	19.0
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2013	3.1	0.9	4.3	2.8	1.9	5.9	1.4	11.2	2.9
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2014	2.8	0.8	4.1	2.5	1.7	5.6	1.2	8.9	2.6
Children aged 0–5 in the community, 2013	5.3	1.7	8.0	6.2	4.6	9.7	2.8	38.6	5.5
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2013	2.1	0.6	3.3	2.1	1.7	5.2	1.3	13.0	2.1
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2014	1.9	0.7	3.3	2.3	1.6	4.8	1.1	11.4	2.1
Children aged 6–12 in the community, 2013	5.5	1.6	7.8	6.7	4.4	9.0	2.8	44.4	5.6
Children from low-income families									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2013	25.7	25.7	28.8	22.1	24.1	30.0	8.2	14.9	25.6
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2014	16.0	13.8	16.3	12.6	14.3	16.9	5.8	9.7	15.0
Children aged 0–5 in the community, 2011-12	22.2	17.6	23.5	14.1	24.0	28.3	8.9	15.9	20.4
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2013	21.1	27.4	24.9	23.5	23.0	26.5	6.3	13.3	23.6
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2014	7.2	7.8	8.0	7.5	9.6	8.7	2.6	5.3	7.7
Children aged 6–12 in the community, 2011-12	22.9	23.1	19.6	13.5	19.9	25.6	6.6	28.5	20.9
Children with disability									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2013	4.0	2.3	2.1	2.0	3.4	2.0	2.6	2.8	2.9
Children aged 0–5 in the community, 2012	4.1	4.0	3.3	4.1	6.2	6.4	4.0	3.3	4.1
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2013	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.5	5.5	3.4	3.3	8.2	3.3
Children aged 6–12 in the community, 2012	9.3	8.2	9.5	10.3	7.5	11.3	10.4	6.3	9.0
Children from regional areas									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2013	23.4	20.7	30.9	15.7	17.2	99.1	0.1	78.4	25.2
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2014	23.0	19.4	30.1	15.4	15.9	99.2	0.5	76.7	24.3
Children aged 0–5 in the community, 2013	23.8	22.9	35.2	16.8	22.8	98.2	0.2	52.1	26.6
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2013	19.0	16.1	26.9	10.9	13.7	99.3	–	86.4	21.1
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2014	17.2	13.8	26.2	11.2	13.2	99.6	–	82.2	19.6
Children aged 6–12 in the community, 2013	26.9	25.2	36.8	18.5	25.1	98.1	0.2	49.1	29.0
Children from remote areas									
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2013	0.2	–	1.1	4.1	1.9	0.9	..	21.6	1.0
Children aged 0–5 in child care services, 2014	0.2	–	1.2	4.4	2.4	0.9	..	21.5	1.0
Children aged 0–5 in the community, 2013	0.6	0.1	3.7	7.0	3.9	1.8	..	47.9	2.7
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2013	0.1	–	0.8	2.0	0.8	0.7	..	13.6	0.6
Children aged 6–12 in child care services, 2014	0.1	–	0.7	2.1	1.1	0.4	..	18.0	0.6
Children aged 6–12 in the community, 2013	0.6	0.1	3.4	7.2	4.0	1.9	..	50.9	2.7

(a) Refer to table 3A.13 for complete footnotes.

Table 3A.12 Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services (per cent), by age group (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</i>
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(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.

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

Source: Australian Government Department of Education (unpublished) *National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census, 2013* and administrative data collection; ABS (unpublished) *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12*, Cat. no. 6523.0; *2011 Census of Population and Housing, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012*, Cat. no. 4430.0; *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026 (Series B)*, Cat. no. 3238.0; *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2013*, Cat. no. 3235.0, Canberra.

TABLE 3A.13

Table 3A.13 Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (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</i>
Children from NESB (d), (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
2008-09	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
2013	21.3	24.8	9.0	13.4	10.4	3.5	16.0	10.6	17.3
Representation in the community, 2011 (e)	23.7	23.4	13.2	18.0	15.7	7.3	19.2	40.0	20.0
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (f)									
Representation in child care services									
2013	2.8	0.8	4.0	2.6	1.8	5.7	1.4	11.8	2.6
2014	2.6	0.8	3.8	2.5	1.6	5.3	1.2	9.7	2.4
Representation in the community, 2013 (f)	5.4	1.6	7.9	6.4	4.5	9.3	2.8	41.6	5.6
Children from low-income families (g)									
Representation in child care services									
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
2013	24.4	26.2	27.5	22.5	23.6	28.9	7.6	14.4	25.0
2014	13.4	11.8	13.5	11.1	12.4	14.3	4.7	8.3	12.6
Representation in the community, 2011-12 (g)	22.5	20.4	21.4	13.8	21.9	26.9	7.8	22.5	20.7
Children with disability (h)									
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
2013	3.8	2.5	2.4	2.1	4.2	2.4	2.8	4.7	3.0
Representation in the community, 2012 (h)	6.8	6.3	6.4	7.4	6.7	9.3	7.0	4.0	6.7
Children from regional and remote areas (i)									
Regional									
Representation in child care services (j)									
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	186.0	79.9	28.0
2013	22.3	19.3	29.8	14.5	15.9	100.3	21.0	81.1	24.1
2014	21.4	17.6	28.9	14.2	14.8	100.5	77.0	78.5	22.9
Representation in the community, 2013 (i)	25.4	24.1	36.1	17.7	24.0	98.1	0.2	50.5	27.9

TABLE 3A.13

Table 3A.13 Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (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</i>
Remote									
Representation in child care services									
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
2013	0.2	–	1.0	3.5	1.5	0.9	..	19.1	0.9
2014	0.2	–	1.0	3.7	1.9	0.7	..	20.4	0.9
Representation in the community, 2013 (i)	0.6	0.1	3.5	7.1	3.9	1.9	..	49.5	2.7

- (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, 2010 and 2013 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) Excludes Aboriginal playgroups and enrichment programs and mobile and toy library services, as data from these service types were not available.
- (e) Children from NESB in child care services are children who speak, or whose parent/guardian speak a language other than English at home. Data on representation in child care services are from the *2013 National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census*. Data on representation in the community refer to the proportion of children who do not speak English as their main language at home as estimated from the *ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing*.
- (f) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in child care services are children who child care services identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. Data on representation in child care services are from Australian Government administrative data for the March quarter. The representation in the community data are derived from the *ABS Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, for 30 June 2013.
- (g) Children from low income families include those families in receipt of the maximum rate of Child Care Benefit (CCB). The maximum CCB rate was \$31 755 in 2003-04, \$33 361 in 2005-06, \$35 478 in 2007-08, \$36 573 in 2008-09, \$37 960 in 2009-10 and \$39 785 in 2011-12. Data on representation in child care services are from Australian Government administrative data for the March quarter. The data showing representation children from low income families in the community are drawn from *ABS Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12*.
- (h) 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 child care services are from the *2013 National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census*. 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 *ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2012*.
- (i) Regional and remote areas are based upon the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011. Regional areas include inner regional and outer regional areas. Remote areas include remote and very remote areas. Children can use care in multiple regions and states and territories, and may be counted in more than one region. Data on representation in child care services are from Australian Government administrative data for the March quarter. Data on representation in the community are estimated from unpublished ABS population data. They are for 30 June 2013 and are preliminary.

Table 3A.13 Representation of special needs groups attending Australian Government CCB approved child care services, children aged 0–12 (per cent) (a), (b), (c)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
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(j) The proportion of children from regional areas in child care services can exceed 100 per cent. This may occur because although the number of children in child care services is a unique count for each state and territory, children can be counted in more than one remoteness area.

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

Source: Australian Government Department of Education (unpublished) *National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census, 2013*; 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) *Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2011-12*, Cat. no. 6523.0; *2011 Census of Population and Housing, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2012 TableBuilder*, Cat. no. 4430.0; *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026*, Cat. no. 3238.0; *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2013*, Cat. no. 3235.0.

TABLE 3A.14

Table 3A.14 **Representation of children from special needs groups in child care and preschool programs, 2013 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (f)</i>	<i>Vic (g)</i>	<i>Qld (h)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (i)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT (j)</i>	<i>Aust (k)</i>
Children from NESB										
Child care services										
Number of children aged 0–12 years	no.	na	na	96	na	260	7	na	na	363
Representation in child care services	%	na	na	7.0	na	7.3	1.5	na	na	6.7
Representation of children aged 0–12 years in the community, 2011	%	23.7	23.4	13.2	18.0	15.7	7.3	19.2	40.0	20.0
Preschool programs										
Number of children aged 3–5 years (l)	no.	9 086	9 437	4 014	na	1 910	195	1 253	na	25 895
Representation in preschool programs	%	17.0	12.8	8.1	na	10.5	2.9	27.6	na	10.6
Number of children in the YBFS	no.	6 820	9 437	3 975	na	1 790	195	1 187	na	23 404
Representation in preschool programs in the YBFS	%	17.8	12.9	8.2	na	10.2	2.9	27.6	na	10.5
Representation of children aged 3–5 years in the community, 2011	%	23.7	23.4	13.2	17.7	15.4	7.4	19.6	39.3	20.0
Children with disability										
Child care services										
Number of children aged 0–12 years (m)	no.	na	na	100	na	140	8	na	na	248
Representation in child care services	%	na	na	7.2	na	4.0	1.7	na	na	4.6
Representation of children aged 0–12 years in the community, 2012	%	6.8	6.3	6.4	7.4	6.7	9.3	7.0	4.0	6.7
Preschool programs										
Number of children aged 3–5 years (l), (m)	no.	5 164	3 033	1 290	1 110	2 390	309	223	176	13 695
Representation in preschool programs	%	9.6	4.1	2.6	3.1	13.2	4.6	4.9	4.9	5.6
Number of children in the YBFS	no.	4 085	3 033	1 193	1 016	2 310	309	153	112	12 211
Representation in preschool programs in the YBFS	%	10.7	4.2	2.5	3.1	13.2	4.6	3.6	3.4	5.5

TABLE 3A.14

Table 3A.14 **Representation of children from special needs groups in child care and preschool programs, 2013 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)**

	Unit	NSW (f)	Vic (g)	Qld (h)	WA	SA (i)	Tas	ACT	NT (j)	Aust (k)
Representation of children aged 3–5 years in the community, 2012	%	6.2	6.9	4.2	7.1	9.2	9.0	4.7	np	6.2
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children										
Child care services										
Number of children aged 0–12 years	no.	na	na	227	na	110	19	na	na	356
Representation in child care services	%	na	na	16.4	na	3.1	4.1	na	na	6.6
Representation of children aged 0–12 years in the community, 2013	%	5.4	1.6	7.9	6.4	4.5	9.3	2.8	41.6	5.6
Preschool programs										
Number of children aged 3–5 years	no.	4 902	1 084	3 641	2 271	1 479	575	192	1 565	15 710
Representation in preschool programs	%	4.5	1.3	5.2	6.6	7.6	8.3	2.8	39.7	4.7
Number of children in the YBFS	no.	3 121	982	3 318	2 094	902	563	129	1 286	12 400
Representation in preschool programs in the YBFS	%	4.5	1.3	5.3	6.4	5.4	8.4	2.4	38.1	4.5
Representation of children aged 3–5 years in the community, 2013	%	5.3	1.7	8.0	6.3	4.6	9.8	2.7	40.0	5.6
Children from regional areas										
Child care services										
Number of children aged 0–12 years	no.	na	na	576	na	1 230	475	na	na	2 281
Representation in child care services	%	na	na	41.7	na	34.7	103.5	na	na	42.4
Representation of children aged 0–12 years in the community, 2013	%	25.4	24.1	36.1	17.7	24.0	98.1	0.2	50.5	27.9
Preschool programs										
Number of children aged 3–5 years	no.	32 453	19 879	23 019	6 079	4 542	6 857	201	1 998	95 027
Representation in preschool programs	%	29.9	23.7	33.2	17.8	23.5	98.5	3.0	50.7	28.5
Number of children in the YBFS	no.	19 908	18 412	20 788	5 851	4 029	6 638	168	1 799	77 586

TABLE 3A.14

Table 3A.14 **Representation of children from special needs groups in child care and preschool programs, 2013 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)**

	Unit	NSW (f)	Vic (g)	Qld (h)	WA	SA (i)	Tas	ACT	NT (j)	Aust (k)
Representation in preschool programs in the YBFS	%	28.6	24.2	33.5	17.8	24.1	98.5	3.1	53.3	28.4
Representation of children aged 3–5 years in the community, 2013	%	25.1	23.9	35.7	17.3	23.9	98.2	0.2	50.3	27.6
Children from remote areas										
Child care services										
Number of children aged 0–12 years	no.	na	na	473	na	490	–	..	na	963
Representation in child care services	%	na	na	34.3	na	13.8	–	..	na	17.9
Representation of children aged 0–12 years in the community, 2013	%	0.6	0.1	3.5	7.1	3.9	1.9	..	49.5	2.7
Preschool programs										
Number of children aged 3–5 years	no.	898	34	2 086	2 567	807	102	..	1 860	8 361
Representation in preschool programs	%	0.8	–	3.0	7.5	4.2	1.5	..	47.2	2.5
Number of children in the YBFS	no.	557	34	1 816	2 459	673	98	..	1 515	7 161
Representation in preschool programs in the YBFS	%	0.8	–	2.9	7.5	4.0	1.5	..	44.9	2.6
Representation of children aged 3–5 years in the community, 2013	%	0.6	0.1	3.7	7.2	3.9	1.8	..	49.7	2.7

(a) Preschool data for children from NESB and children with disability are from State and Territory governments (for July/August 2013) and cover State and Territory government funded and/or provided services. These data for NSW do not include children receiving a preschool program from a long day care centre. Preschool data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from regional and remote areas are from the National Early Childhood Education and Care (NECECC) (August 2013) published by ABS in *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013*. Data from the NECECC include children receiving a preschool program from a long day centre and relate to both Government funded and unfunded programs. Due to the different data sources for preschool data for special needs groups, caution should be used when making comparisons across special needs groups. All child care data are from State and Territory governments and represent children from special needs groups in State and Territory government funded and/or provided child care. Only Queensland, SA and Tasmania can report data on child care usage in State and Territory government funded and/or provided child care services. The majority of child care usage data are reported by the Australian Government (for CCB approved child care services). See tables 3A.12 and 3A.13.

Table 3A.14 Representation of children from special needs groups in child care and preschool programs, 2013 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (f)</i>	<i>Vic (g)</i>	<i>Qld (h)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (i)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT (j)</i>	<i>Aust (k)</i>
(b)	Data for children from NESB and children with disability in a preschool program include only State and Territory government funded or provided preschool services. Data on preschool programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from regional and remote areas include preschool programs as defined by the scope of the NECECC. This means preschool programs are included irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided. Regional and remote areas are based upon the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.									
(c)	Data on children enrolled in preschool programs are for July/August 2013. An exception to this is SA data for children from NESB and children with disability which are reported for May 2014 due to the transition from a quarterly intake of preschool enrolments causing abnormal enrolment numbers in 2013. All child care usage data represent July/August/September 2013.									
(d)	Children in preschool programs includes children aged 3–5 years on 1 July 2013. However, some 3 year old children attending a preschool program may not be included in the NECECC and therefore data may represent an under count. Data for children enrolled in the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year. Children in child care include children aged 0–12 years.									
(e)	Data for the representation in the community for children from NESB are estimated from the ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Data for the representation of children with disability in the community were obtained from ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2012, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data are from the ABS Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001-2026. Data for the representation of children from regional and remote areas in the community are estimated using unpublished population data from the ABS. Data are for 30 June 2013 and are preliminary. Regional and remote areas are based upon the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011. Regional areas include inner regional and outer regional areas. Remote areas include remote and very remote areas. Due to the various data sources used in different years caution should be used when making comparisons with data from earlier years in previous Reports.									
(f)	Not all children undertaking a preschool program in a long day care setting in NSW are captured in the relevant data collections, resulting in an undercount for NSW.									
(g)	Victorian data for children from NESB and with disability in preschool programs only include the 3 year old children who have been approved to attend funded 4 year old kindergarten programs, and so do not include children in programs for 3 year olds.									
(h)	Queensland child care data refer to children enrolled in funded child care services i.e. occasional care (limited hours care) and vacation care (Vacation Access Care) services only.									
(i)	SA data should be used with caution as enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake.									
(j)	Preschool data for children with disability in the NT include some children aged greater than 5 years.									

Table 3A.14 **Representation of children from special needs groups in child care and preschool programs, 2013 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (f)</i>	<i>Vic (g)</i>	<i>Qld (h)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (i)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT (j)</i>	<i>Aust (k)</i>
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(k) Data for Australia for children from NESB enrolled in a preschool program, are the total of the sum of the states and territories for which data are available, and should not be interpreted as national data.

(l) Data exclude innovative or flexible services that receive direct funding from the Australian Government and are targeted towards children from these groups. Data for Tasmania only include children enrolled in preschool in non-government school settings.

(m) Data on children with disability are not directly comparable because the definition of disability varies across jurisdictions.

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

Source: ABS (unpublished TableBuilder) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013*, Cat. no. 4240.0; (unpublished) *2011 Census of Population and Housing*; (unpublished) *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2012 TableBuilder*, Cat. no. 4430.0; (2014) *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026*, Cat. no. 3238.0; (unpublished) *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2013*, Cat. no. 3235.0, Canberra; State and Territory governments (unpublished).

TABLE 3A.18

Table 3A.18 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area, national only (a), (b)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Major cities</i>	<i>Inner/outer regional areas</i>	<i>Remote/very remote areas</i>
2012				
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS	no.	3 146	4 953	2 666
Projected number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years (c)	no.	5 592	7 782	3 177
Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS (d)	%	56.3	63.6	83.9
2013				
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS	no.	3 806	5 804	2 734
Projected number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years (c)	no.	5 704	7 858	3 215
Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS (d)	%	66.7	73.9	85.0

- (a) Data for children enrolled in the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year. Not all children undertaking a preschool program in a long day care setting in NSW are captured in the collection, resulting in an undercount for NSW, and therefore for each remoteness area.
- (b) For 2012 data, remoteness area is based on the ABS' Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006. Where a child's geography was unavailable the geography of the service provider was used to determine remoteness area. The geographical classification is different for 2013 data. Remoteness area for 2013 data are based on the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.
- (c) ABS projected population data by age and remoteness area are based on the *2011 Census of Population and Housing*. The 2012 population projections have been revised since the previous Report.
- (d) To calculate the proportion, enrolment data (from the August NECECC) are divided by the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years in each jurisdiction (using ABS population projections as at 30 June based on the *2011 Census of Population and Housing*). As a result, the proportion may exceed 100 per cent. Also, the projected population denominator may have particular limitations for smaller jurisdictions.

Source: ABS (unpublished and 2014) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 and 2013* (Cat. no. 4240.0); (2014) *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026* (Cat. no. 3238.0), Canberra.

TABLE 3A.19

Table 3A.19 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program (a)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (b)</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld (c)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (d)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT (e)</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust (f)</i>
2012										
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program, by sector										
Government preschool	no.	590	145	501	1 779	669	421	88	1 134	5 327
Non-government preschool	no.	1 724	532	821	271	12	77	–	82	3 519
Total preschool (g)	no.	2 379	676	1 322	2 050	693	502	119	1 227	8 968
Preschool program within a long day care centre	no.	835	268	914	28	175	13	24	12	2 269
Total	no.	3 214	944	2 236	2 078	868	515	143	1 239	11 237
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program, by remoteness area (h)										
Major cities of Australia	no.	1 068	354	548	728	419	..	129	..	3 246
Inner/outer regional Australia	no.	1 908	567	1 009	575	310	499	14	318	5 200
Remote/very remote Australia	no.	238	–	679	775	139	16	..	921	2 768
Total (i)	no.	3 214	944	2 236	2 078	868	515	143	1 239	11 237
Projected population of 4 year olds (j)	no.	5 035	1 223	4 946	2 127	929	643	121	1 520	16 551
Proportion of population who are enrolled in a preschool program (k)	%	63.8	77.2	45.2	97.7	93.4	80.1	118.2	81.5	67.9
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area (h), (l)										
Major cities of Australia	no.	975	354	548	728	416	..	125	..	3 146
Inner/outer regional Australia	no.	1 703	539	1 009	574	310	496	11	311	4 953
Remote/very remote Australia	no.	220	–	679	765	132	16	..	854	2 666
Total (m)	no.	2 898	883	2 236	2 066	857	512	136	1 165	10 753
Projected population of 4 year olds (j)	no.	5 035	1 223	4 946	2 127	929	643	121	1 520	16 551
Proportion of population who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS (k)	%	57.6	72.2	45.2	97.1	92.2	79.6	112.4	76.6	65.0
2013										
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program, by sector										
Government preschool	no.	565	137	587	1 820	664	464	83	1 189	5 520
Non-government preschool	no.	1 708	589	939	230	10	85	4	112	3 678
Total preschool (g)	no.	2 357	732	1 523	2 051	685	556	111	1 317	9 328

Table 3A.19 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program (a)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (b)</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld (c)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (d)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT (e)</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust (f)</i>
Preschool program within a long day care centre	no.	976	284	1 794	19	199	10	17	12	3 309
Total (n)	no.	3 455	1 046	3 390	2 101	902	569	142	1 363	12 970
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program, by remoteness area (h)										
Major cities of Australia	no.	1 115	397	1 056	808	449	..	137	..	3 965
Inner/outer regional Australia	no.	2 071	653	1 631	533	306	564	11	319	6 081
Remote/very remote Australia	no.	267	–	696	756	147	10	..	985	2 870
Total (i)	no.	3 455	1 046	3 390	2 101	902	569	142	1 363	12 970
Projected population of 4 year olds (j)	no.	5 176	1 175	5 154	2 109	904	640	138	1 479	16 777
Proportion of population who are enrolled in a preschool program (k)	%	66.8	89.0	65.8	99.6	99.8	88.9	102.9	92.2	77.3
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area (h), (l)										
Major cities of Australia	no.	1 021	368	1 041	807	449	..	121	..	3 806
Inner/outer regional Australia	no.	1 856	617	1 621	535	306	556	8	313	5 804
Remote/very remote Australia	no.	246	–	657	755	147	10	..	924	2 734
Total (m)	no.	3 121	982	3 318	2 094	902	563	129	1 286	12 400
Projected population of 4 year olds (j)	no.	5 176	1 175	5 154	2 109	904	640	138	1 479	16 777
Proportion of population who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS (k)	%	60.3	83.6	64.4	99.3	99.8	88.0	93.5	87.0	73.9

(a) Data include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July.

(b) Not all children undertaking a preschool program in a long day care setting in NSW are captured in the collection, resulting in an undercount for NSW.

(c) 2012 child level enrolment data for Queensland were not available and episode of enrolment data were used instead. Only one episode of enrolment count is available so data are the same for both all 4 and 5 year old children and children in the YBFS, by remoteness area. An episode is a record of enrolment at a preschool program. Children may be enrolled in more than one preschool program so in these cases will be counted more than once in episode counts. These data are included in the national total. Care should be taken when comparing Queensland data from 2012 to 2013.

(d) SA 2013 data may not be fully comparable with 2012 data. Enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake.

(e) 2012 totals for the ACT exclude data for preschools within independent schools, which were unavailable.

(f) Data for Australia are the total of the sum of the states and territories for which data are available.

Table 3A.19 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program (a)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (b)</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld (c)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (d)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT (e)</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust (f)</i>
(g)	Total preschool may not equal the sum of the components due to the inclusion of multiple preschools (except for Queensland in 2012) and use of next best available (episode level) data for 2012 where cells were not published by the ABS (affects 2012 government preschool data for Victoria and non-government preschool data for WA and Tasmania).									
(h)	Remoteness area for 2012 data are based on the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Classification (ASGC) 2006. Remoteness area for 2013 data are based on the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011. Where a child's geography was unavailable the geography of the service provider was used to determine remoteness area. Care should be used when comparing remoteness area data between 2012 and 2013.									
(i)	2012 total data will not equal the sum of components for Victoria and Australia because some cells have used the next best available (year before full time schooling level) data where they were not published by ABS. Total data for 2013 may not equal the sum of components due to ABS rounding and confidentiality procedures.									
(j)	The projected population estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 4 year olds by state and territory are published by the ABS in <i>Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026</i> (Series B). Projected population estimates are as at 30 June and are based on the <i>2011 Census of Population and Housing</i> .									
(k)	To calculate the proportion, enrolment data (from the August NECECC) are divided by the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years in each jurisdiction (using ABS population projections as at 30 June based on the <i>2011 Census of Population and Housing</i>). As a result, the proportion may exceed 100 per cent. Also, the projected population denominator may have particular limitations for smaller jurisdictions.									
(l)	Data for children enrolled in the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year.									
(m)	Totals for 2012 will not equal the sum of components for Victoria, WA, SA and Australia because some cells have used unpublished or next best available (child or episode level) where data were not published by the ABS. Totals for 2013 may not equal the sum of components due to ABS rounding and confidentiality procedures.									
(n)	Total includes children enrolled a preschool program across both preschool and long day care settings. .. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero.									

Source: ABS (2014 and unpublished) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 and 2013* (Cat. no. 4240.0); (2014) *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026* (Cat. no. 3238.0), Canberra.

Table 3A.25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area, national only (a), (b)

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Major cities</i>	<i>Inner/outer regional areas</i>	<i>Remote/very remote areas</i>
2012				
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS	no.	3 031	4 643	2 337
Projected population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years (c)	no.	5 592	7 782	3 177
Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS (d)	%	54.2	59.7	73.6
2013				
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS	no.	3 712	5 555	2 409
Projected population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years (c)	no.	5 704	7 858	3 215
Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS (d)	%	65.1	70.7	74.9

- (a) Data for children attending in the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year. Not all children undertaking a preschool program in a long day care setting in NSW are captured in the collection, resulting in an undercount for NSW, and therefore for each remoteness area.
- (b) For 2012 data, remoteness area is based on the ABS' Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006. Where a child's geography was unavailable the geography of the service provider was used to determine remoteness area. The geographical classification is different for 2013 data. Remoteness area for 2013 data are based on the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.
- (c) ABS projected population data by age and remoteness area are based on the *2011 Census of Population and Housing*. Projections are as at 30 June. The 2012 projections have been revised since the previous Report.
- (d) To calculate the proportion, attendance data (from the August NECECC) are divided by the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years in each jurisdiction (using ABS population projections as at 30 June based on the *2011 Census of Population and Housing*). As a result, the proportion may exceed 100 per cent. Also, the projected population denominator may have particular limitations for smaller jurisdictions.

Source: ABS (unpublished and 2014) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 and 2013* (Cat. no. 4240.0); (2014) *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026* (Cat. no. 3238.0), Canberra.

Table 3A.26 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attending a preschool program (a)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (b)</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld (c)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (d)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT (e)</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust (f)</i>
2012										
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program, by sector										
Government preschool	no.	np	np	434	1 779	642	412	84	890	4 241
Non-government preschool	no.	1 621	467	772	np	12	np	–	76	2 948
Total preschool (g)	no.	2 217	599	1 206	2 050	666	np	115	972	7 825
Preschool program within a long day care centre	no.	816	253	828	28	169	np	24	12	2 130
Total (h)	no.	3 033	852	2 034	2 078	835	505	139	984	10 460
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program, by remoteness area (i)										
Major cities of Australia	no.	1 020	353	512	728	409	..	125	..	3 147
Inner/outer regional Australia	no.	1 799	499	934	575	294	486	14	288	4 889
Remote/very remote Australia	no.	214	–	588	775	132	16	..	696	2 421
Total (h)	no.	3 033	852	2 034	2 078	835	505	139	984	10 460
Projected population of 4 year olds (j)	no.	5 035	1 223	4 946	2 127	929	643	121	1 520	16 551
Proportion of population who are attending a preschool program (k)	%	60.2	69.7	41.1	97.7	89.9	78.5	114.9	64.7	63.2
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area (i), (l)										
Major cities of Australia	no.	930	335	512	727	406	..	121	..	3 031
Inner/outer regional Australia	no.	1 602	461	934	574	294	486	11	281	4 643
Remote/very remote Australia	no.	198	–	588	765	126	16	..	644	2 337
Total (m)	no.	2 730	796	2 034	2 066	825	502	132	925	10 010
Projected population of 4 year olds (j)	no.	5 035	1 223	4 946	2 127	929	643	121	1 520	16 551
Proportion of population who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS (k)	%	54.2	65.1	41.1	97.1	88.8	78.1	109.1	60.9	60.5
2013										
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program, by sector										
Government preschool	no.	535	126	578	1 820	634	448	85	884	5 107
Non-government preschool	no.	1 628	537	858	230	10	84	4	99	3 443
Total preschool (g)	no.	2 243	665	1 437	2 051	654	532	110	1 002	8 683

Table 3A.26 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attending a preschool program (a)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (b)</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld (c)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (d)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT (e)</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust (f)</i>
Preschool program within a long day care centre	no.	945	263	1 758	19	189	11	17	12	3 218
Total (n)	no.	3 309	962	3 266	2 101	862	551	140	1 045	12 231
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program, by remoteness area (i)										
Major cities of Australia	no.	1 089	365	1 034	808	438	..	132	..	3 865
Inner/outer regional Australia	no.	1 982	597	1 562	533	292	539	11	300	5 819
Remote/very remote Australia	no.	238	–	665	756	130	10	..	704	2 505
Total (j)	no.	3 309	962	3 266	2 101	862	551	140	1 045	12 231
Projected population of 4 year olds (i)	no.	5 176	1 175	5 154	2 109	904	640	138	1 479	16 777
Proportion of population who are attending a preschool program (k)	%	63.9	81.9	63.4	99.6	95.4	86.1	101.4	70.7	72.9
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by remoteness area (i), (l)										
Major cities of Australia	no.	994	332	1 018	807	438	..	120	..	3 712
Inner/outer regional Australia	no.	1 779	561	1 550	535	292	533	8	290	5 555
Remote/very remote Australia	no.	221	–	636	755	130	10	..	667	2 409
Total (m)	no.	2 996	897	3 206	2 094	862	544	132	993	11 719
Projected population of 4 year olds (j)	no.	5 176	1 175	5 154	2 109	904	640	138	1 479	16 777
Proportion of population who are attending a preschool program in the YBFS (k)	%	57.9	76.3	62.2	99.3	95.4	85.0	95.7	67.1	69.9

(a) Data include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July.

(b) Not all children undertaking a preschool program in a long day care setting in NSW are captured in the collection, resulting in an undercount for NSW.

(c) 2012 child level attendance data for Queensland were not available and episode of attendance data were used instead. Only one episode of attendance count is available by remoteness area so data for all 4 and 5 year old children and children in the year before full time schooling will be identical. An episode is a record of attendance at a preschool program. Children may attend more than one preschool program so in these cases will be counted more than once in episode counts. These data are included in the national total. Care should be taken when comparing Queensland data from 2012 to 2013.

(d) SA 2013 data may not be fully comparable with 2012 data. Enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake.

(e) 2012 totals for the ACT exclude data for preschools within independent schools, which were unavailable.

(f) Data for Australia are the total of the sum of the states and territories for which data are available.

(g) Total preschool includes multiple preschools. Not applicable for episode data used for Queensland in 2012.

Table 3A.26 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attending a preschool program (a)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW (b)</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld (c)</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA (d)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT (e)</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust (f)</i>
(h)	Total data will not equal the sum of the components where data are not published. Total data will not equal the sum of components by remoteness area for Tasmania and Australia because some inner/outer regional Australia and remote/very remote Australia cells have used the next best available (year before full time schooling level) data where they were not published by the ABS.									
(i)	For 2012 data, remoteness area is based on the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Classification (ASGC) 2006. For 2013 data, remoteness area is based on the ABS' Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011. Where a child's geography was unavailable the geography of the service provider was used to determine remoteness area. Care should be used when comparing remoteness area data between 2012 and 2013.									
(j)	The projected population estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 4 year olds by state and territory are published by the ABS in <i>Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026</i> (Series B). Projected population estimates are as at 30 June and are based on the <i>2011 Census of Population and Housing</i> .									
(k)	To calculate the proportion, attendance data (from the August NECECC) are divided by the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4 years in each jurisdiction (using ABS population projections as at 30 June based on the <i>2011 Census of Population and Housing</i>). As a result, the proportion may exceed 100 per cent. Also, the projected population denominator may have particular limitations for smaller jurisdictions.									
(l)	Data for children attending in the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year.									
(m)	Total data for 2012 may not equal the sum of components for SA, Tasmania and Australia due to unpublished data being used for inner/outer regional Australia and remote/very remote Australia. Total data for 2013 may not equal the sum of components due to ABS rounding and confidentiality procedures.									
(n)	Total includes children enrolled a preschool program across both preschool and long day care settings.									
	.. Not applicable. – Nil or rounded to zero. np Not published.									

Source: ABS (unpublished and TableBuilder) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2012 and 2013*, Cat. no. 4240.0; (2014) *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026* (Cat. no. 3238.0), Canberra.

TABLE 3A.27

Table 3A.27 **Proportion of enrolled children aged 4 and 5 years attending a preschool program in the YBFS, by Indigenous status, 2013 (a), (b)**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld (c)</i>	<i>WA (c)</i>	<i>SA (d)</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Number of children enrolled										
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	no.	3 121	982	3 318	2 094	902	563	129	1 286	12 400
Non-Indigenous children (e)	no.	65 691	74 813	58 339	30 362	15 292	5 355	5 262	2 080	257 195
All children (f)	no.	69 667	76 048	62 047	32 834	16 684	6 741	5 425	3 374	272 810
Number of children attending										
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	no.	2 996	897	3 206	2 094	862	544	132	993	11 719
Non-Indigenous children (e)	no.	64 569	71 699	57 013	30 347	15 141	5 254	5 180	1 979	251 183
All children (f)	no.	68 395	72 848	60 605	32 818	16 485	6 596	5 335	2 979	266 062
Proportion of enrolled children who are attending										
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	%	96.0	91.3	96.6	100.0	95.6	96.6	102.3	77.2	94.5
Non-Indigenous children (e)	%	98.3	95.8	97.7	100.0	99.0	98.1	98.4	95.1	97.7
All children (f)	%	98.2	95.8	97.7	100.0	98.8	97.8	98.3	88.3	97.5

- (a) Data for children enrolled in and attending the YBFS include children aged 4 and 5 years on 1 July and exclude children aged 5 years old who were enrolled in a preschool program in the previous year as a 4 year old. The YBFS population is an estimate of a single year cohort for the population that will transition to full time schooling in the following year.
- (b) Enrolment and attendance data are very similar for some jurisdictions because enrolment requires the child to have attended that program for at least one hour during the reference period, or were absent due to illness or extended holiday leave and are expected to return. A child is considered to be attending a preschool program if the child is enrolled and has attended for at least one hour during the reference period. Also, in WA attendance rates have been applied to enrolment counts to estimate the number of children attending. This results in the proportion equalling 100 per cent.
- (c) There may be small duplication of children across provider types due to the inclusion of child aggregate data from some service providers in Queensland and WA.
- (d) SA data should be used with caution as enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake.
- (e) Excludes children for whom Indigenous status is not stated/indadequately described.
- (f) Includes children for whom Indigenous status is not stated/indadequately described.

Source: ABS (2014 and unpublished) *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013*, Cat. No. 4240.0.