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CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents estimates of child care arrangements and early childhood education and learning, compiled from the June 2008 Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS). The child care estimates include type of care usually attended by children under 13 years of age at the time of interview, the hours of care, cost, and demand for care, together with information about the employment and income characteristics of the parents. The early education estimates include children aged 3 to 6 years who usually attended preschool programs in a preschool and/or a long day care setting, usual hours of attendance and cost. For children aged 4 to 8 years attending school at the time of the interview, estimates are presented of parental assessments of the children's adjustment to school together with care and preschool attendance in the two years prior to school enrolment. Estimates are also provided on the nature and extent of parental involvement in selected informal learning activities for children aged 0-8 years.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

From 1969 to 2005 the ABS conducted 12 Child Care Surveys (CCS). The main aims of those surveys was to provide information on the use and cost of child care in a survey (related to care usage in a survey reference week), and some aspects of families' requirements for formal care or preschool. As with previous CCSs, the June 2008 Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS) was conducted as a supplement to the ABS monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the 2008 CEaCS was redeveloped to collect information on:

- usual care arrangements (for type of care, hours and cost), in addition to previous measures of care used in the survey reference week;

and for the first time

- early childhood education and learning (the types of learning activities that children aged 0–8 years engage in, the environments in which these activities take place, and patterns of attendance at preschool and school).

As with earlier CCSs, the cost of care estimates are net of the Child Care Benefit (CCB). However, for the 2008 CEaCS, the cost estimates are also net of the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR), introduced in December 2005, which provides for families to claim the rebate on out-of-pocket expenses for care.

ROUNDING

As totals and percentages are calculated prior to rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the rounded component items and totals, or between reported percentages and those that could be calculated from rounded components.

Peter Harper
Acting Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

Tables 1 to 9 in this publication present estimates, for June 2008, of child care arrangements (type of care, cost, hours, of care, reasons for attendance, and family circumstances) that are based on the usual arrangements for that care. However, for time series comparisons of child care arrangements in table 22, the estimates are compiled on the basis of attendance in the survey reference week, which was the basis of collection in previous child care surveys.

Similarly, estimates of the characteristics of children attending preschool in tables 12, 13 and 14 are compiled on a usual attendance basis, whereas in tables 23 and 24 the time series are compiled on the basis of children attending in the survey reference week. For other aspects of early childhood education and learning, such as attendance in a preschool program in a long day care setting, preschool participation prior to commencing school, and parental involvement in selected informal learning activities, estimates are available for the first time in 2008.

USE OF CHILD CARE

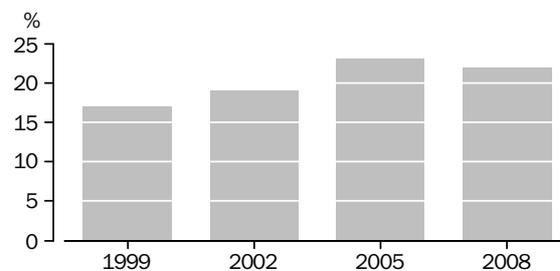
In June 2008, of all children aged 0–12 years, parents reported that 1,517,000 (43%) usually attended some type of child care. Of these children, 756,000 (22% of children aged 0–12 years) usually attended formal care and 1,008,000 (29%) usually attended informal care. Included in the estimates of both formal and informal care usage are 248,000 children aged 0–12 years who used both formal and informal care (table 1).

As would be expected, attendance at formal care during the survey reference week was slightly lower (21% of children aged 0–12 years) than the usual care measure (22%). This reflects the fact that formal care arrangements are generally established for some period of time, but in any one week children may not attend because of illness or other reasons. The proportion of children using informal care in the survey reference week (34% of children aged 0–12 years) was much higher than for those children usually attending informal care (29%), reflecting the more likely ad hoc need for and availability of informal care arrangements.

Trends over time

In 2008, of children aged 0–11 years, 1,546,000 (48%) had used child care (formal or informal) in the survey reference week, similar to the proportions in both June 2005 and nine years earlier in June 1999. Over that same nine year period, the proportion of children aged 0–11 years attending formal care in the survey reference week rose from 17% in 1999 to 22% in 2008, while usage of informal care fell from 37% to 34% (table 22).

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (a) WHO USED FORMAL CARE (b)



(a) Aged 0-11 years
(b) In the reference week

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Usual formal care and informal care

The most common type of formal care usually attended by children aged 0–12 years in 2008 was Long day care, with 408,000 children (12%) attending. Before and/or after school care was usually attended by 253,000 children (7%), and Family day care was attended by 71,000 children (2%). Occasional care and Other formal care were each usually attended by 1% of children aged 0–12 (table 1).

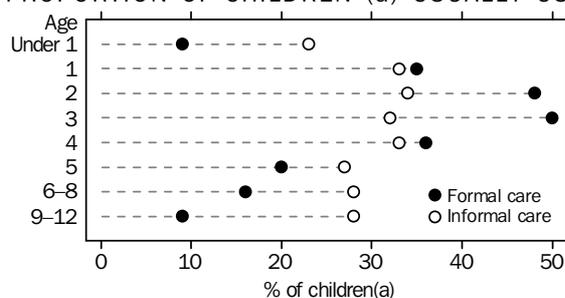
Grandparents provided care on a usual basis for 660,000 grandchildren (19% of all children aged 0–12 years), non-resident parents and other relatives each provided care for 5% of children aged 0–12, and other people provided care for 4% of children aged 0–12 (table 1).

Usual care for children of different ages

Usual child care attendance varied with age, particularly for formal care. For children under one year, 9% usually attended formal care. At age one the proportion usually attending formal care was 35%; by age two it was 48%; and at age three it was 50%, with Long day care the type of care most commonly used. At age four, when many children have started preschool, the proportion of children attending formal child care was lower at 36%, but still with most of these children attending Long day care. For five year olds, by which age most children have started school, the proportion usually attending formal care was down to 20%, and for this age group most formal care was being provided in Before/after school care. For 6 to 8 year old children, 16% attended formal care; and for 9 to 12 year olds, 9% attended formal care. For both these age groups, attendance at Before/after school care predominated (table 1).

Around a third of children aged one to four years were usually cared for in an informal setting. The proportion was lower (23%) for children under one year old, while 28% of children aged 5 to 12 years used informal care (table 1).

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (a) USUALLY USING CARE BY AGE



(a) Aged 0-12 years

Couple and one parent families

The proportion of children aged 0–12 years who usually attended child care was higher in one parent families (56%) than in couple families (41%). Of the 599,000 children aged 0–12 years in one parent families, 43% were in informal care and 24% were in formal care (of these, 11% were in both types of care). Of the 2,899,000 children aged 0–12 years in couple families, 26% were in informal care and 21% in formal care (of these, 6% were in both types of care) (table 3).

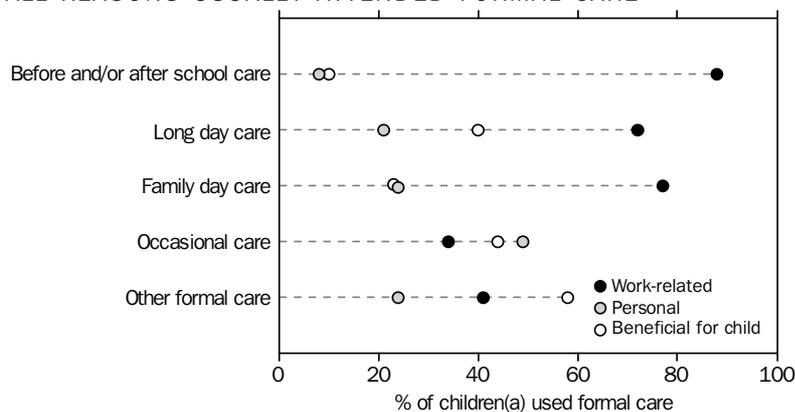
For children aged 0–12 years, grandparents were a major source of informal care used by both couple and one parent families (19% and 18% of children respectively). However, for children aged 0–12 in one parent families, non-resident parents were the most often reported source of care (21%) (table 3).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Reasons for using care

Work related reasons (summing to 75% of children in formal care) were the most frequent reasons given for children's attendance in formal care, followed by 'Beneficial for child' (29%) (table 4). Of all children who usually attended informal care, work related reasons were the most common (58%), followed by personal reasons (31%) (table 5).

ALL REASONS USUALLY ATTENDED FORMAL CARE



(a) Aged 0-12 years

HOURS AND COST OF CHILD CARE

Usual hours of care

Of those children who usually attended formal care, 45% attended for less than 10 hours per week. Of those children who usually attended informal care, 60% attended it for less than 10 hours per week. The proportion of children who usually attended any type of child care for 35 or more hours per week was 13%. For all children usually in any care, the mean and median number of hours attended were 17 and 10 hours per week respectively (table 6).

Usual cost of care

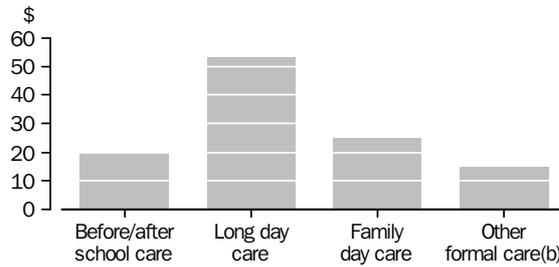
Cost of care measures in this publication take into account the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) entitlements.

Of all children aged 0–12 years who usually attended child care, for 1,134,000 children (75%) the weekly cost of care (after CCB and CCTR) was less than \$40 (and for nearly two thirds of those children there were no costs). For 9% of children usually in care the weekly cost was \$100 or more (table 7). For all formal care the mean and median weekly costs per child were \$53 and \$35 respectively. The cost was highest for Long day care, with a median weekly cost of \$53. The majority of informal care was provided free of charge, with a payment being made for 7% of children using informal care (table 7). The median weekly cost for formal care per child for less than 5 hours care was \$12, while for 40 hours or more the median weekly cost was \$143 (table 8).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Usual cost of care
continued*

MEDIAN COST OF FORMAL CARE FOR CHILD (a)



(a) Aged 0-12 years
(b) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'

For couple families with children aged 0–12 years who usually attended formal care, the median weekly family cost (for all children in the family attending formal care) was \$49, compared to \$28 for one parent families (table 9).

DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE
*Whether required
any/additional formal care
or preschool*

Previous child care surveys have collected information to support investigations of the overall demand for formal child care and preschool services. In this publication, the summary measures of requirements for any/additional formal care or preschool have been redeveloped to include measures of both current need (i.e. at the time of interview) as well as expected future, or potential, need. Requirements for services currently and/or in the future were collected for all children aged 0–12 years, whether or not these children were already attending child care or preschool. For parents who currently required any/additional care or preschool, additional information was collected on whether parents had taken active steps to try to find additional child care or preschool, including: whether enquiries were made as to the availability of any/additional formal care or preschool places; whether parents had applied for any/additional formal care or preschool; and whether they would use preferred any/additional formal care or preschool if it became available in the next four weeks.

In June 2008, parents indicated current and/or future requirements for any/additional formal care or preschool for 908,000 children aged 0–12 years. Of these, parents of 126,000 children (4% of children aged 0–12 years) currently required any/additional formal care or preschool at the time of interview. For another 22% of children aged 0-12, parents expected to require any/additional formal care or preschool in the future only. Parents of a further 74% of children aged 0–12 years neither required any/additional formal care or preschool now nor expected to need it in the future (table 10).

For children aged 0–12 years who attended school and for whom any/additional formal care was currently required, the most common type of formal care required was Before and/or after school care (88%). For children aged 0-12 years who did not attend school and for whom any/additional formal care or preschool was currently required, 43% required Long day care, and 40% required Preschool (table 11).

The main reasons provided by parents for currently requiring any/additional formal care for children who attended school were work related reasons (77%). Parents reported that the main reasons they currently required any/additional formal care or preschool for children who did not attend school were 'Beneficial for the child' (51%) followed by work related reasons (35%) (table 11).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Whether required
any/additional formal care
or preschool continued*

For the majority of children aged 0–12 years for whom any/additional formal care or preschool was currently required, the number of days required were three days or less (81%). For 42% of children for whom any/additional formal care or preschool was currently required, parent(s) reported needing one day or less, and a further 18% required two days. The mean and median number of days for which any/additional formal care or preschool was currently required were both 2 days, with children attending school requiring a mean of 3 days, and children not attending school requiring a mean of 2 days (table 11).

Of the 126,000 children aged 0-12 with a current requirement, parent(s) of 85,000 (67%) of these children did not apply for them to attend any/additional formal care or preschool. Parent(s) of 41,000 (33%) of these children did apply for them to attend any/additional care or preschool, and it was available for 16,000 of these children. However, for 25,000 children whose parent(s) applied, any/additional formal care or preschool was not available.

Of the 110,000 children (comprising children whose parents did not apply for any/additional formal care or preschool (85,000); and children whose parents applied, but for whom any/additional care was not available (25,000)), 69,000 (63%) would attend any/additional formal care or preschool if it became available in the next four weeks; and 41,000 would not attend any/additional formal care or preschool if it became available in the next four weeks, with 'Cost/too expensive' the main reason given for not attending (46%) (table 11).

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*Attendance at preschool
or a preschool program in
long day care*

In June 2008, of children aged 3–6 years who did not attend school (552,000), 395,000 (72%) usually attended a preschool or a preschool program in long day care. Of all children aged 3-6 years who did not attend school, 42% (232,000) usually attended a preschool only, 23% (127,000) usually attended a preschool program in long day care only and 37,000 children usually attended preschool programs in both settings (table 12).

In couple families, 72% of children aged 3–6 years who did not attend school usually attended either a preschool or a preschool program in long day care, compared to 66% of children in one parent families (table 12).

In couple families, the highest rate of non-participation in either preschool or a preschool program in long day care was for children in families where one parent was employed part time and the other parent was not employed, or neither parent was employed (43%). In one parent families where the parent was not employed, 39% of children did not attend either preschool or a preschool program in long day care (table 12).

There were higher participation rates in early childhood education programs for children in couple families where the parents earned \$2,000 or more per week (79%) compared to children in couple families where the parents earned less than \$1,200 per week (66%). For children in one parent families where parents earned less than \$1,200 per week average participation (65%) was similar to children in couple families with the same level of income (table 12).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Preschool and preschool program attendance in the year prior to attending school

Of the 1,028,000 children aged 4–8 years who attended school in June 2008, 82% usually attended a preschool or a preschool program in long day care in the year prior to attending school. Of those children usually attending, parents reported that 94% of their children made a good adjustment to school compared to 88% of children that did not attend either preschool or a preschool program in long day care in the year prior to attending school (table 14).

Hours and cost of attendance at preschool

Data in table 13 presents information for those who attended a designated preschool only, because in June 2008 information collected on the hours and cost of attendance for children attending long day care did not separately identify either hours of participation in a preschool program in Long day care, nor any separate costs for participating in those programs.

Of the children aged 3–6 years who usually attended a preschool (268,000), 30% attended for less than 10 hours per week, 47% attended for between 10 and 14 hours per week, and 23% attended for 15 or more hours per week (table 13).

Children living in major cities of Australia were more likely to usually attend a preschool for 15 hours or more per week (28%) than children living in outer regional or remote parts of Australia (20%). Children living in major cities were more likely (31%) to pay \$60 or more per week more for preschool attendance than children living in other areas of Australia (12%) (table 13).

Children usually attending a government preschool were less likely to attend preschool for 15 hours or more per week (11%) than children attending a private preschool (34%). The majority (58%) of children attending a government preschool did so for between 10 and 14 hours per week. Children attending a government preschool were more likely to have no cost (17%) than those attending a private preschool (2%). Children attending a private preschool were more likely (44%) to have high costs (\$60 or more per week) than those attending a government preschool (7%) (table 13).

Nearly half (41%) of the children usually attending a preschool in the ACT had no cost to attend preschool while in NSW the proportion was 2%. Conversely, NSW had the highest proportion (49%) of children usually attending a preschool that were paying \$60 or more per week, while the proportion for the ACT was 29% (table 13).

Trends over time

National estimates of the number of children reported as attending a preschool in the survey reference week in June 2008 are not comparable to previous years. In 2007 the Queensland Government introduced a Preparatory year of schooling prior to Year 1. This has had a significant impact on the number of children aged 3–6 years who attended preschool in Queensland in June 2008, with the proportion of children attending preschool in that state falling from 22% in 2005 to 10% in 2008. This change needs to be noted when making comparisons of preschool attendance over time both at the state and national levels. (table 24).

INFORMAL LEARNING

In June 2008, of all children aged 0–2 years, parents of 759,000 children (92%) reported involvement in informal learning activities with their children in the survey reference week. Parents reported reading to or telling a story to 80% of all children of this age, with 64% of these children being read to or told a story everyday. Children in families

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

INFORMAL LEARNING

continued

with at least one employed parent were more likely (93%) to have a parent actively involved with them in informal learning activities than if they had no employed parent (84% in couple families and 88% in one parent families). For children in couple families with no parents who were employed, of those that were read to or told them stories, 56% participated in these informal learning activities with a parent every day compared with 68% of children in families where both parents were employed. In one parent families where the parent read to their child or told them stories, the children of parents who were not employed were more likely to participate in such activities every day (54%) than children of lone parents who were employed (44%) (table 15).

Almost all children (99%) aged 3–8 years were involved in informal learning activities with their parents in the survey reference week. 1,515,000 million (96%) children aged 3–8 years had a parent read to them, tell them a story or listen while the child read. Of these children, 51% were involved in these activities every day, 31% on four to six days of the week, and 18% on one to three days (table 16).

WORK AND CHILD CARE

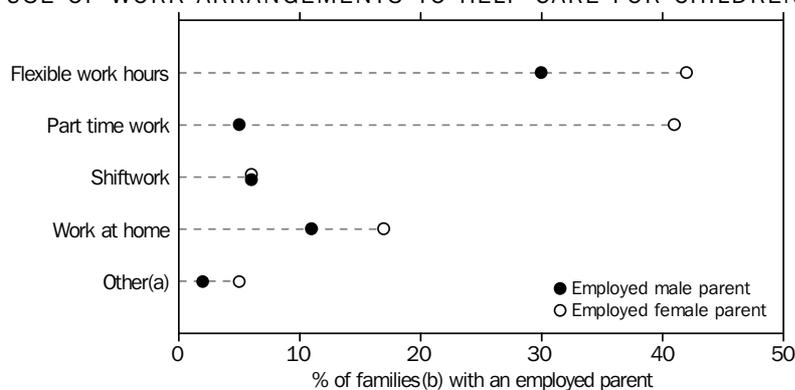
Use of care by employed parents

In June 2008, among children in couple families in which both parents were employed, 53% usually attended child care. The proportions were higher for families in which the mother was employed full-time (59%) than if the mother worked part-time (50%) (table 17). In one parent families, 70% of children with a working parent usually attended child care, compared with 40% of those whose parent was not employed (table 18).

Use of work arrangements to help care for children

Parents use a range of work arrangements to help them care for their children. These include flexible working hours, part-time work, shiftwork, work from home and job sharing arrangements. Of all families with children aged 0–12 years, with at least one parent employed, 64% indicated that at least one parent normally used one or more of these work arrangements to help them care for their children. Employed female parents in couple and one parent families (73% and 72% respectively) normally used at least one of these work arrangements. In couple families, 40% of male parents used one or more of these work arrangements, compared to 59% of employed male parents in one parent families (table 21).

USE OF WORK ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP CARE FOR CHILDREN



(a) 'Other' includes 'job sharing'

(b) Families with children aged 0-12 years

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Trends over time

In families with children aged 0–11 years with at least one parent employed, the proportion of families in which at least one parent used a work arrangement to help care for their children, increased from 53% in 1999 to 64% in 2008. The proportion who used flexible working hours to help care for their children increased over this period, from 33% in 1999 to 43% in 2008 (table 25).

In June 2008, employed female parents used work arrangements to help care for their children in almost three quarters (74%) of families, the same as in 2005. In comparison, 41% of employed male parents used work arrangements to help care for their children, up from 34% in 2005 and from 27% in 1999 (table 25).

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WORK AND CHILD CARE

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CHILDREN AGED 0-12 YEARS, Type of care usually attended by age of child

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)								Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	9-12	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Children with usual child care arrangements(a)	82	155	177	174	151	105	310	363	1 517
Type of care									
Formal care									
Before and/or after school care	—	—	—	—	*2	38	124	89	253
Long day care	17	74	110	114	82	*9	—	—	408
Family day care	*5	18	11	13	10	*4	*5	*6	71
Occasional care	**1	*7	7	8	*2	—	—	—	25
Other formal care	**2	*2	*7	*2	*4	**1	**1	**2	21
Children in formal care(b)(c)	25	96	129	131	95	52	131	96	756
Informal care									
Grandparent	54	70	76	61	65	42	132	161	660
Non-resident parent	**1	*6	10	9	9	11	45	71	162
Other relative(d)	8	12	8	*9	13	12	41	71	174
Other person	*7	11	9	12	9	14	34	43	141
Children in informal care(c)(e)	65	89	92	84	87	71	220	300	1 008
Children in formal care only	17	66	85	90	64	34	89	64	508
Children in informal care only	57	59	48	42	56	53	179	267	761
Children in both formal and informal care	8	30	45	41	31	18	41	32	248
Children with no usual child care arrangements	199	118	95	90	110	155	489	726	1 982
All children aged 0–12 years	281	273	272	264	261	260	798	1 089	3 498
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Children with usual child care arrangements(a)	29	57	65	66	58	40	39	33	43
Type of care									
Formal care									
Before and/or after school care	—	—	—	—	*1	15	16	8	7
Long day care	6	27	41	43	31	*4	—	—	12
Family day care	*2	6	4	5	4	*2	*1	*1	2
Occasional care	**—	*2	3	3	*1	—	—	—	1
Other formal care	**1	*1	*2	*1	*1	**1	**—	**—	1
Children in formal care(b)(c)	9	35	48	50	36	20	16	9	22
Informal care									
Grandparent	19	26	28	23	25	16	16	15	19
Non-resident parent	**—	*2	4	3	3	4	6	7	5
Other relative(d)	3	4	3	*3	5	5	5	7	5
Other person	*3	4	3	5	4	5	4	4	4
Children in informal care(c)(e)	23	33	34	32	33	27	28	28	29
Children in formal care only	6	24	31	34	24	13	11	6	15
Children in informal care only	20	22	18	16	21	20	22	25	22
Children in both formal and informal care	3	11	16	16	12	7	5	3	7
Children with no usual child care arrangements	71	43	35	34	42	60	61	67	57
All children aged 0–12 years	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution									
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use									
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)									
(a) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.									
(b) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.									
(c) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.									
(d) Other relative includes 'brother/sister care'.									
(e) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.									

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Children with usual child care arrangements(a)	479	381	303	127	142	43	15	26	1 517
Type of care									
Formal care									
Before and/or after school care	74	65	59	29	13	4	3	7	253
Long day care	130	91	100	31	33	11	4	8	408
Family day care	24	*14	18	*6	*3	3	**1	*1	71
Other formal care(b)	14	17	*6	*4	*2	*1	*1	*1	46
Children in formal care(c)(d)	238	179	179	66	50	20	8	16	756
Informal care									
Grandparent	215	173	107	57	71	20	5	11	660
Brother/sister	16	18	8	*3	*8	*2	*1	*1	58
Non-resident parent	46	46	27	19	16	6	*1	*2	162
Other relative	36	35	19	8	15	3	*2	*2	119
Other person	50	37	19	11	16	*4	*1	*3	141
Children in informal care(d)(e)	322	269	162	88	111	31	9	17	1 008
Children in formal care only	157	113	141	40	31	12	6	9	508
Children in informal care only	242	202	124	61	92	23	6	10	761
Children in both formal and informal care	81	67	38	26	19	8	*2	7	248
Children with no usual child care arrangements	669	473	425	117	212	40	18	29	1 982
All children aged 0-12 years	1 148	854	728	245	354	82	32	55	3 498

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Children with usual child care arrangements(a)	42	45	42	52	40	52	46	48	43
Type of care									
Formal care									
Before and/or after school care	6	8	8	12	4	5	11	12	7
Long day care	11	11	14	12	9	14	12	15	12
Family day care	2	*2	3	*2	*1	4	**2	*2	2
Other formal care(b)	1	2	*1	*2	*1	*1	*2	*2	1
Children in formal care(c)(d)	21	21	25	27	14	24	26	29	22
Informal care									
Grandparent	19	20	15	23	20	24	15	19	19
Brother/sister	1	2	1	*1	*2	*2	*4	*2	2
Non-resident parent	4	5	4	8	5	7	*3	*3	5
Other relative	3	4	3	3	4	4	*6	*3	3
Other person	4	4	3	4	5	*4	*4	*6	4
Children in informal care(d)(e)	28	31	22	36	31	37	26	31	29
Children in formal care only	14	13	19	16	9	14	19	17	15
Children in informal care only	21	24	17	25	26	28	20	19	22
Children in both formal and informal care	7	8	5	11	5	9	*6	12	7
Children with no usual child care arrangements	58	55	58	48	60	48	54	52	57
All children aged 0-12 years	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.

(b) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'.

(c) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(d) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(e) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.

	FAMILY COMPOSITION		MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME		REMOTENESS AREAS OF AUSTRALIA			Total
	Couple family	One parent family	English	Other	Major cities of Australia	Inner regional Australia	Other(a)	
Children with usual child care arrangements(b)	1 182	335	1 441	76	1 051	324	141	1 517
Type of care								
Formal care								
Before and/or after school care	193	61	246	*7	202	34	18	253
Long day care	342	66	383	24	288	92	28	408
Family day care	56	14	68	**3	31	29	*11	71
Other formal care(c)	40	*7	46	**1	29	12	*6	46
Children in formal care(d)(e)	615	142	720	36	538	158	60	756
Informal care								
Grandparent	551	109	630	30	461	133	66	660
Brother/sister	42	15	53	*4	42	*10	6	58
Non-resident parent	38	124	162	—	100	48	14	162
Other relative	91	28	113	*6	81	27	11	119
Other person	108	33	136	*4	93	29	18	141
Children in informal care(e)(f)	750	258	966	42	695	214	99	1 008
Children in formal care only	432	77	475	33	356	110	42	508
Children in informal care only	567	193	720	40	513	166	82	761
Children in both formal and informal care	183	65	246	*2	182	48	17	248
Children with no usual child care arrangements	1 718	264	1 825	157	1 316	456	210	1 982
All children aged 0–12 years	2 899	599	3 266	233	2 367	780	352	3 498

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)								
Children with usual child care arrangements(b)	41	56	44	33	44	42	40	43
Type of care								
Formal care								
Before and/or after school care	7	10	8	*3	9	4	5	7
Long day care	12	11	12	10	12	12	8	12
Family day care	2	2	2	**1	1	4	*3	2
Other formal care(c)	1	*1	1	**—	1	2	*2	1
Children in formal care(d)(e)	21	24	22	15	23	20	17	22
Informal care								
Grandparent	19	18	19	13	19	17	19	19
Brother/sister	1	3	2	*2	2	*1	2	2
Non-resident parent	1	21	5	—	4	6	4	5
Other relative	3	5	3	*3	3	3	3	3
Other person	4	5	4	*2	4	4	5	4
Children in informal care(e)(f)	26	43	30	18	29	27	28	29
Children in formal care only	15	13	15	14	15	14	12	15
Children in informal care only	20	32	22	17	22	21	23	22
Children in both formal and informal care	6	11	8	*1	8	6	5	7
Children with no usual child care arrangements	59	44	56	67	56	58	60	57
All children aged 0–12 years	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) 'Other' includes 'outer regional Australia' and 'remote Australia'.

(b) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.

(c) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'.

(d) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(e) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(f) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.

CHILDREN AGED 0-12 YEARS WHO USUALLY ATTENDED FORMAL CARE, All and main reasons attended formal care(a)

Type of formal care	ALL REASONS ATTENDED FORMAL CARE(a)			MAIN REASON ATTENDED FORMAL CARE(a)			TOTAL(b)
	Work-related(c)	Personal(d)	Beneficial for child(e)	Work-related(c)	Personal(d)	Beneficial for child(e)	Children 0-12 years who usually attended formal care
Before and/or after school care	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long day care	292	85	162	261	49	96	408
Family day care	42	16	16	37	10	*9	58
Occasional care	*9	12	11	*8	9	8	25
Other formal care	*6	*5	*12	*6	*4	*9	18
Children in formal care(f)(g)	333	113	192	298	69	118	488

CHILDREN WHO DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL ('000)

Type of formal care							
Before and/or after school care	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long day care	292	85	162	261	49	96	408
Family day care	42	16	16	37	10	*9	58
Occasional care	*9	12	11	*8	9	8	25
Other formal care	*6	*5	*12	*6	*4	*9	18
Children in formal care(f)(g)	333	113	192	298	69	118	488

ALL CHILDREN ('000)

Type of formal care							
Before and/or after school care	223	21	25	217	17	19	253
Long day care	292	85	162	261	49	96	408
Family day care	55	17	16	49	11	*9	71
Occasional care	*9	12	11	*8	9	8	25
Other formal care	*9	*5	12	*8	*4	*9	21
Children aged 0-12 years who usually attended formal care(f)(g)	569	135	218	528	86	138	756

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN WHO DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL (%)

Type of formal care							
Before and/or after school care	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long day care	72	21	40	64	12	23	100
Family day care	72	28	27	64	18	*16	100
Occasional care	34	49	44	33	35	32	100
Other formal care	*36	*27	64	*31	*22	47	100
Children in formal care(f)(g)	68	23	39	61	14	24	100

PROPORTION OF ALL CHILDREN (%)

Type of formal care							
Before and/or after school care	88	8	10	86	7	7	100
Long day care	72	21	40	64	12	23	100
Family day care	77	24	23	70	15	*13	100
Occasional care	34	49	44	33	35	32	100
Other formal care	41	*24	58	*37	*19	44	100
Children aged 0-12 years who usually attended formal care(f)(g)	75	18	29	70	11	18	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) 'All reasons' and 'main reason' attended formal care were asked in relation to formal care in general and not each individual type of care.

(b) Includes 'other' reason.

(c) 'Work-related' reasons include 'looking for work' and 'work-related study/training'.

(d) 'Personal' reasons include 'other study/training', 'sport', 'shopping', 'entertainment/social activity', 'give parents a break/time alone', 'voluntary/community activity', 'caring for relatives', 'ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist' and 'other parent-related reason'.

(e) 'Beneficial for child' includes 'good for child', 'prepare for school' and 'other child-related reason'.

(f) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(g) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

CHILDREN AGED 0-12 YEARS WHO USUALLY ATTENDED INFORMAL CARE, All and main reasons used informal care(a)

	ALL REASONS ATTENDED INFORMAL CARE(a)			MAIN REASON ATTENDED INFORMAL CARE(a)			TOTAL(b)
	Work- related(c)	Personal(d)	Beneficial for child(e)	Work- related(c)	Personal(d)	Beneficial for child(e)	Children aged 0-12 years who usually attended informal care
CHILDREN WHO DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL ('000)							
Type of informal care							
Grandparent	198	121	64	185	102	36	331
Brother/sister	*2	*4	—	*1	*4	—	*6
Non-resident parent	*9	15	21	*6	12	18	37
Other relative	28	20	*5	26	17	*4	47
Other person	34	19	*5	31	15	*3	50
Children in informal care(f)(g)	240	161	88	224	138	56	427
ALL CHILDREN ('000)							
Type of informal care							
Grandparent	419	209	143	392	171	84	660
Brother/sister	38	22	*6	35	17	*4	58
Non-resident parent	39	39	115	24	30	105	162
Other relative	77	43	14	73	37	9	119
Other person	103	43	17	98	33	*8	141
Children aged 0–12 years who usually attended informal care(f)(g)	584	311	253	546	259	185	1 008
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN WHO DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL (%)							
Type of informal care							
Grandparent	60	36	19	56	31	11	100
Brother/sister	*28	71	—	*24	68	—	100
Non-resident parent	*24	39	56	*18	32	50	100
Other relative	59	43	*11	56	36	*8	100
Other person	67	38	*10	62	31	*6	100
Children in informal care(f)(g)	56	38	21	52	32	13	100
PROPORTION OF ALL CHILDREN (%)							
Type of informal care							
Grandparent	64	32	22	59	26	13	100
Brother/sister	66	39	*10	61	30	*8	100
Non-resident parent	24	24	71	15	19	65	100
Other relative	65	36	11	61	31	8	100
Other person	73	30	12	70	23	*6	100
Children aged 0–12 years who usually attended informal care(f)(g)	58	31	25	54	26	18	100
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution							
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)							
(a) 'All reasons' and 'main reason' attended informal care were asked in relation to informal care in general and not each individual type of care.	(d) 'Personal' reasons include 'other study/training', 'sport', 'shopping', 'entertainment/social activity', 'give parents a break/time alone', 'voluntary/community activity', 'caring for relatives', 'ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist' and 'other parent related reason'.						
(b) Includes 'other' reason.	(e) 'Beneficial for child' includes 'good for child', 'prepare for school' and 'other child related reason'.						
(c) 'Work related' reason includes 'looking for work' and 'work related study/training'.	(f) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.						
	(g) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.						

CHILDREN AGED 0-12 YEARS WHO USUALLY ATTENDED CHILD CARE, Type of care by weekly hours of care

USUAL WEEKLY HOURS OF CARE

Type of care	Less than	5	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 or more	Total	Mean hours	Median hours
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)											
Formal care												
Before and/or after school care	126	73	48	*6	—	—	—	—	—	253	6	5
Long day care	*8	86	156	96	16	12	18	16	16	408	19	16
Family day care	*5	21	26	12	*3	**1	*3	**1	**1	71	16	14
Children in formal care(a)(b)(c)	156	181	231	113	22	13	21	18	18	756	14	12
Informal care												
Grandparent	292	165	109	50	13	*7	*6	16	16	660	9	5
Non-resident parent	16	*9	23	35	*5	8	*4	61	61	162	39	28
Other relative(d)	97	38	25	*6	**2	**1	**1	**3	**3	174	9	4
Children in informal care(c)(e)(f)	374	227	166	101	21	19	14	87	87	1 008	15	7
Children in formal care only	98	116	157	81	16	9	*15	16	16	508	15	12
Children in informal care only	282	165	127	74	20	13	12	69	69	761	15	7
Children in both formal and informal care	8	43	62	58	19	14	11	33	33	248	27	21
All children aged 0–12 years who usually attended child care	388	324	346	213	54	36	38	118	118	1 517	17	10

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)

Formal care												
Before and/or after school care	50	29	19	*2	—	—	—	—	—	100	..	..
Long day care	*2	21	38	24	4	3	4	4	4	100	..	..
Family day care	*7	29	36	16	*4	**2	*4	**2	**2	100	..	..
Children in formal care(a)(b)(c)	21	24	31	15	3	2	3	2	2	100	..	..
Informal care												
Grandparent	44	25	17	8	2	*1	1	2	2	100	..	..
Non-resident parent	10	*6	14	22	*3	*5	*3	38	38	100	..	..
Other relative(d)	56	22	15	*4	**1	**—	**1	**2	**2	100	..	..
Children in informal care(c)(e)(f)	37	23	16	10	2	2	1	9	9	100	..	..
Children in formal care only	19	23	31	16	3	2	*3	3	3	100	..	..
Children in informal care only	37	22	17	10	3	2	2	9	9	100	..	..
Children in both formal and informal care	3	17	25	24	8	6	4	13	13	100	..	..
All children aged 0–12 years who usually attended child care	26	21	23	14	4	2	2	8	8	100	..	..

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Children who usually attended formal care includes children who attended 'occasional care' and 'other formal care'.

(b) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(c) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(d) 'Other relative' includes 'brother/sister care'.

(e) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.

(f) Includes 'other person care'.

CHILDREN AGED 0-12 YEARS WHO USUALLY ATTENDED CHILD CARE, Type of care by usual weekly cost(a)

WEEKLY COST OF CARE(a)

Type of care	WEEKLY COST OF CARE(a)								Total(b)	Mean cost (\$)(c)	Median cost (\$)(c)
	No cost	\$1-\$9	\$10-\$19	\$20-\$39	\$40-\$59	\$60-\$79	\$80-\$99	\$100 or more			
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)											
Type of care											
Formal care											
Before and/or after school care	*8	47	69	69	36	15	*4	*2	253	26	20
Long day care	*3	16	47	91	57	40	46	103	408	73	53
Family day care	*4	*14	*8	20	9	*4	*5	*5	71	36	25
Other formal care(d)	**1	13	12	11	**3	**1	**1	*3	46	26	15
Children in formal care(e)(f)	14	84	128	187	103	60	55	111	756	53	35
Informal care											
Grandparent	645	**1	**2	*4	*2	—	—	*5	660	*1	—
Other person(g)	392	**2	*5	17	*5	*7	**2	24	455	13	—
Children in informal care(f)(h)	933	*3	*7	21	7	*7	**2	27	1 008	7	—
Children in formal care only	*11	53	87	121	65	45	38	80	508	55	35
Children in informal care only	708	**2	*6	12	*3	*5	**1	22	761	7	—
Children in both formal and informal care	**2	30	39	64	35	18	15	39	248	55	35
All children aged 0–12 years who usually attended child care	720	85	132	197	103	67	55	142	1 517	31	*6

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)

Type of care											
Formal care											
Before and/or after school care	*3	19	27	27	14	6	*1	*1	100	..	..
Long day care	*1	4	11	22	14	10	11	25	100	..	..
Family day care	*5	20	11	29	12	*6	*7	*7	100	..	..
Other formal care(d)	**2	29	26	23	**6	**2	**1	*5	100	..	..
Children in formal care(e)(f)	2	11	17	25	14	8	7	15	100	..	..
Informal care											
Grandparent	98	**—	**—	*1	*—	—	—	*1	100	..	..
Other person(g)	86	**—	*1	4	*1	*2	**—	5	100	..	..
Children in informal care(f)(h)	93	*—	*1	2	1	*1	**—	3	100	..	..
Children in formal care only	*2	10	17	24	13	9	8	16	100	..	..
Children in informal care only	93	**—	*1	2	*—	*1	**—	3	100	..	..
Children in both formal and informal care	**1	12	16	26	14	7	6	16	100	..	..
All children aged 0–12 years who usually attended child care	47	6	9	13	7	4	4	9	100	..	..

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Net cost to parent(s) after the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Tax Rebate. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 26.

(b) Includes 15,000 children aged 0–12 years where the usual weekly cost of care 'could not be determined'.

(c) Mean and median costs were calculated for all children who usually attended child care, including those for whom the weekly cost was 'no cost'.

(d) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'.

(e) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(f) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(g) 'Other person' includes 'non-resident parent', 'brother/sister', and 'other relative'.

(h) All children in informal care including those in both informal and formal care.

CHILDREN AGED 0-12 YEARS WHO USUALLY ATTENDED FORMAL CARE, Usual weekly cost by usual weekly hours attended(a)

	USUAL WEEKLY HOURS ATTENDED						Total
	Less than 5	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 or more	
.....							
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Usual weekly cost of formal care(a)							
No cost	*5	*4	*3	**2	—	**—	14
\$1-\$19	103	54	35	16	*2	**1	211
\$20-\$39	35	73	59	13	*6	*2	187
\$40-\$59	*4	38	47	11	**2	*2	103
\$60-\$79	**2	7	35	*11	*3	*3	60
\$80 or more	**1	*4	51	56	22	32	166
All children aged 0–12 years who usually attended formal care(b)	156	181	231	113	35	40	756
.....							
COST OF CARE (\$)							
Mean usual weekly cost(c)	15	30	52	87	128	141	53
Median usual weekly cost(c)	12	28	46	84	131	143	35

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Net cost to parent(s) after the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Tax Rebate. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 26.

(b) Includes 15,000 children aged 0–12 years where the usual weekly cost 'could not be determined'.

(c) Median and mean costs were calculated for all children who usually attended formal care including those for whom the weekly cost was 'no cost'.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO USUALLY ATTENDED FORMAL CARE,
Income of parents by usual weekly cost

USUAL WEEKLY COST OF FORMAL CARE(a) (b)

	No cost	\$1-\$19	\$20-\$39	\$40-\$59	\$60-\$99	\$100 or more	Total(c)	Mean cost (\$)(d)	Median cost (\$)(d)
NUMBER OF FAMILIES ('000)									
Couple families									
Weekly income of parents									
Less than \$800(e)	*2	7	12	*2	*3	*2	30	34	22
\$800-\$1199	**1	17	18	6	10	*6	60	47	32
\$1200-\$1999	*3	24	41	30	26	34	158	67	44
\$2000 or more	**1	*11	28	21	31	60	156	101	81
Total couple families(f)	7	67	105	63	79	113	444	75	49
One parent families									
Weekly income of parent									
Less than \$600(e)	**1	23	12	*5	*3	*3	48	32	20
\$600-\$999	**1	11	14	*4	*4	**1	36	36	26
\$1000 or more	—	*3	*6	*6	*4	*4	24	71	48
Total one parent families(g)	*2	38	35	16	13	*8	115	42	28
All families with children aged 0–12 years who usually attended formal care	9	105	140	79	92	121	558	68	42

PROPORTION OF FAMILIES (%)

Couple families									
Weekly income of parents									
Less than \$800(e)	*6	23	39	*8	*10	**5	100	..	..
\$800-\$1199	**1	29	30	10	17	*10	100	..	..
\$1200-\$1999	*2	15	26	19	16	22	100	..	..
\$2000 or more	**1	7	18	14	20	38	100	..	..
Total couple families(f)	2	15	24	14	18	25	100	..	..
One parent families									
Weekly income of parent									
Less than \$600(e)	**1	47	25	*10	*7	*5	100	..	..
\$600-\$999	**1	32	40	*12	*11	**3	100	..	..
\$1000 or more	—	*14	26	*24	*17	*19	100	..	..
Total one parent families(g)	*2	33	31	14	11	7	100	..	..
All families with children aged 0–12 years who usually attended formal care	2	19	25	14	16	22	100	..	..

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) All families in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(b) Net cost to parent(s) after the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Tax Rebate. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 26.

(c) Includes 12,000 families where the usual weekly cost 'could not determined'.

(d) Mean and median costs were calculated for all those families with children who attended formal care, including those for whom the usual weekly cost was 'no cost'.

(e) Includes nil and negative incomes.

(f) Includes 40,000 couple families where the income was 'not known/not stated'.

(g) Includes 7,000 one parent families where the income was 'not known/not stated'.

	ATTENDED SCHOOL		DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL		TOTAL	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Usually in formal care, informal care or preschool						
Any/additional preschool or formal care required both currently and in the future	**2	**—	11	1	13	—
Any/additional preschool or formal care is only currently required	*5	*—	50	4	55	2
Any/additional preschool or formal care required only in the future	28	1	204	15	233	7
No any/additional preschool or formal care required	233	11	438	32	670	19
<i>Children in formal care, informal care or preschool</i>	268	13	704	51	971	28
Usually in informal care only						
Any/additional preschool or formal care required both currently and in the future	**3	**—	**2	**—	*6	*—
Any/additional preschool or formal care is only currently required	*12	*1	*10	*1	21	1
Any/additional preschool or formal care required only in the future	74	3	105	8	179	5
No any/additional preschool or formal care required	406	19	79	6	485	14
<i>Children in informal care only</i>	495	23	196	14	690	20
No usual care or preschool						
Any/additional preschool or formal care required both currently and in the future	*2	*—	*4	*—	*5	*—
Any/additional preschool or formal care is only currently required	11	1	14	1	25	1
Any/additional preschool or formal care required only in the future	140	7	232	17	372	11
No any/additional preschool or formal care required	1 201	57	233	17	1 435	41
<i>Children who did not attend care or preschool</i>	1 354	64	483	35	1 837	53
All children						
Any/additional preschool or formal care required both currently and in the future(b)	*7	*—	17	1	24	1
Any/additional preschool or formal care is only currently required(b)	28	1	74	5	101	3
Any/additional preschool or formal care required only in the future(b)	241	11	542	39	783	22
No any/additional preschool or formal care required(c)	1 840	87	749	54	2 589	74
All children aged 0–12 years	2 117	100	1 382	100	3 498	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See discussion of reported requirements for any/additional formal care in the Explanatory Notes, paragraph 31.

(b) Includes both children who did not usually attend formal care or preschool for whom formal care or preschool was required, and children who usually attended formal care or preschool for whom any/additional formal care or preschool was required.

(c) Includes both children who did not usually attend formal care or preschool for whom no formal care or preschool was required, and children who usually attended formal care or preschool for whom no any/additional formal care or preschool was required.

CHILDREN AGED 0-12 YEARS WHO CURRENTLY REQUIRE ANY/ADDITIONAL FORMAL CARE OR PRESCHOOL(a), Type, quantity, reasons required and whether actively looked

	ATTENDED SCHOOL		DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL		TOTAL	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Main type of care currently required						
Preschool	—	—	36	40	36	29
Before and/or after school care	31	88	—	—	31	25
Long day care	—	—	39	43	39	31
Other formal care(b)	*4	*12	16	17	20	16
All reason any/additional formal care or preschool currently required						
Work related(c)	29	82	38	42	67	53
Personal(d)	*6	*16	17	18	22	18
Beneficial for child(e)	*8	*22	55	60	62	50
Other	**1	**2	*3	*4	*4	*3
Main reasons any/additional formal care or preschool currently required						
Work related(c)	27	77	32	35	59	47
Personal(d)	*3	*8	*11	*12	13	11
Beneficial for child(e)	*5	*14	46	51	51	40
Other	**—	**1	**2	**2	*3	*2
Number of days any/additional formal care or preschool currently required						
Less than 1 day	*8	*24	16	18	25	20
1 day	*4	*10	25	27	28	22
2 days	*4	*13	18	19	22	18
3 days	*6	*17	22	24	27	22
4 days	*4	*12	*5	*6	9	7
5 days	*9	25	*5	*6	14	11
Mean number of days required(f)	3	—	2	—	2	—
Median number of days required(f)	*3	—	3	—	2	—
Whether applied to attend any/additional formal care or preschool						
Applied for any/additional formal care or preschool and it was available	*5	*14	11	12	16	13
Applied for any/additional formal care or preschool and it wasn't available	*5	*13	20	22	25	20
Did not apply for any/additional formal care or preschool	26	73	59	66	85	68
Main reason would not attend any/additional formal care or preschool if it became available within the next four weeks						
Cost/too expensive	*4	*11	16	17	19	16
Care no longer suited needs(g)	**1	**4	*2	*3	*4	*3
Prefer/available to look after child	**1	**4	8	9	9	7
Other	**2	**5	*7	*7	*8	*7
Would attend any/additional formal care or preschool	22	62	47	52	69	55
Care was available	*5	*14	11	12	16	13
Children aged 0–12 years who currently require (additional) formal care or preschool(h)						
	35	100	91	100	126	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See discussion of reported requirement for any/additional formal care or preschool in Explanatory Notes paragraph 31.

(b) 'Other formal care' includes 'family day care' and 'occasional care'.

(c) 'Work related' includes 'looking for work' and 'work related study training'.

(d) 'Personal' includes 'other study training', 'sport', 'shopping', 'entertainment/social activity', 'give parents a break/time alone', 'voluntary/community activity', 'care for relative', 'ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist' and 'other parent-related reason'.

(e) 'Beneficial for child' includes 'good for child', 'prepare for school' and 'other child related reason'.

(f) Mean and median days were calculated for all those who required any/additional formal care or preschool, including those for whom the number of days required were less than 1 day.

(g) 'Care no longer suited needs' includes 'prefer other type of care', 'not flexible enough/not available at short notice' and 'transport/distance'.

(h) Includes both children who do not usually attend formal care or preschool for whom formal care or preschool was required, and children who usually attend formal care or preschool for whom any/additional formal care or preschool was required.

CHILDREN AGED 3-6 YEARS WHO DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL, Family composition, employment status, income of parents and remoteness—by early childhood education attendance

	CHILDREN WHO USUALLY ATTENDED A PRESCHOOL OR A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM				CHILDREN WHO DID NOT USUALLY ATTEND A PRESCHOOL OR A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM			Total
	Preschool only	Long day care with a preschool program only	Both preschool and long day care with a preschool program	Children who usually attended a preschool or a preschool program	Long day care only(a)	Did not attend either preschool or long day care	Did not usually attend a preschool or a preschool program	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)								
Couple family								
Employment status of parents								
Both parents employed full time	19	20	*5	45	6	9	14	59
One parent employed full time and one parent employed part time	79	49	14	142	14	24	38	180
One parent employed full time and one parent not employed	83	26	*7	116	10	44	54	170
Both parents employed part time	*3	*4	*2	*9	**1	*3	*4	13
One parent employed part time and the other parent not employed or neither parent employed	15	*6	**1	23	*6	*11	17	40
Weekly income of parents								
Less than \$800(b)	24	*8	*3	35	*5	12	18	53
\$800-\$1199	30	16	*4	51	7	20	26	77
\$1200-\$1999	67	40	11	118	10	30	40	158
\$2000 or more	52	33	9	94	9	16	24	118
Remoteness areas of Australia								
Major cities of Australia	139	79	16	234	26	60	86	321
Inner regional Australia	44	24	11	79	8	22	31	110
Other(c)	17	*3	*2	23	*2	9	11	34
Children in couple families(d)(e)	201	106	30	336	36	91	128	464
One parent family								
Employment status of parent								
Parent employed full time	*5	*4	*2	11	**1	*4	*5	16
Parent employed part time	8	8	*2	17	*2	*3	*5	22
Parent not employed	18	10	*3	30	*4	16	20	50
Weekly income of parent								
Less than \$600(b)	20	9	*4	33	*3	15	18	51
\$600-\$999	*5	*7	**1	14	**2	*6	*8	22
\$1000 or more	**2	*3	**1	*6	**—	**2	**3	*9
Remoteness areas of Australia								
Major cities of Australia	14	15	*3	32	*4	12	17	49
Inner regional Australia	12	*5	*3	20	**1	*9	*11	31
Other(c)	*5	**1	**1	7	**1	**1	*2	9
Children in one parent families(f)	31	21	*6	58	*6	23	30	88
All children aged 3–6 years who did not attend school	232	127	37	395	43	115	157	552

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Long day care centre may have had a preschool program but child didn't attend.

(b) Includes nil and negative incomes.

(c) 'Other' includes 'outer regional Australia' and 'remote Australia'.

(d) Includes 58,000 children in couple families where the income was 'not known/not stated'.

(e) Includes an estimated 3,000 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(f) Includes 6,000 children in one parent families where the income was 'not known/not stated'.

CHILDREN AGED 3-6 YEARS WHO DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL, Family composition, employment status, income of parents and remoteness—by early childhood education attendance *continued*

	CHILDREN WHO USUALLY ATTENDED A PRESCHOOL OR A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM				CHILDREN WHO DID NOT USUALLY ATTEND A PRESCHOOL OR A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM			Total
	Preschool only	Long day care with a preschool program only	Both preschool and long day care with a preschool program	Children who usually attended a preschool or a preschool program	Long day care only(a)	Did not attend either preschool or long day care	Did not usually attend a preschool or a preschool program	
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)								
Couple family								
Employment status of parents								
Both parents employed full time	32	34	9	76	*10	15	24	100
One parent employed full time and one parent employed part time	44	27	8	79	8	13	21	100
One parent employed full time and one parent not employed	49	15	*4	68	6	26	32	100
Both parents employed part time	*21	*32	*16	69	**5	*26	*31	100
One parent employed part time and the other parent not employed or neither parent employed	38	*16	**4	57	*15	28	43	100
Weekly income of parents								
Less than \$800(b)	45	*15	*6	66	*10	23	34	100
\$800-\$1199	39	21	*5	66	*9	26	34	100
\$1200-\$1999	42	25	7	75	6	19	25	100
\$2000 or more	44	28	8	79	8	13	21	100
Remoteness areas of Australia								
Major cities of Australia	43	24	5	73	8	19	27	100
Inner regional Australia	41	22	10	72	7	20	28	100
Other(c)	51	*10	*7	68	*6	26	32	100
Children in couple families(d)(e)	43	23	6	72	8	20	28	100
One parent family								
Employment status of parent								
Parent employed full time	*31	*22	*12	66	**6	*28	*34	100
Parent employed part time	38	35	*7	79	*8	*13	*21	100
Parent not employed	35	20	*6	61	*7	32	39	100
Weekly income of parent								
Less than \$600(b)	40	18	*7	65	*6	29	35	100
\$600-\$999	*25	33	*7	65	*9	*26	35	100
\$1000 or more	**18	*41	**8	*67	**5	**28	**33	100
Remoteness areas of Australia								
Major cities of Australia	28	30	*7	66	*9	25	34	100
Inner regional Australia	39	*17	*8	64	*5	*31	36	100
Other(c)	58	**12	**7	78	**7	**16	*22	100
Children in one parent families(f)	35	24	7	66	7	26	34	100
All children aged 3–6 years who did not attend school	42	23	7	72	8	21	28	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Long day care centre may have had a preschool program but child didn't attend.

(b) Includes nil and negative incomes.

(c) 'Other' includes 'outer regional Australia' and 'remote Australia'.

(d) Includes 58,000 children in couple families where the income was 'not known/not stated'.

(e) Includes an estimated 3,000 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(f) Includes 6,000 children in one parent families where the income was 'not known/not stated'.

	USUAL WEEKLY HOURS			USUAL WEEKLY COST				Total(a)
	Less than 10	10-14	15 or more	No cost	\$1-\$19	\$20-\$59	\$60 or more	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)								
State or territory of usual residence								
New South Wales	21	37	28	**2	*10	33	42	87
Victoria	41	39	12	12	42	21	10	92
Queensland	**2	10	15	**1	**2	15	*7	26
South Australia	8	12	*2	**1	17	*2	*1	21
Western Australia	*7	19	*3	6	15	*4	*1	29
Tasmania	*1	5	**—	**1	2	*1	**1	7
Northern Territory	**—	*1	*1	**—	2	**—	**—	2
Australian Capital Territory	**1	3	*1	*2	*1	—	*1	5
Remoteness areas of Australia								
Major cities of Australia	45	79	49	16	52	45	53	173
Inner regional Australia	26	37	*7	*7	25	24	*10	70
Other(b)	*10	10	5	*3	13	*7	*2	25
Type of preschool usually attended								
Government establishment	41	78	15	22	67	25	10	133
Non-government establishment	31	44	39	**2	16	43	50	114
Labour force status of parent(s)								
Couple family - both parents employed	32	57	33	*6	36	35	42	122
Couple family - one parent employed	35	47	17	*10	40	27	17	99
Couple family - neither parent employed	*3	*4	**—	**2	*3	**1	—	*7
One parent family - parent employed	*3	8	*6	*3	*3	*4	*4	17
One parent family - parent not employed	*7	*9	*4	*4	*9	*6	**1	21
Weekly income of parent(s)								
Less than \$800(c)	18	24	14	9	20	16	*5	56
\$800-\$999	*7	10	*4	*2	*8	*6	*3	20
\$1000-\$1199	*5	8	*3	**2	*6	*5	*3	16
\$1200-\$1399	*6	11	*4	**1	9	*6	*4	21
\$1400-\$1999	17	32	9	*5	23	18	13	59
\$2000 or more	15	27	19	*2	16	16	25	61
All children aged 3-6 years who usually attended preschool(d)(e)(f)	80	126	61	25	90	76	64	268

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 13,000 children where the usual weekly cost of care 'could not be determined'.

(b) 'Other' includes 'outer regional Australia' and 'remote Australia'.

(c) Includes nil and negative income.

(d) Includes children whose parent(s) did not know the type of preschool their child attended.

(e) Includes an estimated 3,000 children aged 3-6 years in couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(f) Includes 35,000 children where the parent(s)' income was 'not known/not stated'.

	USUAL WEEKLY HOURS			USUAL WEEKLY COST				Total(a)
	Less than 10	10-14	15 or more	No cost	\$1-\$19	\$20-\$59	\$60 or more	
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)								
State or territory of usual residence								
New South Wales	24	43	33	**2	*11	38	49	100
Victoria	45	42	13	13	46	23	11	100
Queensland	**6	38	57	**5	**7	56	26	100
South Australia	36	55	*9	**4	79	*10	*6	100
Western Australia	*23	68	*9	23	51	*12	*4	100
Tasmania	*18	75	**7	**20	32	*19	**9	100
Northern Territory	**18	*50	*32	**6	74	**2	**12	100
Australian Capital Territory	**13	67	*21	*41	*24	—	*29	100
Remoteness areas of Australia								
Major cities of Australia	26	46	28	9	30	26	31	100
Inner regional Australia	37	52	*11	*10	36	35	*14	100
Other(b)	39	41	20	*11	50	27	*8	100
Type of preschool usually attended								
Government establishment	31	58	11	17	50	19	7	100
Non-government establishment	27	39	34	**2	14	38	44	100
Labour force status of parent(s)								
Couple family - both parents employed	26	47	27	5	29	29	35	100
Couple family - one parent employed	35	47	18	10	40	28	17	100
Couple family - neither parent employed	*35	59	**6	**25	*43	**16	—	100
One parent family - parent employed	*17	45	*38	*19	*17	*27	*22	100
One parent family - parent not employed	*36	43	*21	*21	42	*27	**6	100
Weekly income of parent(s)								
Less than \$800(c)	32	42	26	17	36	28	*9	100
\$800-\$999	*34	48	*18	*11	38	*28	*13	100
\$1000-\$1199	34	50	*16	**13	37	*34	*17	100
\$1200-\$1399	28	54	*18	**3	43	29	*21	100
\$1400-\$1999	29	55	16	*8	39	30	22	100
\$2000 or more	25	44	31	*3	27	26	41	100
All children aged 3-6 years who usually attended preschool(d)(e)(f)	30	47	23	9	34	28	24	100

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 13,000 children where the usual weekly cost of care 'could not be determined'.

(b) 'Other' includes 'outer regional Australia' and 'remote Australia'.

(c) Includes nil and negative income.

(d) Includes children whose parent(s) did not know the type of preschool their child attended.

(e) Includes an estimated 3,000 children aged 3-6 years in couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(f) Includes 35,000 children where the parent(s)' income was 'not known/not stated'.

	<i>Made a good adjustment to school</i>		<i>Did not make a good adjustment to school</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Usual education/care arrangements in the two years prior to school						
Preschool	665	94	39	6	704	100
Long day care	299	92	26	8	325	100
Family day care	69	88	10	12	79	100
Care with resident parent	470	92	39	8	509	100
Care with other parent living elsewhere	27	93	*2	*7	29	100
Grandparent	131	91	13	9	145	100
Other relative	20	91	**2	**9	22	100
Other person	26	91	*3	*9	29	100
Occasional care	18	88	**2	*12	20	100
Other	11	81	*2	*19	13	100
Whether attended long day care or preschool in the year prior to school						
Attended preschool only	531	95	28	5	559	100
Attended both preschool and a preschool program in a long day care centre	70	92	*6	*8	76	100
Attended both preschool and a long day care centre (without a preschool program)(a)	62	93	*5	*7	66	100
Attended long day care only with a preschool program	127	92	*12	8	138	100
Attended long day care only (without a preschool program)(a)(b)	35	92	*3	*8	38	100
Children who did not attend either preschool or a long day care centre one year prior to school	131	87	19	13	150	100
All children aged 4-8 years who currently attend school(c)	955	93	73	7	1 028	100

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Long day care centre may have had a preschool program but child didn't attend.

(b) Includes children whose parent(s) did not know if their child attended a preschool program in long day care.

(c) Components do not add to total as children could attend more than one type of education/care arrangement in the two years prior to school.

	COUPLE FAMILY				ONE PARENT FAMILY			Total
	Both parents employed	One parent employed	Neither parent employed	Children in couple families(a)	Parent employed	Parent not employed	Children in one parent families	

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)

Parental involvement in learning activities last week								
Read from a book or told a story	283	277	25	588	25	50	74	662
Watched TV, videos or DVDs	239	233	25	499	23	52	75	574
Assisted with drawing, writing or other creative activities	186	162	18	368	17	35	52	420
Played music, sang songs, danced or did other musical activities	276	276	25	579	21	51	72	651
Played a game together indoors or outdoors	251	232	23	509	22	45	66	575
Took part in or attended a playgroup	77	91	*3	172	*6	9	15	187
None of the above	17	32	*7	57	**1	9	10	67
Number of days last week parent read from a book or told a story								
1-3 days	48	45	*6	100	*7	12	19	119
4-6 days	44	57	*4	106	*6	*10	16	122
7 days	192	175	14	382	11	27	39	421
Did not read from a book or tell a story	45	78	*16	141	*2	21	23	164
Number of books in the home								
Less than 25(b)	25	32	14	73	*4	*16	20	93
25 to less than 100	89	112	*14	217	*10	32	41	258
100 to less than 200	94	99	*5	199	8	14	22	221
200 or more	120	112	*8	240	*5	9	14	254
All children aged 0-2 years(c)	327	355	41	729	27	70	97	826

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)

Parental involvement in learning activities last week								
Read from a book or told a story	86	78	61	81	91	70	76	80
Watched TV, videos or DVDs	73	66	60	69	85	74	77	70
Assisted with drawing, writing or other creative activities	57	46	44	51	63	49	53	51
Played music, sang songs, danced or did other musical activities	84	78	60	79	77	72	74	79
Played a game together indoors or outdoors	77	65	56	70	81	63	68	70
Took part in or attended a playgroup	23	26	*8	24	*21	13	15	23
None of the above	5	9	*16	8	**5	12	10	8
Number of days last week parent read from a book or told a story								
1-3 days	15	13	*16	14	28	17	20	14
4-6 days	13	16	*11	15	*21	15	17	15
7 days	58	49	35	52	42	39	40	51
Did not read from a book or tell a story	14	22	39	19	*9	30	24	20
Number of books in the home								
Less than 25(b)	8	9	35	10	*14	23	21	11
25 to less than 100	27	32	33	30	35	45	42	31
100 to less than 200	29	28	*13	27	31	19	23	27
200 or more	37	31	*19	33	*20	*13	15	31
All children aged 0-2 years(c)	100							

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes 5,000 children 0-2 years in couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(b) Includes 'no books'.

(c) Components do not add as parent(s) maybe involved in more than one learning activity last week.

	COUPLE FAMILY				ONE PARENT FAMILY			Total
	Both parents employed	One parent employed	Neither parent employed	Children in couple families(a)	Parent employed	Parent not employed	Children in one parent families	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)								
Parental involvement in learning activities last week								
Told stories, read or listened to the child read	740	479	47	1 273	123	120	242	1 515
Used computers or the Internet	372	235	19	629	57	37	94	724
Watched TV, videos or DVD's	698	459	47	1 213	119	118	237	1 450
Assisted with homework or other educational activities	617	386	36	1 045	100	95	195	1 240
Played sport, outdoor games or board games	657	422	37	1 123	102	94	197	1 320
Involved in music, art or other creative activities	533	360	35	934	85	78	162	1 097
None of the above	*3	**5	**2	*11	*2	**2	*4	*14
Number of days last week parent spent telling stories, reading to child or listening to child read								
1-3 days	124	72	14	212	28	32	59	271
4-6 days	234	151	*11	398	38	36	75	472
7 days	382	256	22	664	57	51	108	772
Did not tell stories, read or listen to child read	22	20	*6	48	10	*10	20	68
Number of books in the home								
Under 25(b)	26	34	*7	67	*9	20	29	96
25 to less than 100	162	131	17	313	43	50	93	406
100 to less than 200	232	147	*12	394	46	29	74	468
200 or more	341	187	*16	547	35	31	66	613
All children aged 3-8 years(c)	761	498	53	1 321	132	130	262	1 584

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)								
Parental involvement in learning activities last week								
Told stories, reading or listened to the child read	97	96	89	96	93	92	92	96
Used computers or the Internet	49	47	36	48	43	29	36	46
Watched TV, videos or DVD's	92	92	90	92	90	91	90	92
Assisted with homework or other educational activities	81	77	68	79	76	73	74	78
Played sport, outdoor games or board games	86	85	71	85	77	73	75	83
Involved in music, art or other creative activities	70	72	66	71	64	60	62	69
None of the above	*—	**1	**3	*1	*1	**1	*1	*1
Number of days last week parent spent telling stories, reading to child or listening to child read								
1-3 days	16	14	26	16	21	24	23	17
4-6 days	31	30	*21	30	29	28	28	30
7 days	50	51	42	50	43	40	41	49
Did not tell stories, read or listen to child read	3	4	*11	4	7	8	8	4
Number of books in the home								
Under 25(b)	3	7	*13	5	7	16	11	6
25 to less than 100	21	26	33	24	32	39	35	26
100 to less than 200	31	29	23	30	35	22	28	30
200 or more	45	38	31	41	27	24	25	39
All children aged 3-8 years(c)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 9,000 children 3-8 years in couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(b) Includes 'no books'.

(c) Components do not add as parent(s) maybe involved in more than one learning activity last week.

	MALE PARENT/GUARDIAN EMPLOYED			MALE PARENT/GUARDIAN NOT EMPLOYED	TOTAL (a)(b)
	Female parent/guardian employed full time	Female parent/guardian employed part time	Female parent/guardian not employed	Female parent/guardian employed or not employed (c)	Children aged 0-12 years in couple families
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)					
Children with usual child care arrangements(d)	339	539	241	54	1 182
Type of care					
Formal care					
Before and/or after school care	78	86	21	*6	193
Long day care	70	166	83	21	342
Family day care	17	23	*12	*5	56
Other formal care(e)	*6	15	17	**1	40
Children in formal care(f)(g)	166	283	130	33	615
Informal care					
Grandparent	155	262	109	21	551
Non-resident parent	17	*11	*8	*1	38
Other relative(h)	52	58	18	*3	132
Other person	40	48	14	*4	108
Children in informal care(g)(i)	234	344	136	28	750
Children in formal care only	104	195	105	26	432
Children in informal care only	173	256	111	21	567
Children in both formal and informal care	61	88	25	*7	183
Children with no usual child care arrangements	235	536	769	163	1 718
All children aged 0-12 years in couple families	574	1 076	1 010	216	2 899

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes an estimated 3,000 children in same sex couple families.

(b) Includes an estimated 21,000 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(c) Employed female parent/guardian may be employed full time or part time.

(d) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.

(e) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'.

(f) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(g) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(h) 'Other relative' includes 'brother/sister care'.

(i) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.

	MALE PARENT/GUARDIAN EMPLOYED			MALE PARENT/GUARDIAN NOT EMPLOYED	TOTAL (a)(b)
	Female parent/guardian employed full time	Female parent/guardian employed part time	Female parent/guardian not employed	Female parent/guardian employed or not employed (c)	Children aged 0-12 years in couple families
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)					
Children with usual child care arrangements(d)	59	50	24	25	41
Type of care					
Formal care					
Before and/or after school care	14	8	2	*3	7
Long day care	12	15	8	10	12
Family day care	3	2	*1	*2	2
Other formal care(e)	*1	1	2	**—	1
Children in formal care(f)(g)	29	26	13	15	21
Informal care					
Grandparent	27	24	11	10	19
Non-resident parent	3	*1	*1	*1	1
Other relative(h)	9	5	2	*2	5
Other person	7	4	1	*2	4
Children in informal care(g)(i)	41	32	14	13	26
Children in formal care only	18	18	10	12	15
Children in informal care only	30	24	11	10	20
Children in both formal and informal care	11	8	2	*3	6
Children with no usual child care arrangements	41	50	76	75	59
All children aged 0-12 years in couple families	100	100	100	100	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes an estimated 3,000 children in same sex couple families.

(b) Includes an estimated 21,000 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(c) Employed female parent/guardian may be employed full time or part time.

(d) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.

(e) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'.

(f) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(g) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(h) 'Other relative' includes 'brother/sister care'.

(i) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.

	Parent/guardian employed	Parent/guardian not employed	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)			
Children with usual child care arrangements(a)	221	114	335
Type of care			
Formal care			
Before and/or after school care	51	*9	61
Long day care	32	34	66
Family day care	12	*3	14
Other formal care(b)	*3	*3	*7
Children in formal care(c)(d)	94	47	142
Informal care			
Grandparent	81	28	109
Brother/sister	12	*3	15
Non-resident parent	81	43	124
Other relative	19	*9	28
Other person	26	*7	33
Children in informal care(d)(e)	179	80	258
Children in formal care only	42	35	77
Children in informal care only	127	67	193
Children in both formal and informal care	52	13	65
Children with no usual child care arrangements	92	172	264
All children aged 0-12 years in one parent families	313	286	599

	Parent/guardian employed	Parent/guardian not employed	Total
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)			
Children with usual child care arrangements(a)	70	40	56
Type of care			
Formal care			
Before and/or after school care	16	*3	10
Long day care	10	12	11
Family day care	4	*1	2
Other formal care(b)	*1	*1	*1
Children in formal care(c)(d)	30	17	24
Informal care			
Grandparent	26	10	18
Brother/sister	4	*1	3
Non-resident parent	26	15	21
Other relative	6	*3	5
Other person	8	*2	5
Children in informal care(d)(e)	57	28	43
Children in formal care only	13	12	13
Children in informal care only	40	23	32
Children in both formal and informal care	17	5	11
Children with no usual child care arrangements	30	60	44
All children aged 0-12 years in one parent families	100	100	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.

(b) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'.

(c) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(d) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(e) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.

WEEKLY INCOME OF PARENTS

	Less than \$800(b)	\$800- \$999	\$1000- \$1199	\$1200- \$1399	\$1400- \$1999	\$2000 or more	Total(a)
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NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)

Children with usual child care arrangements(c)	76	68	92	114	305	416	1 182
Type of care							
Formal care							
Before and/or after school care	*3	*4	*8	20	51	94	193
Long day care	29	23	32	36	83	109	342
Family day care	*4	*4	*7	*7	20	13	56
Other formal care(d)	**1	*2	*6	*3	*11	13	40
Children in formal care(e)(f)	37	32	48	66	160	222	615
Informal care							
Grandparent	33	33	43	51	147	189	551
Other relative(g)	*12	*9	19	13	41	56	168
Other person	*3	**2	*5	*6	23	57	108
Children in informal care(f)(h)	44	41	57	65	194	271	750
Children in formal care only	32	27	36	49	111	145	432
Children in informal care only	38	36	44	48	145	193	567
Children in both formal and informal care	*5	*5	12	17	50	78	183
Children with no usual child care arrangements	225	155	157	170	378	380	1 718
All children aged 0-12 years in couple families	301	223	250	283	684	796	2 899

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)

Children with usual child care arrangements(c)	25	30	37	40	45	52	41
Type of care							
Formal care							
Before and/or after school care	*1	*2	*3	7	7	12	7
Long day care	10	10	13	13	12	14	12
Family day care	*1	*2	*3	*3	3	2	2
Other formal care(d)	**—	*1	*2	*1	*2	2	1
Children in formal care(e)(f)	12	14	19	23	23	28	21
Informal care							
Grandparent	11	15	17	18	22	24	19
Other relative(g)	*4	*4	7	5	6	7	6
Other person	*1	**1	*2	*2	3	7	4
Children in informal care(f)(h)	15	18	23	23	28	34	26
Children in formal care only	11	12	14	17	16	18	15
Children in informal care only	13	16	18	17	21	24	20
Children in both formal and informal care	*2	*2	5	6	7	10	6
Children with no usual child care arrangements	75	70	63	60	55	48	59
All children aged 0-12 years in couple families	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 362,000 children aged 0-12 years in couple families where the parent(s) income was 'not known/not stated' of these, 9% of children had usual care arrangements and 15% of children had no care arrangements.

(b) Includes nil and negative incomes.

(c) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.

(d) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'.

(e) All children in formal care, including those who used both formal and informal care.

(f) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(g) 'Other relative' includes 'brother/sister care' and 'non-resident parent'.

(h) All children in informal care, including those who used both informal and formal care.

	WEEKLY INCOME OF PARENT			Total(a)
	Less than \$600(b)	\$600-\$999	\$1000 or more	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)				
Children with usual child care arrangements(c)	141	107	62	335
Type of care				
Formal care				
Before and/or after school care	17	21	19	61
Long day care	35	20	7	66
Family day care	6	*4	*3	14
Other formal care(d)	*5	**—	*1	7
Children in formal care(e)(f)	59	44	29	142
Informal care				
Grandparent	48	35	20	109
Non-resident parent	48	40	26	124
Other relative(g)	12	16	9	42
Other person	13	8	10	33
Children in informal care(f)(h)	103	84	51	258
Children in formal care only	37	24	11	77
Children in informal care only	81	63	33	193
Children in both formal and informal care	22	21	18	65
Children with no usual child care arrangements	152	73	15	264
All children aged 0-12 years in one parent families	292	181	78	599

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)				
Children with usual child care arrangements(c)	48	59	80	56
Type of care				
Formal care				
Before and/or after school care	6	12	24	10
Long day care	12	11	9	11
Family day care	2	*2	*4	2
Other formal care(d)	*2	**—	*2	1
Children in formal care(e)(f)	20	25	37	24
Informal care				
Grandparent	16	20	26	18
Non-resident parent	17	22	33	21
Other relative(g)	4	9	12	7
Other person	4	5	13	5
Children in informal care(f)(h)	35	46	66	43
Children in formal care only	13	13	14	13
Children in informal care only	28	35	43	32
Children in both formal and informal care	8	12	23	11
Children with no usual child care arrangements	52	41	20	44
All children aged 0-12 years in one parent families	100	100	100	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 48,000 children aged 0-12 in one parent families where the parent's income was 'not known/not stated'.

(b) Includes nil and negative incomes.

(c) Children with more than one type of care are only counted once.

(d) 'Other formal care' includes 'occasional care'.

(e) All children in formal care, including those in both formal and informal care.

(f) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(g) 'Other relative' includes 'brother/sister care'.

(h) All children in informal care, including those in both informal and formal care.

	COUPLE FAMILIES(a)		ONE PARENT FAMILIES		ALL FAMILIES	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
FAMILIES WITH EMPLOYED MALE PARENT/GUARDIAN						
Work arrangements used by male parent						
Flexible working hours	448	30	11	40	459	30
Part-time work	72	5	*4	*15	76	5
Shiftwork	86	6	**1	**5	87	6
Work at home	157	10	*3	*12	161	11
Other(b)	29	2	**1	**3	30	2
<i>All families where male parent used work arrangements(c)</i>	602	40	16	59	619	40
All families where male parent did not use work arrangements	886	59	11	41	897	59
<i>All families with employed male parent(d)</i>	1 501	100	27	100	1 529	100
FAMILIES WITH EMPLOYED FEMALE PARENT/GUARDIAN						
Work arrangements used by female parent						
Flexible working hours	427	42	84	44	511	42
Part-time work	417	41	77	40	494	41
Shiftwork	64	6	10	5	74	6
Work at home	184	18	21	11	205	17
Job sharing	35	3	*2	*1	38	3
Any other arrangement	21	2	*5	*3	27	2
<i>All families where female parent used work arrangements(c)</i>	746	73	138	72	883	73
All families where female parent did not use work arrangements	278	27	53	28	331	27
<i>All families with employed female parent</i>	1 024	100	191	100	1 215	100
FAMILIES WITH AT LEAST ONE PARENT/GUARDIAN EMPLOYED(e)						
Work arrangements used by either parent						
Flexible working hours	664	43	95	43	759	43
Part-time work	455	29	81	37	536	30
Shiftwork	134	9	11	5	145	8
Work at home	279	18	25	11	304	17
Job sharing	39	3	*2	*1	41	2
Any other arrangement	36	2	*6	*3	42	2
<i>All families where either parent used work arrangements(c)</i>	978	63	154	70	1 131	64
All families where neither parent used work arrangements	564	36	65	30	629	36
All families with at least one parent employed(f)	1 548	100	218	100	1 766	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes an estimated 12,000 couple families where one member was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(b) 'Other' includes 'job sharing'.

(c) Components do not add to total as parent(s) could use more than one type of working arrangement.

(d) Includes couple families where 13,000 male parent/guardians were in the defence force and their work arrangements could not be determined. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 21.

(e) Includes an estimated 2,000 same-sex couples.

(f) Includes 6,000 couple families where one parent was in the defence force and the other parent was not employed and therefore the work arrangements could not be determined.

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005		JUNE 2008	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS										
Children who attend child care(b)	695	54	750	59	693	56	748	(c)60	799	(c)59
Type of care										
Formal care										
Before and/or after school care	*4	*—	*2	*—	*4	*(d)—	*2	*(d)(c)—	**2	** (c)—
Long day care(e)	171	13	227	18	282	(d)23	303	(d)24	379	28
Family day care	75	(f)6	72	(g)(f)6	77	(g)(d)6	91	(d)7	50	4
Occasional care(e)	48	(f)4	43	(f)3	34	3	47	4	25	2
Other formal care	18	(f)1	16	(f)1	9	(d)1	14	(d)(c)1	16	(c)1
Children in formal care(h)(i)	306	24	347	27	394	32	440	(c)35	454	(c)34
Informal care										
Grandparent(j)	na	na	377	30	313	25	350	28	392	29
Brother/sister	23	2	12	(g)1	10	(g)1	*4	*—	*6	*—
Other relative(k)	391	30	95	(g)7	85	(g)(d)7	84	(d)(c)7	96	(c)7
Other person	129	10	105	8	86	7	69	(c)6	62	(c)5
Children in informal care(i)(l)	518	40	549	43	456	(d)37	479	(d)(c)38	517	(c)38
Children in formal care only	177	14	201	16	237	19	269	(c)22	282	(c)21
Children in informal care only	389	(f)30	403	(f)32	300	(d)24	309	(d)(c)25	346	(c)26
Children in both formal and informal care	129	10	146	(g)11	156	(g)(d)13	171	(d)(c)14	171	(c)13
Children who did not attend child care	598	46	524	41	549	44	501	(c)40	552	(c)41
All children aged 0-4 years	1 292	100	1 274	100	1 242	100	1 249	100	1 351	100

CHILDREN AGED 5-11										
Children who attend child care(b)	701	(f)39	738	(f)40	691	(d)37	736	(d)(c)39	747	(c)40
Type of care										
Formal care										
Before and/or after school care	107	6	154	(g)8	167	(g)(d)9	225	(d)(c)12	233	(c)12
Long day care(e)	7	—	17	(g)1	15	(g)(d)1	21	(d)1	*8	*—
Family day care	22	(f)1	15	(g)(f)1	19	(g)(d)1	16	(d)(c)1	13	(c)1
Occasional care(e)	*5	*—	*3	*(g)—	*2	*(g)(d)—	**2	** (d)(c)—	—	(c)—
Other formal care	*4	*(f)—	*2	*(g)(f)—	*3	*(g)(d)—	*4	*(d)(c)—	*4	*(c)—
Children in formal care(h)(i)	141	8	187	(g)10	204	(g)11	265	(c)14	257	(c)14
Informal care										
Grandparent(j)	na	na	286	(g)16	279	(g)(d)15	282	(d)15	323	17
Brother/sister	142	8	62	(g)3	60	(g)(d)3	47	(d)(c)3	47	(c)3
Other relative(k)	335	19	127	(g)7	124	(g)(d)7	141	(d)(c)8	156	(c)8
Other person	189	(f)10	189	(f)10	141	(d)8	130	(d)(c)7	120	(c)6
Children in informal care(i)(l)	611	(f)34	613	(f)33	563	(d)30	561	(d)(c)30	589	(c)32
Children in formal care only	90	5	125	(g)7	128	(g)7	175	(c)9	158	(c)8
Children in informal care only	560	(f)31	552	(f)30	487	(d)26	471	(d)(c)25	490	(c)26
Children in both formal and informal care	51	(f)3	62	(f)3	76	(d)4	89	(d)(c)5	99	(c)5
Children who did not attend child care	1 110	(f)61	1 111	(f)60	1 167	(d)63	1 130	(d)(c)61	1 126	(c)60
All children aged 5-11 years	1 811	100	1 849	100	1 858	100	1 866	100	1 872	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) Last week refers to week prior to the interview with the exception of Tasmania where it relates to 26 May to 1 June 2008.

(b) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.

(c) Difference between the 2005 and 2008 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(d) Difference between the 2002 and 2005 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(e) Prior to 2008 children who attended school were asked if they also attended long day care and/or occasional care.

(f) Difference between the 1996 and 1999 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(g) Difference between the 1999 and 2002 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(h) All children in formal care last week, including those in both formal and informal care last week.

(i) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(j) 'Grandparent' included in 'other relative care' prior to 1999.

(k) Other relative includes 'non-resident parent'.

(l) All children in informal care last week, including those in both informal and formal care last week.

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005		JUNE 2008	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
ALL CHILDREN AGED 0-11 YEARS										
Children who attend child care(b)	1 396	45	1 488	48	1 384	45	1 484	(c)48	1 546	(c)48
Type of care										
Formal care										
Before and/or after school care	112	4	155	(d)5	171	(d)6	227	(c)7	235	(c)7
Long day care(e)	178	6	244	8	297	(f)10	324	(f)10	387	12
Family day care	96	(g)3	87	(d)(g)3	96	(d)(f)3	106	(f)3	63	2
Occasional care(e)	52	2	46	2	36	1	50	2	25	1
Other formal care	22	1	17	(d)1	12	(d)(f)—	18	(f)(c)1	20	(c)1
Children in formal care(h)(i)	447	14	533	17	597	19	704	(c)23	711	(c)22
Informal care										
Grandparent(j)	na	na	663	21	592	(f)19	631	(f)20	714	22
Brother/sister	165	5	74	(d)2	71	(d)2	51	(c)2	53	(c)2
Other relative(k)	726	23	222	(d)7	208	(d)(f)7	226	(f)(c)7	251	(c)8
Other person	318	(g)10	294	(g)9	227	(f)7	198	(f)(c)6	182	(c)6
Children in informal care(i)(l)	1 128	36	1 162	37	1 019	(f)33	1 040	(f)(c)33	1 106	(c)34
Children in formal care only	267	9	326	10	365	12	444	(c)14	440	(c)14
Children in informal care only	949	(g)31	955	(g)31	787	(f)25	780	(f)(c)25	836	(c)26
Children in both formal and informal care	180	(g)6	207	(g)7	232	8	260	(c)8	271	(c)8
Children who did not attend child care	1 707	55	1 635	52	1 716	55	1 631	52	1 677	52
All children aged 0-11 years	3 103	100	3 123	100	3 100	100	3 115	100	3 223	100

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) Last week refers to week prior to the interview with the exception of Tasmania where it relates to 26 May to 1 June 2008.

(b) Children with more than one type of care arrangement are only counted once.

(c) Difference between the 2005 and 2008 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(d) Difference between the 1999 and 2002 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(e) Prior to 2008 children who attended school were asked if they also attended long day care and/or occasional care.

(f) Difference between the 2002 and 2005 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(g) Difference between the 1996 and 1999 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(h) All children in formal care last week, including those in both formal and informal care last week.

(i) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(j) 'Grandparent' included in 'other relative care' prior to 1999.

(k) Other relative includes 'non-resident parent'.

(l) All children in informal care last week, including those in both informal and formal care last week.

	MARCH		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005		JUNE 2008(b)	
	1996		.....		.....		.....		.....
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Main reason for choosing that preschool(c)										
Cost	na	na	na	na	*5	*(d)2	*4	*(d)(e)2	*4	*(e)2
Availability	na	na	na	na	24	(d)10	31	(d)(e)12	29	(e)11
Hours of operation	na	na	na	na	*4	*(d)2	*8	*(d)3	**1	**—
Cost/availability/hours of operation(f)	na	na	33	(g)14	33	(g)(d)14	43	(d)(e)17	35	(e)13
Quality/reputation(h)	na	na	76	(g)32	92	(g)(d)39	99	(d)(e)38	94	(e)36
Close to home	na	na	79	(g)33	75	(g)(d)32	78	(d)(e)30	86	(e)34
Convenient to work/school(i)	na	na	18	(g)7	14	(g)(d)6	19	(d)7	11	4
Child's brother/sister attends/attended(j)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	12	5
Close to school	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	**4	*1
Other	na	na	27	(g)11	23	(g)(d)10	19	(d)(e)7	16	(e)6
Weekly hours attended preschool										
Less than 5 hours	26	(k)13	37	(k)16	24	(d)10	27	(d)(e)11	30	(e)12
5–9 hours	63	(k)32	66	(g)(k)28	73	(g)31	55	(e)21	62	(e)24
10–14 hours	72	(k)36	90	(g)(k)38	92	(g)(d)38	105	(d)(e)41	108	(e)42
15–19 hours	24	(k)12	32	(g)(k)14	37	(g)(d)16	49	(d)19	28	11
20 hours or more	15	(k)7	11	(g)(k)5	14	(g)(d)6	21	(d)(e)8	29	(e)11
Number of weekdays attended preschool										
One	36	18	53	23	43	18	36	14	47	18
Two	74	37	73	31	87	(d)36	96	(d)37	112	44
Three	51	25	71	(g)30	72	(g)(d)30	86	(d)33	66	26
Four	23	(k)11	24	(g)(k)10	26	(g)(d)11	22	(d)(e)9	19	(e)7
Five	17	(k)9	15	(g)(k)6	11	(g)(d)5	17	(d)(e)7	13	(e)5
All children who attended preschool last week(l)	201	100	237	100	239	100	257	100	257	100

- * estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
- ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
- na not available
- (a) Last week refers to the week prior to the interview with the exception of Tasmania where it relates to 26 May to 1 June 2008.
- (b) In 2007 Queensland introduced a preparatory year to schooling which reduced the proportion of children attending preschool in Queensland from 22% in 2005 to 10% in 2008. See Explanatory Notes paragraph 18.
- (c) Main reason for choosing that preschool was not collected in 1996.
- (d) Difference between the 2002 and 2005 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

- (e) Difference between the 2005 and 2008 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.
- (f) 'Cost', 'availability', 'hours of operation', were collapsed in 1999.
- (g) Difference between the 1999 and 2002 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.
- (h) Includes 'quality/reputation' of education program and of care.
- (i) Includes 'close to own/spouse's/partner's work', 'on the way to own/spouse's/partner's work' and 'close to child's/brother/sister's school'.
- (j) 'Child's brother/sister attends/attended' and 'Close to school' were not separately collected in 1996, 1999, 2002 & 2005.
- (k) Difference between 1996 and 1999 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.
- (l) Prior to 2008, includes children where main reason chose particular preschool could not be determined.

	MARCH		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005		JUNE 2008(b)	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
State or territory of usual residence										
New South Wales	82	41	73	(c)31	74	(c)(d)31	78	(d)(e)30	82	(e)32
Victoria	53	(f)27	73	(f)31	62	26	75	29	89	35
Queensland(b)	26	13	52	(c)22	53	(c)(d)22	56	(d)22	27	10
South Australia	16	(f)8	20	(c)(f)9	17	(c)(d)7	19	(d)(e)7	21	(e)8
Western Australia	15	8	10	4	22	(d)9	20	(d)8	29	11
Tasmania	3	(f)2	3	(f)1	6	3	4	(e)2	4	(e)1
Nothern Territory	2	(f)1	3	(c)(f)1	*1	*(c)(d)1	2	(d)(e)1	2	(e)1
Australian Capital Territory	3	(f)1	3	(c)(f)1	3	(c)(d)1	4	(d)(e)2	4	(e)2
Age of child										
3 years	70	35	60	25	47	(d)20	49	(d)19	71	28
4 years	118	(f)59	131	(f)55	148	(d)62	159	(d)(e)62	157	(e)61
5–6 years	12	6	46	(c)20	44	(c)(d)18	49	(d)19	29	11
Area of usual residence										
Capital City	121	60	127	54	143	(d)60	149	(d)(e)58	153	(e)60
Balance of State/Territory	80	40	110	46	96	(d)40	108	(d)(e)42	104	(e)40
Main language spoken at home(g)										
English	na	na	na	na	227	(d)95	246	(d)(e)96	245	(e)95
Other language	na	na	na	na	12	5	12	5	12	5
Couple family										
Employment status of parents										
Both parents employed full time	17	(f)8	20	(c)(f)9	19	(c)(d)8	23	(d)(e)9	23	(e)11
One parent employed full time and one parent employed part time	63	(f)31	69	(c)(f)29	70	(c)29	93	(e)36	90	(e)41
One parent employed full time and one parent not employed	78	(f)39	87	(c)(f)37	90	(c)38	79	(e)31	85	(e)39
Both parents employed part time	**1	—	**3	(c)1	*3	*(c)(d)1	*5	*(d)(e)2	*5	*(e)2
One parent employed part time and one parent not employed	8	4	6	(c)3	*8	*(c)(d)3	11	(d)(e)4	*9	(e)4
Neither parent employed	13	(f)6	17	(c)(f)7	15	(c)(d)6	10	(d)(e)4	*7	*(e)3
Whether other care attended										
Formal care only	11	(f)5	14	(f)6	24	(d)10	32	(d)13	23	9
Informal care only	63	(f)31	75	(f)32	54	(d)23	72	(d)(e)28	73	(e)28
Both formal and informal care	9	(f)5	14	(f)6	15	6	20	8	16	6
No other care	96	48	98	(c)41	114	(c)(d)48	101	(d)(e)39	110	(e)43
<i>Children in couple families(h)</i>	179	89	201	(c)85	207	(c)(d)87	225	(d)(e)87	222	(e)86

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

- (a) Last week refers to week prior to interview with the exception of Tasmania which relates to 26 May to 1 June 2008.
- (b) In 2007 Queensland introduced a preparatory year to schooling which reduced the proportion of children attending preschool in Queensland from 22% in 2005 to 10% in 2008. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 18.
- (c) Difference between the 1999 and 2002 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(d) Difference between the 2002 and 2005 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(e) Difference between the 2005 and 2008 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(f) Difference between the 1996 and 1999 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(g) Main language spoken at home by child was not collected in 1996 or 1999.

(h) Includes an estimated 3,000 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope/coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

	MARCH		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005		JUNE 2008(b)	
	1996		.....		.....		.....		.....
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
One parent family										
Employment status of parent										
Parent employed full time	*4	*(c)2	*3	*(d)(c)1	*3	*(d)(e)1	*4	*(e)(f)2	*7	(f)19
Parent employed part time	*3	*2	11	(d)5	10	(d)(e)4	9	(e)(f)3	10	(f)27
Parent not employed	15	(c)7	22	(d)(c)9	19	(d)(e)8	20	(e)(f)8	19	(f)54
Whether other care attended										
Formal care only	*1	*(c)1	4	(d)(c)2	*5	*(d)(e)2	6	(e)(f)2	*6	*(f)2
Informal care only	9	(c)4	14	(d)(c)6	10	(d)(e)4	11	(e)(f)4	15	(f)6
Both formal and informal care	*2	*(c)1	4	(d)(c)2	*4	*(d)(e)2	*6	*(e)(f)2	*4	*(f)2
No other care	11	(c)5	13	(d)(c)6	13	(d)(e)5	11	(e)(f)4	11	(f)4
<i>Children in one parent families</i>	22	11	36	15	32	(e)13	33	(e)(f)13	36	(f)14
All children who attended preschool last week(g)	201	100	237	100	239	100	257	100	257	100

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

- (a) Last week refers to week prior to interview with the exception of Tasmania which relates to 26 May to 1 June 2008.
- (b) In 2007 Queensland introduced a preparatory year to schooling which reduced the proportion of children attending preschool in Queensland from 22% in 2005 to 10% in 2008. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 18.
- (c) Difference between the 1996 and 1999 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

- (d) Difference between the 1999 and 2002 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.
- (e) Difference between the 2002 and 2005 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.
- (f) Difference between the 2005 and 2008 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.
- (g) Includes an estimated 3,000 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope/coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005		JUNE 2008(b)	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
FAMILIES WITH EMPLOYED MALE PARENT/GUARDIAN										
Work arrangements used by male parent										
Flexible working hours	214	16	232	18	273	22	350	25	433	30
Part-time work	18	1	24	2	37	(c)3	41	(c)3	73	5
Shiftwork	71	(d)5	69	(e)(d)5	68	(e)(c)5	85	(c)(f)6	83	(f)6
Work at home	88	7	95	7	114	(c)9	123	(c)9	154	11
Job sharing	11	1	7	1	6	1	12	(f)1	10	(f)1
Other	17	(d)1	16	(e)(d)1	19	(e)(c)2	24	(c)(f)2	19	(f)1
<i>All families where male parent used work arrangements(g)</i>	341	(d)26	344	(d)27	378	30	480	34	584	41
All families where male parent did not use work arrangements	965	(d)74	943	(d)73	880	70	933	66	839	58
<i>All families with employed male parent</i>	1 306	100	1 287	100	1 258	100	1 414	100	(h)1 435	100
FAMILIES WITH EMPLOYED FEMALE PARENT/GUARDIAN										
Work arrangements used by female parent										
Flexible working hours	281	31	341	(e)37	371	(e)39	470	(f)44	474	(f)42
Part-time work	260	29	312	(e)34	334	(e)(c)35	378	(c)35	468	42
Shiftwork	58	6	79	(e)9	71	(e)(c)7	87	(c)8	70	6
Work at home	165	18	143	15	174	(c)18	185	(c)(f)17	197	(f)18
Job sharing	36	4	36	4	40	(c)4	43	(c)(f)4	36	(f)3
Other	24	(d)3	33	(e)(d)4	32	(e)(c)3	28	(c)(f)3	24	(f)2
<i>All families where female parent used work arrangements(g)</i>	618	(d)69	627	(d)68	673	70	790	(f)74	822	(f)74
All families where female parent did not use work arrangements	281	(d)31	298	(d)32	282	30	278	(f)26	295	(f)26
<i>All families with employed female parent</i>	899	100	926	100	955	100	1 070	100	1 117	100
FAMILIES WITH AT LEAST ONE PARENT/GUARDIAN EMPLOYED (b)										
Work arrangements used by either parent										
Flexible working hours	413	29	475	33	516	35	657	(f)41	709	(f)43
Part-time work	275	19	336	(e)23	357	(e)(c)24	402	(c)25	507	31
Shiftwork	119	8	136	(e)9	124	(e)(c)9	154	(c)(f)10	137	(f)8
Work at home	216	15	198	14	239	(c)16	256	(c)16	291	18
Job sharing	41	3	40	3	43	(c)3	50	(c)(f)3	39	(f)2
Other	40	(d)3	46	(e)(d)3	48	(e)(c)3	47	(c)(f)3	39	(f)2
<i>All families where either parent used work arrangements(g)</i>	757	(d)52	773	(d)53	821	56	974	61	1 058	64
All families where neither parent used work arrangements	690	(d)48	689	(d)47	638	44	621	39	581	35
All families with at least one parent employed	1 447	100	1 463	100	1 459	100	(i) 1 597	100	(j) 1 646	100

(a) Excludes an estimated 2,000 same-sex couple families.

(b) In June 2008, excludes an estimated 11,000 couple families where one parent was out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force Survey, therefore employment data was not available. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 6.

(c) Difference between the 2002 and 2005 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(d) Difference between the 1996 and 1999 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(e) Difference between the 1999 and 2002 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(f) Difference between the 2005 and 2008 proportion is not statistically significant, see Technical Note.

(g) Components do not add to total as parents could use more than one type of work arrangement.

(h) In June 2008, includes couple families where 12,000 male parent/guardians were in the defence force and their work arrangements could not be determined. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 21.

(i) In June 2005, includes 2,000 families where work arrangements could not be determined, due to a sequencing error.

(j) In June 2008, includes 6,000 couple families where one parent was in the defence force and the other parent was not employed and therefore the work arrangements used by the defence force member could not be determined. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 21.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS) that was conducted throughout Australia in June 2008 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

2 The CEaCS collected information on:

- usual care arrangements (for type of care, hours and cost)
- care arrangements used in the survey reference week (for type of care, hours and cost)
- usual attendance at a preschool
- attendance at a preschool in the survey reference week
- usual attendance at a preschool program in long day care
- need for any/additional formal care or preschool
- other early childhood education and learning information (the types of learning activities that children aged 0–8 years engage in, the environments in which these activities take place, and patterns of attendance at preschool and school).

3 The main aims of the survey were to provide estimates of:

- child care arrangements for children aged 0–12 years
- early childhood education and learning for children aged 0–8 years
- some aspects of families' requirements for formal care or preschool
- the education, income and working arrangements of parents with children aged 0–12 years.

4 From 1969 to 2005 the ABS conducted 12 Child Care Surveys (CCS). The main aims of those surveys was to provide information on the use and cost of child care (related to care usage in the survey reference week), and some aspects of families' requirements for formal care or preschool. The 2008 CEaCS added to reference week observations by also collecting the usual attendance characteristics of care and preschool attendance, as well as new measures of early childhood education and learning.

5 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS. It contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing relevant to both the LFS and supplementary surveys. From April 2001 the LFS has been conducted using a redesigned questionnaire containing additional questions and some minor definitional changes. These changes, described in *Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (cat. no. 6295.0) will have had only a very minor effect on the labour force status of parents reflected in the time series table 25 in this publication.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

6 The scope of 2008 CEaCS was Australian resident children aged 0–12 years and their families living in private dwellings in non-remote Australia. The survey therefore excludes:

- any non-resident children visiting Australia (children of diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia, or non-residents otherwise visiting Australia)
- residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, hotels and motels.

7 The 2008 CEaCS also excluded, for practical coverage reasons, families where both parents/guardians were either members of the Australian permanent defence forces, or were temporarily overseas, or away from home for an extended period (See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more detail). However, as long as at least one parent in the household was in scope for the LFS, information about children aged 0–12 years and some information about their parents were able to be included in the 2008 CEaCS. For example, the results include estimates for 25,000 children aged 0–12 years

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

continued

for whom information about their care and early childhood education and learning were obtained from the estimated 14,000 partners of currently serving Australian permanent defence forces personnel. However, no employment information was available for the estimated 21,000 children aged 0–12 years for whom one of their parents was away from home for an extended period.

8 The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except in the Northern Territory where such persons account for around 23% of the population.

SAMPLE SIZE

9 Supplementary surveys are not conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to the first 7 of the 8 months during which a dwelling is enumerated in the LFS i.e. seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

10 There was an overall reduction in the survey sample from the June 2005 Child Care Survey to the June 2008 CEaCS of 16%. This reduction is due in part to the usual sample reductions that occur as part of the LFS redesign following each Census - the redesign based on the 2006 Census was implemented over the period November 2007 to June 2008. After redesign the LFS sample size grows each year as the population grows until the next redesign. A reduction of about 5% in the June 2008 CEaCS sample from the June 2005 Child Care Survey sample is due to this redesign, which will generally have no impact on the quality of CEaCS estimates. However, in developing the 2006 LFS sample design, the ABS also implemented further sampling efficiencies resulting from the introduction of a new estimation method (for details of this method refer to *Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007* (cat. no. 6292.0)). This enabled a further 11% reduction in the LFS sample size with only minor reductions in data quality, relative to the previous design, for employment estimates at the national and state and territory level. For other estimates, such as those compiled from CEaCS, the quality has not been maintained because the new LFS estimation method does not provide the same efficiency gains to supplementary surveys, and standard errors are therefore higher.

TABLE 1 - CEACS SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

	2005	2008
NSW	2 359	2 110
Vic.	2 071	1 672
Qld	2 016	1 557
SA	1 168	877
WA	1 417	1 095
Tas.	597	579
NT	191	322
ACT	409	350
Australia	10 228	8 562

COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

11 Information was obtained through interviews conducted over a two-week period between 9-21 June 2008. Information about usual child care arrangements and usual preschool attendance is affected by the specific timing of data collection, the age of the child at that time, and state policies on age eligibility for enrolment at school and preschool which affect the likelihood of a child being enrolled at the time of the survey.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

continued

12 For information on survey reference week measures, in all states and territories except Tasmania, data were collected on the use of child care and attendance at preschool related to the week prior to the interview (the survey reference week, chosen to avoid school holidays). In Tasmania, where school holidays were earlier than in other jurisdictions, respondents were asked to recall child care usage and preschool attendance related to the period 26 May to 1 June 2008.

13 In each selected household, detailed information about child care arrangements and early childhood education was collected for a maximum of two children aged 0–12 years. Information was obtained from an adult who permanently resided in the selected household and was either the child's parent, step-parent or guardian. In households with more than two children aged 0–12 years, two children were randomly selected from within the same family and the complete set of information was collected for these children. In households with multiple families information was collected for children from only one family. Summary information was collected for other children in the family including: number attending child care and/or preschool; CCB arrangements; and the cost of formal care, informal care and preschool.

14 This sampling methodology is similar to that used in 2002 and 2005. However, in 2005, in selected households with more than two children aged 0–12 years, two children were randomly selected from across all families in the household i.e. children could have been selected from two different families within a multi-family household. Different sampling methodologies were used in surveys prior to 2002. In 1999 a small set of information was collected for each of the 3rd, 4th and 5th children in the household and the sampling methodology used in 1996 survey, where a complete set of childcare information was collected for all children resident in a selected household.

CHANGES BETWEEN SURVEYS

15 Two major changes were made to the 2008 CEaCS.

- Information was collected for the first time about usual child care and/or preschool attendance, cost and hours. Previous surveys only collected information about child care and/or preschool attendance, cost and hours in the survey reference week. The 2008 CEaCS therefore provides information to enable an understanding of children's usual pattern of child care and/or preschool attendance, cost, and hours (especially for those children who for whatever reason did not attend care in the reference week but usually attended care). With the exception of tables presenting time series data, tables in this publication present child care and preschool attendance on a usual basis, although some comparisons between usual usage/attendance and reference week usage/attendance are provided in the summary of findings.
- New information on early childhood education and learning was collected for the first time:
 - For children already attending school, information was collected on participation and non-participation in preschool education programs (whether provided in a preschool or in long day care) prior to attending school; and the extent to which the preschool teachers or carers had communicated to parents about their child's progress and learning goals at preschool or long day care. Information was also collected on: the child's health; whether they received any remedial assistance related to their development; and adjustment to and progress at school.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

CHANGES BETWEEN SURVEYS

continued

- For children aged 3–6 years not yet attending school, information was collected on the types of formal learning activities they participated in, including: attendance at a preschool or in a preschool program in long day care; the type (government/non-government) of preschool attended; as well as patterns of attendance. The extent to which the preschool teachers/carers communicated to parents about their child's current progress and learning goals at preschool or long day care was also collected. For children who did not attend an early childhood program, information was collected on why they did not attend and whether there were any barriers to attendance.
- For children aged 0–8 years, information was collected about the child's participation in informal learning activities at home or elsewhere (excluding formal learning environments). A particular focus was on reading (and being read to) and whether parents or anyone else were actively involved in these learning activities.

16 The following changes were also made to the 2008 CEaCS:

- Preschool information was only asked for children aged 3–6 who did not attend school.
- Long day care and occasional care attendance were only asked for children who did not attend school.
- Before and/or after school care was only asked for children who attended school.
- A number of changes were made to the questions on requirements for any/additional formal care or preschool which aimed at improving the measure of current requirements by asking parents separately about their current and their expected future needs for formal care or preschool. In previous surveys parents were only asked about their requirements for formal care or preschool in the previous four weeks. The 2008 CEaCS was also the first ABS survey to ask parents who have a current requirement whether they had taken active steps to try and find the child care or preschool they required, including:
 - Whether enquiries were made about the availability of any/additional formal care or preschool;
 - Whether they had applied for any/additional formal care or preschool; and
 - Whether parents would have used any/additional formal care or preschool if it became available in the next four weeks.
 - Improvements were made to the collection of summary information for children in the family other than the two selected children, to allow total cost for the family to be reported separately for formal care, informal care and preschool.

17 Additional content was collected in the survey including:

- Main reason attended preschool/long day care for less than usual number of hours last week;
- Hours paid for, to improve the measure of cost per hour of care;
- Eligibility for primary school and reasons for not attending school if eligible;
- Type of care attended during previous school holidays;
- Parental educational attainment and participation, including: highest non-school qualification of female parent/guardian and male parent/guardian; field of highest non-school qualification of female parent/guardian and male parent/guardian; and highest year of school completed by female parent/guardian and male parent/guardian.

USING THE DATA

- 18** In 2007 the Queensland government introduced a Preparatory year of schooling prior to Year 1. This has had a significant impact on the number of children aged 3–6 years who attended preschool in Queensland in June 2008, with the proportion of children attending preschool in that state falling from 22% in 2005 to 10% in 2008 (see

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

USING THE DATA *continued*

table 24 in this publication). This change needs to be noted when making comparisons of preschool attendance over time both at the state and national levels.

19 To minimise the reporting load on families, in CEaCS in June 2008 parental educational attainment and participation information was only collected from those households entering the LFS in June 2008. For the remaining CEaCS sample in June 2008, parental education data had been collected in the May 2008 LFS supplementary survey, the Survey of Education and Work, and these data were used in CEaCS. For 7% of parents in CEaCS, education data could not be matched or was otherwise unavailable.

20 Care needs to be taken when comparing the 2008 CEaCS data with other surveys or administrative data, as the CEaCS collects child care and preschool attendance patterns both on a usual basis and in a survey reference week at a point in time (i.e June 2008) compared to other data sources that are often collected on an annual or quarterly basis.

21 Information about the working arrangements used by parent/guardians to help care for their child was not available for parent/guardians who were out of scope of the labour force for any reason, including parent/guardians who were members of the permanent Australian Defence Force.

WEIGHTING AND BENCHMARKING

22 The weighting methodology for the 2008 CEaCS is the same as that used for the 2005 Child Care Survey. This methodology differs slightly from that used in the 2002 Child Care survey. In 2002, 2005 and 2008, the method for determining the family level weights for the survey initially involved household composition benchmarks which take account of the number of adults and children under 15 in each household. The household composition benchmarks were further refined to the age scope of children in the survey i.e. children aged under 13 years. For the June 2002 Child Care Survey this refinement to the benchmarks used sample count proportions from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in June 2002. The June 2005 Child Care Survey and June 2008 CEaCS used the weighted proportions from the June 2005 LFS and the June 2008 LFS respectively for this refinement. Further, in 2005 and 2008, person level benchmarks were used in addition to the household composition benchmarks in deriving the family weights.

CHILD CARE BENEFIT AND THE CHILD CARE TAX REBATE

23 The Child Care Benefit (CCB) was introduced in July 2000 and replaced Child Care Assistance and the Child Care Rebate. The CCB is applicable to families who use approved and registered care.

24 Families using approved child care services can choose to receive their CCB as reduced child care fees (benefit paid direct to provider) or as a lump sum payment at the end of the financial year (benefit paid direct to parent). Families using registered care can claim their CCB within twelve months of the care being provided upon production of receipts.

25 Families who receive the CCB for approved care may also be eligible to receive the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) which was introduced in December 2005. The CCTR covers a percentage of out-of-pocket expenses for approved child care. As at June 2008, the maximum amount claimable per child per financial year was \$4,354. Out of pocket expenses are total child care fees less CCB. For the 2007–2008 financial year, the CCTR coverage percentage was 30%. See the following section on cost of care for more information about the impact of the CCB and CCTR on the CEaCS measure. For more information on different types of family assistance, see <<http://www.familyassist.gov.au>>.

COST OF CARE

26 Within this publication, cost of care is reported as the net cost of care to the parents after the CCB and CCTR have been deducted.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COST OF CARE *continued*

27 Most families receive the CCB in the form of a fee reduction that is paid directly to the child care service provider. In these cases, questions in the 2008 CEaCS prompt families to report the out of pocket amount they have paid to the child care service provider after CCB.

28 In a minority of cases, where parents have claimed or intend to claim the CCB as a lump sum, the amount of CCB has been estimated. The CCB was estimated based on information provided in the CCB Ready Reckoner and the Child Care Service Handbook 2007–2008 provided by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The value of the CCB can be calculated using information about: the type of care; the number of hours of care; the standard hourly rate; family income and number of children in the family using child care; whether the child attends school; and for long day care and family day care, whether the care is part-time or full-time.

29 In estimating the CCB for the small number of cases where parents were claiming a lump sum payment, it was assumed that:

- if the parent intended to claim the CCB, then the care provider was eligible (i.e. an approved or registered child care service);
- basic eligibility requirements for the benefit were met (e.g. residency and children's immunisation);
- the parent would be willing to provide their tax file number to the Family Assistance Office, which would enable them to obtain the CCB above minimum rates (depending upon the parents' income); and
- the parent met the CCB work, study and training test, which is required for CCB in relation to registered care and is required for CCB in excess of 20 hours care per week for approved care.

30 It has also been assumed that if families received the CCB or were intending to claim the CCB for approved care then they would also be eligible for the CCTR paid in the 2007/2008 financial year as an annual lump sum through the the Family Assistance Office at the end of that financial year. The reduction in child care fees was calculated on the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by families for approved care after the CCB. As assumptions were made about families' eligibility for the CCB and CCTR, care should be taken when using estimates of cost of care data presented in this publication.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMAL CHILD CARE OR PRESCHOOL

31 The 2008 CEaCS and its CCS predecessors, collected information to support investigations of overall requirements for formal child care and preschool services. In this publication the summary measure of requirements for any/additional formal care or preschool has been redeveloped to include measures on 'current need' as well as expected 'future need'. These measures are shown in table 10 and they refer to parents whose child is or is not using any child care or preschool services currently and who require a service currently and/or in the future.

32 The measure of 'current need' for any/additional formal care or preschool supports comparisons between population subgroups of requirements for formal child care or preschool. It is not an indicator of the required number of additional child care or preschool places and should not be misinterpreted as referring to 'the number of children on waiting lists for child care or preschool' or 'the actual number of additional child care or preschool places required' or as a definitive measure of unmet need for formal child care or preschool.

33 Even though improvements have been made in the CEaCS to the 'current need' measure it still does not indicate the conditions under which the interest in using a service would become effective. For example, the cost of the care and how that might affect its use, or how the location of the service might influence a parent's ability to or willingness to make use of the service. Other factors such as service type, quality of care, and flexibility of access over different periods of time are also complexities that may

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMAL CHILD CARE OR PRESCHOOL <i>continued</i>	influence a person's decision to use a child care or preschool service for their child. Assessing levels of demand for child care or preschool places must therefore be more specific about such conditions.
RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES	<p>34 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.■ non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient processing procedures.
NEXT SURVEY	<p>35 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in June 2011.</p>
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	<p>36 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.</p>
PRODUCTS AND SERVICE	<p>37 An electronic version of the tables released in this publication, in spreadsheet format, will be available on the ABS web site (see www.abs.gov.au, cat. no. 4402.0). The spreadsheets present the estimates, proportions and related RSE's for each publication table.</p>
<i>Data item list</i>	<p>38 A full list of data items available for the survey is available on the ABS web site entry for this publication (see www.abs.gov.au, cat. no. 4402.0).</p>
<i>State/territory tabulations</i>	<p>39 Selected tables from this publication, compiled at the state and territory level will be available as spreadsheets on the ABS web site. These tables will be customised depending on the size of the sampling error (see www.abs.gov.au, cat. no. 4402.0).</p>
<i>Microdata</i>	<p>40 For users who wish to undertake more detailed analysis of the survey data, microdata is available in the form of a confidentialised unit record file (CURF) (cat. no. 4402.0.55.001). The CURF is only available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL), which is a secure Internet-based data query service. Technical information describing the content and use of the CURF is available in a Technical Manual (cat. no. 4402.0.55.002).</p> <p>41 A full range of up-to-date information about the availability of ABS CURFs and about applying for access to CURFs is available via this web site www.abs.gov.au (see Services We Provide, Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs)). Inquiries to the ABS Microdata Access Strategies Section should be made by e-mail: microdata.access@abs.gov.au, or telephone (02) 6252 7714.</p>
<i>Special data services</i>	<p>42 The ABS offers specialist consultancy services to assist clients with more complex statistical information needs. Clients may wish to have the unit record data analysed according to their own needs, or require tailored tables incorporating data items and populations as requested by them. Tables and other analytical outputs can be made available electronically or in printed form. However, as the level of detail or disaggregation increases with detailed requests, the number of contributors to data cells decreases. This may result in some requested information not being able to be released due to confidentiality or sampling variability constraints. All specialist consultancy services attract a service charge, and clients will be provided with a quote before</p>

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Special data services continued

information is supplied. For further information, contact ABS information consultants on 1300 135 070.

RELATED PRODUCTS

43 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available on the ABS web site www.abs.gov.au. Other ABS products which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0) September 2008.
- *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0) March 2009.
- *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia, July 2006 to June 2007* (cat. no. 6239.0).
- *Child Care, Australia, June 2005* (cat. no. 4402.0) Second Reissue.
- *Children, Australia: A Social Report, 1999* (cat. no. 4119.0) Updated 20 June 2006.
- *Family Characteristics & Transitions, Australia, 2006–07*, (cat. no. 4442.0).
- *Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2001–2026* (cat. no. 3236.0).
- *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September, 2008* (cat. no. 6220.0).

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CCB	Child Care Benefit
CCTR	Child Care Tax Rebate
FTB	Family Tax Benefit
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 Estimates of children are derived using a ratio estimation procedure which ensures that estimates conform to an independently estimated state by age by sex distribution of children in the population, rather than to the state by age by sex distribution within the sample itself. Estimates of families conform to an independently estimated state by household composition distribution in the population, where household composition was defined by the number of adults and children within a household.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

2 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

3 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate:

$$RSE\% = \left(\frac{SE}{estimate} \right) \times 100$$

4 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to present the RSE of each estimate in the publication. However, RSEs for estimates (with the exception of 1999 data) are in the spreadsheet version of the publication tables, available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> as an attachment to this publication, Childhood Education and Care, Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 4402.0).

5 In the tables in this publication, only estimates (numbers and proportions, means and medians) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger RSEs have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *13.5) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **2.1) to indicate that they are considered too unreliable for general use.

COMPARISON OF ESTIMATES

6 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates. Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

7 While the above formula will be exact only for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics of subpopulations, it is expected that it will provide a reasonable approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

8 The statistical significance test for any of the comparisons between estimates over time was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula in paragraph 5. This standard error is then used to calculate the following test statistics:

$$\frac{[x-y]}{SE(x-y)}$$

9 If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96 then we may say there is good evidence of a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations.

10 The selected tables in this publication that show the results of significance testing are annotated to indicate whether or not the estimates which have been compared are significantly different from each other with respect to the test statistic. In all other tables which do not show the results of significance testing, users should take account of RSEs when comparing estimates for different populations.

11 The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and recording by interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and they occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or sample. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

CALCULATING STANDARD
ERRORS FOR PROPORTIONS

12 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. For proportions where the denominator is an estimate of the number of persons in a group and the numerator is the number of persons in a sub-group of the denominator group, the formula to approximate the RSE is given by:

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

GLOSSARY

Any/additional formal care	Includes current and/or future requirements for a child care or preschool service for: children who do not currently use any child care or preschool; children who need additional child care or preschool services; and children who require a different type of service other than the child care or preschool service currently being used.
Approved care	Includes child care providers that meet the standards and requirements of the Australian Government quality assurance system. These requirements include having a license to operate, qualified and trained staff, being open certain hours, and meeting health, safety and other quality standards. Most long day care, family day care, before and/or after school care, vacation care, and some occasional care providers are approved child care providers.
Area of usual residence	State capital cities comprises the Statistical Divisions of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. Note that Darwin and Canberra are excluded from this category. Balance of Australia comprises all areas outside the capital cities mentioned above, plus Canberra and Darwin.
Before and/or after school care	A type of formal care provided for school aged children before and/or after school during the school term. Some services also provide care on 'pupil free days'. The services usually make use of established facilities such as schools, community halls, and recreation centres.
Brother/sister care	Informal care by the child's brothers or sisters, including step brothers or sisters.
Child care arrangements	Relates to those types of care described as formal and informal.
Child Care Benefit (CCB)	Assistance in the form of a payment made by the Australian Government to help with the costs of child care for families who use either approved or registered child care.
Child care last week	Refers to care in the survey reference week i.e. for interviews starting Monday 9 June and ending Sunday 15 June, the reference week starts on Monday 2 June and ends Sunday 8 June. For interviews starting Monday 16 June and ending Saturday 21 June, the reference week starts Monday 9 June and ends Sunday 15 June. With the exception of Tasmania where the survey reference week related to 26 May to 1 June 2008 to avoid Tasmanian school holidays.
Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR)	A tax offset, passed by Parliament in December 2005. In general terms, as a result of the Child Care Tax Rebate, families with a tax liability will be eligible for 30 percent, as at June 2008, of out-of-pocket expenses incurred for approved child care, up to a maximum of \$4,354 per child per year. The CCTR applies to out-of-pocket expenses for approved child care. The CCTR is available for families who receive Child Care Benefit (CCB) and meet the CCB work, study and training test.
Cost of care	Cost, net of Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR), to parents for a child to attend care.
Family	Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.
Family composition	Refers to one parent or couple families.
Family day care	A type of formal care provided by experienced caregivers in their own homes, available for a full day or part day. Schemes are administered and supported by central coordination units.
Female parent/guardian	The natural, adopted or step mother of the child, the female guardian of the child, or the spouse or de facto partner of the male parent/guardian. The female parent/guardian must be resident in the same household as the child.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Formal care	Regulated care away from the child's home. The main types of formal care are before and/or after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care.
Full-time/part-time workers	<p>Full-time workers are employed persons who usually work 35 hours or more a week and others who, although they usually work less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.</p> <p>Part-time workers are employed persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week.</p>
Government or state establishment	Includes any preschool/kindergarten conducted or managed principally by a state/territory or Australian Government agency. Excludes preschool/kindergarten program conducted in a Government child care agency.
Grandparent care	Informal care provided by the child's grandmother or grandfather.
Hours of care	Number of hours a child attended child care.
Hours paid for	Hours of child care that are paid for rather than the number of hours the child actually attended that care.
Hours worked	Number of hours actually worked by the child's parent(s).
Informal care	Non-regulated care, arranged by a child's parent/guardian, either in the child's home or elsewhere. It comprises care by (step) brothers or sisters, care by grandparents, care by other relatives (including a non-resident parent) and care by other (unrelated) people such as friends, neighbours, nannies or babysitters. It may be paid or unpaid.
Informal learning	Refers largely to unstructured, non-institutionalised learning activities that may occur in the family and/or in daily life.
Long day care	Regulated, centre-based care that is available to children between birth and school age for the full day or part day. Centres are usually open for most of the year.
Male parent/guardian	The natural, adopted or step father of the child, or the male guardian of the child, or the spouse or de facto partner of the female parent/guardian. The male parent/guardian must be resident in the same household as the child.
Mean	The mean of a numeric variable is calculated by summing the values of all observations in a data set and then dividing by the number of observations in the set. It is often referred to as the average.
Median	The value that divides the population into two equal parts, one falling below the value and one above.
Non-government establishment	Includes any preschool/kindergarten conducted or managed by a non-government institution or organisation, including a catholic school or preschool/kindergarten or an independent school or preschool/kindergarten.
Non-resident parent	One of the child's natural parents who is not usually resident in the same household as the child.
Occasional care	A type of formal care provided mainly for children who have not started school. These services cater mainly for the needs of families who require short term care for their children.
Other formal care	A type of formal care other than before and/or after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care.
Other person care	Informal care by people who are not related to the child such as family friends, babysitters, nannies or neighbours.
Other relative care	Informal care by relatives of the child excluding (step) brothers and sisters, and grandparents. It includes care by 'in-laws' who are not grandparents of the child, and other relatives such as aunt, uncle or cousin .

GLOSSARY *continued*

Parental involvement	Refers to parent's active behavioural engagement that supports or encourages children's learning activities.
Preschool	Educational and development programs for children up to two years prior to commencing full-time primary education.
Preschool program in a long day care	A program in a long day care centre which is structured and planned as part of an early childhood education program with specific educational aims and objectives. The program aims to meet the educational and developmental needs of children of at least 3 years of age, although some younger children may be involved in such programs.
Registered care	Child care (for parents with work-related responsibilities) provided by nannies, grandparents, relatives or friends who are registered with the Family Assistance Office. It can also include care provided by some private preschools, kindergartens, some occasional care centres and some outside school hours care services.
Remoteness	<p>The ABS has defined Remoteness within the AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION (ASGC). The ASGC Remoteness Structure is defined only in census years, commencing with the census year 2001, and includes all Collection Districts (CDs) across Australia. The purpose of the Remoteness Structure is to classify CDs which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs). The structure defines six RAs: Major Cities of Australia; Inner Regional Australia; Outer Regional Australia; Remote Australia; Very Remote Australia; and Migratory.</p> <p>The delimitation criteria for RAs are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA), which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre (ASGC 2001) in each of five size classes. For this survey, the ASGC 2001 CDs were used. The RAs were derived by calculating the average ARIA index value for each CD and applying the ASGC 2001 RA criteria.</p> <p>The Migratory category is out of scope of this survey.</p> <p>The Remoteness Structure is described in detail in the publication <i>Statistical Geography Volume 1 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2001</i> (cat. no.1216.0).</p>
Usual child care attendance	Refers to a child's typical attendance at, or use of, preschool/formal child care/ informal child care, including hours and costs.
Weekly income of parents	In couple families, total income received from all sources by the couple. In one parent families, the total income from all sources of the lone parent.
Work arrangements	Arrangements, such as flexible working hours, part-time work, shiftwork, job sharing or working at home, normally used by employed parents to assist them to care for their child(ren).

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