

# **CHILD CARE**

**AUSTRALIA**

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## **I N Q U I R I E S**

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

# NOTES

**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication presents information about the use of, and demand for, child care for children aged 0–12 years. Statistics in this publication were obtained from the 2005 Child Care Survey. Information is also presented on the use of the Child Care Benefit and the working arrangements of parents with children aged 0–12 years.

**ABOUT THIS SURVEY** The Child Care Survey was conducted throughout Australia in June 2005 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey. The 2005 Child Care Survey is a continuation of a series of surveys on the topic of child care conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in June 2002.

Child care refers to arrangements (other than care by resident parents) made for the care of children aged 0–12 years. The Child Care Survey collected information about formal and informal child care. Formal child care refers to regulated care that takes place away from the child's home, for example long day care, before and/or after school care and family day care. Informal care refers to non-regulated care that takes place in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by family members, friends, neighbours, babysitters and nannies. Parents often use a combination of formal and informal child care for their children.

**CHANGES BETWEEN SURVEYS** The scope of previous child care surveys was children aged 0–11 years. In 2005 this was changed to children aged 0–12 years.

For the first time, preschool was excluded from the definition of formal care due to the widely-accepted view that the main focus of preschool is education and preparing children for school, rather than child care. Data on preschool attendance continued to be collected as part of the survey, however, where possible, preschool is presented separately from formal child care in this publication.

A new tax offset, called the Child Care Tax Rebate, was announced in the 2004 election and passed by Parliament in December 2005. Families will be able to claim the Child Care Tax Rebate for out-of-pocket expenses incurred from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 in their 2005–06 tax return. However, there was insufficient information in the survey to estimate this rebate.

**ROUNDING** As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.



**ABBREVIATIONS**

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- CCB Child Care Benefit
- LFS Labour Force Survey
- RSE relative standard error
- SE standard error

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

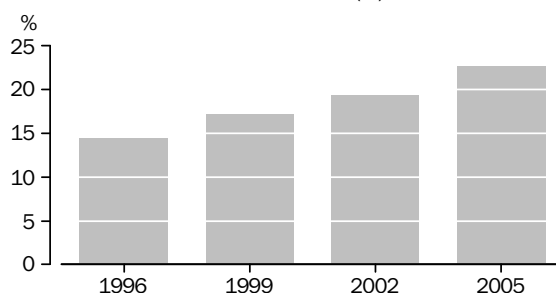
In June 2005, 1,553,400 children aged 0–12 years received some type of child care in the reference week. This represented 46% of children in this age group. Formal care, either alone or in combination with informal care, was used by 21% (711,500) of children in the reference week. Informal care, either alone or in combination with formal care, was used by 33% (1,104,100) of children aged 0–12 years.

To enable comparisons over time, this publication presents a set of tables, tables 27 to 30, in which data from the 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2005 child care surveys are all given on the same basis. These tables refer to children aged 0–11 years only (as previous surveys did not seek information relating to 12 year olds) and preschool is excluded from the definition of formal care. This information differs from tables in previous publications showing trends over time as preschool was previously included in the definition of formal care.

The proportion of children aged 0–11 years who had used some form of child care (formal or informal) in 2005 was 48% (table 27). This was an increase since 2002 (45% of children in this age group) but the same as the proportion recorded in 1999.

Informal care, either alone or in combination with formal care, was used by 33% of children in 2005. This was the same as in 2002. Formal care (either alone or in combination) was used by 23% of children, up from 19% in 2002 and continuing the upward trend observed since 1996.

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



(a) Aged 0–11 years.

### USE OF CHILD CARE

#### *Formal care and informal care*

Table 1 shows that the most commonly used types of formal care were long day care and before and/or after school care, attended by 10% and 7% of all children aged 0–12 years respectively. These were followed by family day care (3%) and occasional care (2%) while other forms of formal child care were used by less than 1% of children.

Over the three year period from June 2002 to June 2005, the numbers of children aged 0–11 years who attended before and/or after school care increased from 171,000 to 227,000, an increase of 56,000 or 33% (table 27).

There were no other significant changes in attendance at other types of formal care in the three year period to June 2005.

In 2005, grandparents were the main informal carers, providing care for 20% of children. The proportion of children aged 0–11 years (29%) who had received informal care from a relative (including grandparents, siblings, and other relatives) had remained at a similar level as that recorded in 2002 (28%). However, the proportion of children who had received informal care from a person unrelated to the family (e.g. friends, neighbours or

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Formal care and informal care continued*

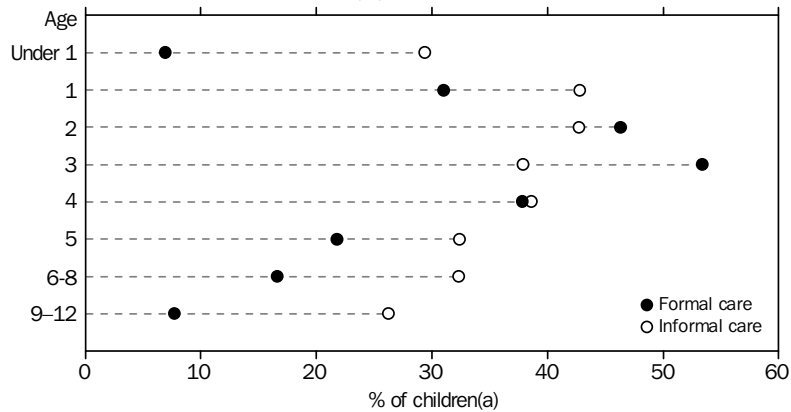
babysitters) has tended to fall since 1999 (down from 9% in June 1999 to 6% in June 2005).

*Use of care by children of different ages*

Child care usage varied with age, particularly for formal care. The use of formal care for very young children was low (7% of children under one year), but increased from age one (31%) up to age three (53%). From age four, when many children have started preschool, the proportion of children using formal child care dropped to 38%, with a further decrease for five year olds (22%) when most children have started school. For 6–8 year olds, 17% attended formal care. For 9–12 year olds, 8% attended formal care.

Use of informal care was highest for one year olds (43%) and then generally decreased as the age of children increased. Overall, 38% of children aged 0–4 used informal care compared to 29% of children aged 5–12 years.

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (a) USING CARE BY AGE



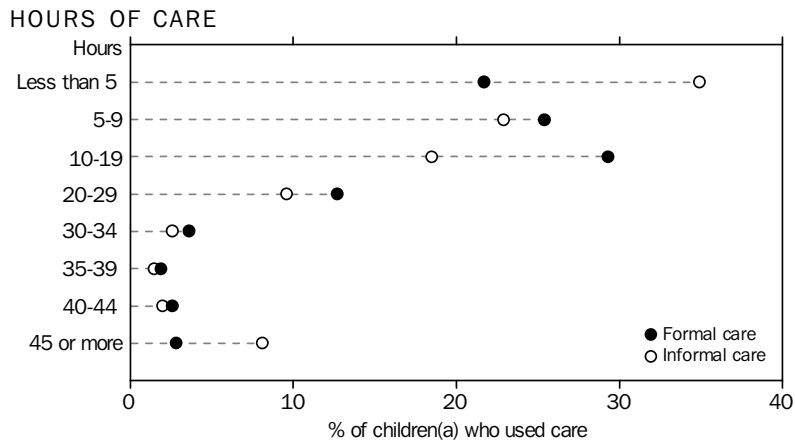
(a) Aged 0–12 years.

*Hours of care*

Table 4 shows that many children used relatively small amounts of child care. Of those children who used formal care, 47% used it for less than 10 hours in the reference week and, of the children who had used informal care, the proportion who used it for less than 10 hours was 58%. In contrast, the proportion of children who used care for 35 or more hours in the reference week was 7% for those who used formal care and 12% for those who used informal care. The overall proportion of children who had used any child care for 35 or more hours (be it formal, informal or both types together) was 13%. The median number of hours for all children aged 0–12 years who used child care was 10 hours in the reference week.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### Hours of care *continued*



(a) Aged 0-12 years.

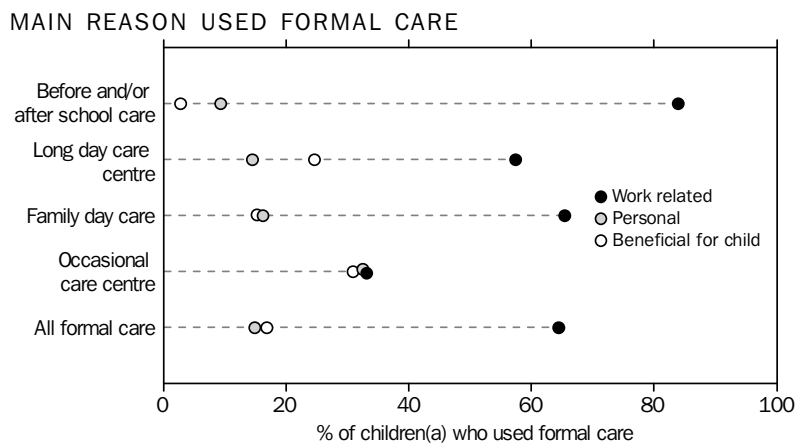
### Days of the week

According to table 5, of those children who used any type of child care, 79% used care on weekdays only. For children who used child care (some of whom could also have used child care on a weekend), 29% used it for one weekday, 21% used it for two weekdays, and 15% used it for three weekdays. There were 268,700 children (17% of all children who used child care) who used some form of care for five weekdays in the reference week.

Almost all children (99%) who had only used formal care had used that care on weekdays alone. In contrast, 30% of children who had only used informal care had used that care on a weekend (either together with weekdays or on weekends alone).

### Reasons for using care

As shown in tables 6 and 7, the reasons given by parents for using child care varied with the type of care used. For nearly 65% of children, 'work-related' was the main reason for using formal child care. This reason was given for 84% of children attending before and/or after school care programs, 66% of those attending family day care and 58% attending a long day care centre (table 6).



(a) Aged 0-12 years.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Reasons for using care continued*

The main reason given by parents for using informal care for children was also 'work-related'. This was the main reason given for almost half (48%) of children using any informal care. 'Personal reasons' were cited as the main reason care was being used for 34% of children in informal care (table 7).

### *Couple and one parent families*

Table 3 shows that a higher proportion of children in one parent families (56%) used child care than children in couple families (44%). Both family types were more likely to use informal care than formal care. Among children from one parent families, 42% used informal care and 25% used formal care: 12% of these families used a combination of both types of care. Of children from couple families the proportions were 31% (informal) and 20% (formal) and only 7% used a combination of both types of care.

Care provided by grandparents was important for children in both couple and one parent families (20% and 17% of children respectively). However, care provided by other relatives including the child's other parent living elsewhere, siblings and other more distant relatives played a greater role for children in one parent families (21%) than for those in couple families (4%).

### COST OF CARE

Cost of care information measured by the 2005 Child Care Survey is the cost of care to the parents after the Child Care Benefit has been taken into account. This cost does not take into account the new Child Care Tax Rebate introduced in December 2005. Refer to the Explanatory Notes for more detailed information about the Child Care Tax Rebate and the Child Care Benefit. As well as any Child Care Benefit entitlements, the cost of care is influenced by factors such as the hours spent in care and the different fees for different types of care. Cost of care information is contained in tables 9 to 11.

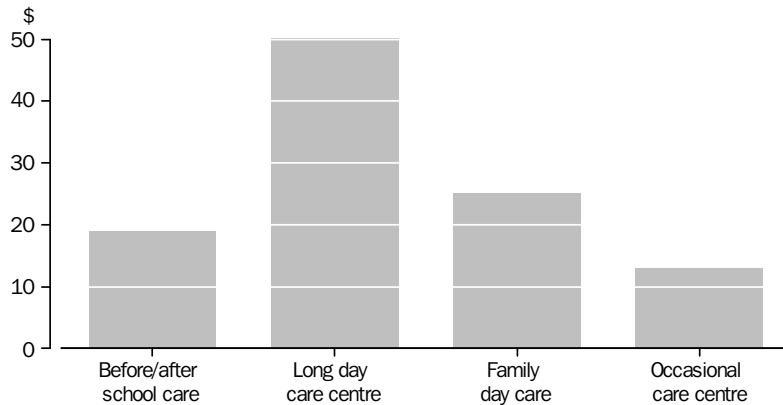
For 65% (1,015,300) of children who used child care in the reference week, the cost of that week's care was less than \$20 (this includes a large proportion of children for whom there was no cost), while for 8% of children it was \$100 or more (table 9). There was a cost involved for almost all children who used formal care (95%). In contrast, the majority of informal care was provided free of charge, with a payment being made for just 9% of children using informal care.

The median weekly cost per child of all formal care was \$31. Cost of care was highest for long day care, indicated by a median weekly cost of \$50. The median weekly cost per child for less than 5 hours of care was \$10 while for 45 hours or more the median weekly cost was \$150 (table 10).

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### COST OF CARE *continued*

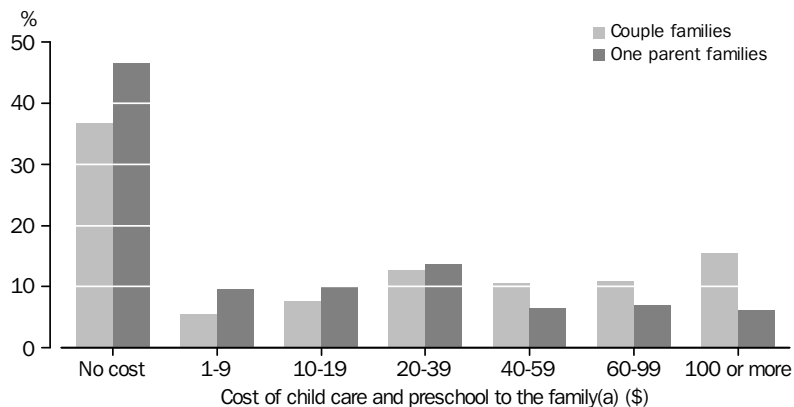
#### MEDIAN COST OF CARE FOR CHILD (a)



(a) Aged 0–12 years.

Estimates of costs per family are also available, but only for informal care and an aggregate of formal care and preschool. See paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes for more information on how child care costs for families were calculated. The total median weekly cost for couple families was \$19 in the reference week, compared to \$3 for one parent families (table 11). These low median values are largely influenced by the fact that many families did not have to make any payments for their use of informal child care.

#### COST OF CARE TO THE FAMILY(a), INCLUDING PRESCHOOL COSTS



(a) Families with children aged 0–12 years

### Child Care Benefit

The Child Care Benefit (CCB) is an Australian Government funded payment to assist families who use approved or registered child care. Tables 14 and 15 contain CCB data.

According to table 15 there were 585,600 children in formal care for whom parents had claimed, or intended to claim, the CCB. The CCB was paid direct to the provider in respect of 533,100 children and as a direct reimbursement to the parents for 53,700 children. There were 97,100 children who received some formal care for which the CCB would not be claimed.

The main reasons given for not claiming the CCB for formal care (table 15) were lack of awareness of the benefit and that parental income was too high (each given for 25% of children for whom the CCB was not claimed). The carer or centre not being eligible was the reason cited for 21% of children. This was the most commonly reported main reason the benefit was not claimed for children who received informal care (31%).

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Whether required additional formal care*

The survey sought information from parents about whether their formal child care requirements were met. Those families not using formal care were asked whether there was any time in the last four weeks when they wanted to use any formal care services but didn't. Those families already using formal child care were asked whether there was any time in the previous four weeks when they wanted to use any more formal care services but didn't. This information is presented in Table 16.

Parents who responded that they wanted additional formal child care were asked why they had not used it (table 18). Similarly, parents who responded that they did not want additional formal care were asked why not (table 19). The responses to these questions need to be considered in analysing the level and type of additional formal care required. In particular, it is necessary to differentiate between lack of child care places, cost of services and other service-related issues.

According to parents' responses, there was a requirement for additional formal care for 188,400 children (6% of children aged 0–12 years). Of these, only 33% said that they did not use additional care because child care providers were booked out or had no places. A further 10% said that no services existed or they did not know of any services in the area, and another 9% said they did not know whether care was available. For 30,700 children (16% of those for whom additional formal care was required), parents reported that they did not use additional care because of the cost of care. The cost of care was also the reason given for 99,000 children for whom parents reported that they did not require additional formal care. Other service-related reasons were given as the reason for not requiring additional formal care for a further 49,500 children. However, for 63% of all children for whom parents said no additional formal care was required, the main reason for not needing additional care was that a parent was not working, or they preferred/were available to look after the child.

### *Amount and main reason additional formal care required*

Of the 188,400 children for whom parents said they required additional formal care, additional care was required for 106,100 children aged 0–4 years (9% of children in this age group) and 82,300 children aged 5–12 years (or 4% of children in this age group). Table 17 shows that the three main types of formal care required were: before and/or after school care (64,400 children), long day care (52,900 children) and occasional care (40,800 children).

Table 28 shows that the proportion of children aged 0–11 years for whom parents wanted additional formal child care (that is, some child care for children who had not used formal child care and additional child care for those who had used formal child care) was 6% in 2005. This proportion was the same as that recorded in both 1999 and 2002.

Between June 2002 and June 2005 there was a decrease in the number of children for whom additional family day care (down from 29,100 to 17,700) was required (table 29).

There were no significant changes in the number of children for whom parents wanted additional care for any other types of formal care in the three year period to June 2005.



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Amount and main reason additional formal care required continued*

For the majority of children for whom additional formal care had been required, just one or two days had been required over the four week period (table 17). For 30% of children for whom additional formal care had been required, parents reported needing one day of care in the previous four weeks, and for a further 24%, two days of care in the previous four weeks had been wanted. The mean number of days for which formal care was wanted over the previous four weeks was 3.5 days and this tended to be longer for older children (a mean of 3.3 days for children aged 0–4 years, 3.6 days for those aged 5–8 years and 4.1 days for those aged 9–12 years). Of the 188,400 children for whom formal care was wanted, a little over half (54%) involved children where the main reason given by the parent was related to their work. The other main reasons were 'personal reasons' (31%) and reasons related to the child's development or the child's wants and needs(12%).

**WORK AND CHILD CARE**  
*Use of care by employed parents*

Among children in couple families (table 21) in which both parents were employed, 54% had used care in the reference week. The proportions were higher for families in which the mother was employed full-time (60%) than if the mother worked part-time (51%).

In one parent families (table 22), 74% of children with a working parent had been in child care in the reference week compared with 40% of those whose parent was not employed.

**PROPORTION OF CHILDREN USING CHILD CARE BY PARENTAL EMPLOYMENT**



(a) Aged 0–12 years.

*Vacation care*

In 2005, information about use of vacation care was collected for children aged 4–11 years (table 20). In the 12 months prior to June 2005, 258,500 children attended vacation care (14% of children who attended school). Approximately 16% of children in couple families where both parents were employed attended vacation care, compared to 26% of children in one parent families where the parent was employed.

*Use of work arrangements to help care for children*

People use a range of work arrangements to help them care for their children. These include flexible working hours, permanent part-time work, shiftwork, work from home and job sharing arrangements. Information on these arrangements is given in table 23.

Of all families with at least one parent employed, 61% indicated that at least one parent normally used one of these work arrangements to help them care for their children.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

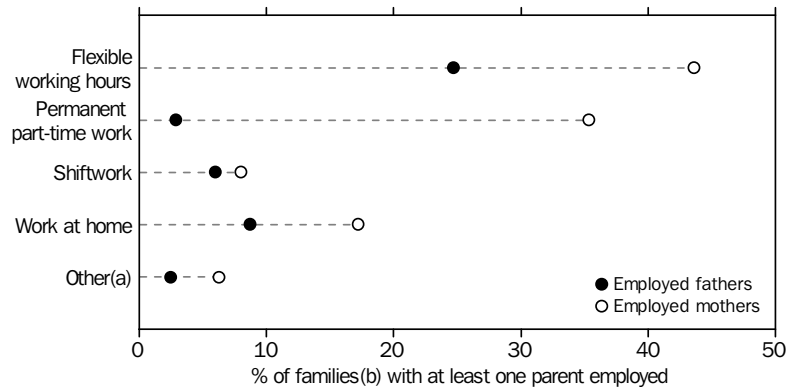
### *Use of work arrangements to help care for children continued*

The most frequently used arrangements were flexible working hours (41%) and permanent part-time work (25%). Overall, employed mothers were considerably more likely to make use of these types of work arrangements (73%) than employed fathers (34%). In couple families, 74% of employed mothers reported normally using these work arrangements compared to 72% of employed mothers in one parent families. In couple families, 33% of employed fathers used these work arrangements compared to 68% of employed fathers in one parent families.

The proportion of families with at least one parent employed in which at least one parent used a work arrangement to help care for their children increased from 56% in 2002 to 61% in 2005 (table 30). The proportion who used flexible working hours to help care for their children increased from 35% to 41% over this three year period while the proportion with a permanent part-time work arrangement was much the same in 2005 (25%) as it has been in 2002 (24%).

The mother used work arrangements to help care for her children in almost three quarters (74%) of families with an employed mother, an increase from 70% in 2002. In comparison, 34% of fathers used work arrangements to help care for their children. This had increased from 30% in 2002.

**USE OF WORK ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP CARE FOR CHILDREN**



(a) 'Other' includes 'Job sharing'  
 (b) Families with children aged 0-12 years

### PRESCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Preschool data is presented in tables 24, 25 and 26. Of the 257,100 children who attended preschool in the reference week in 2005, 14% attended for one day and 37% for two days (table 25). A further 33% attended preschool for three days. The main reason the parents of 38% of children attending preschool chose a particular preschool was due to the quality or reputation of that preschool (table 25). Parents of another 30% chose the preschool because it was close to home. These proportions were much the same as those reported in 2002.



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## CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS, Type of care 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 who used child care	83.2	153.9	174.9	175.3	161.1	120.0	342.2	342.7	1 553.4
Children who didn't use child care	159.4	100.2	72.7	73.1	95.5	139.5	445.1	751.4	1 836.9
Type of care									
Formal care(a)									
Before and/or after school care	—	—	—	—	*2.1	35.2	116.7	76.0	230.0
Long day care centre	11.0	53.5	73.9	93.5	71.0	15.7	*3.6	*2.5	324.7
Family day care	*3.9	18.1	26.8	26.5	15.3	*5.8	*6.2	*4.5	106.9
Occasional care centre	*2.0	8.2	12.8	14.3	9.9	**0.4	*1.9	*1.9	51.4
Other formal care	**0.2	*2.1	*4.5	*3.9	*3.0	**1.1	*2.8	**0.9	18.5
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	16.7	78.8	114.7	132.7	97.0	56.6	130.3	84.8	711.5
Informal care									
Grandparent	55.6	84.3	76.0	65.1	68.8	46.3	134.3	130.8	661.2
Brother/sister	—	**1.0	**1.1	**0.4	**1.2	*3.9	13.3	38.6	59.5
Other relative	10.3	17.0	19.3	19.2	18.6	21.6	70.4	70.0	246.5
Other person	9.8	13.2	15.7	13.8	16.0	19.1	54.5	65.1	207.3
Children who used informal care(c)(d)	71.3	108.9	105.7	94.2	99.2	84.2	254.6	286.2	1 104.1
Children who used formal care(a) only	11.9	45.1	69.1	81.1	62.0	35.9	87.6	56.6	449.3
Children who used informal care only	66.5	75.2	60.2	42.5	64.2	63.5	211.9	258.0	841.9
Children who used both formal(a) and informal care	*4.8	33.7	45.5	51.6	35.0	20.7	42.7	28.2	262.2
<b>All children aged 0–12 years</b>	<b>242.6</b>	<b>254.1</b>	<b>247.5</b>	<b>248.4</b>	<b>256.6</b>	<b>259.6</b>	<b>787.3</b>	<b>1 094.1</b>	<b>3 390.3</b>

	PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)								Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6–8	9–12	
Children who used child care	34.3	60.6	70.6	70.6	62.8	46.2	43.5	31.3	45.8
Children who didn't use child care	65.7	39.4	29.4	29.4	37.2	53.8	56.5	68.7	54.2
Type of care									
Formal care(a)									
Before and/or after school care	—	—	—	—	*0.8	13.6	14.8	6.9	6.8
Long day care centre	4.5	21.0	29.9	37.6	27.7	6.0	*0.5	*0.2	9.6
Family day care	*1.6	7.1	10.8	10.7	6.0	*2.2	*0.8	*0.4	3.2
Occasional care centre	*0.8	3.2	5.2	5.8	3.8	**0.2	*0.2	*0.2	1.5
Other formal care	**0.1	*0.8	*1.8	*1.6	*1.2	**0.4	*0.4	**0.1	0.5
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	6.9	31.0	46.3	53.4	37.8	21.8	16.6	7.7	21.0
Informal care									
Grandparent	22.9	33.2	30.7	26.2	26.8	17.8	17.1	12.0	19.5
Brother/sister	—	**0.4	**0.4	**0.2	**0.5	*1.5	1.7	3.5	1.8
Other relative	4.2	6.7	7.8	7.7	7.2	8.3	8.9	6.4	7.3
Other person	4.1	5.2	6.4	5.6	6.2	7.3	6.9	5.9	6.1
Children who used informal care(c)(d)	29.4	42.8	42.7	37.9	38.6	32.4	32.3	26.2	32.6
Children who used formal care(a) only	4.9	17.7	27.9	32.7	24.1	13.8	11.1	5.2	13.3
Children who used informal care only	27.4	29.6	24.3	17.1	25.0	24.5	26.9	23.6	24.8
Children who used both formal(a) and informal care	*2.0	13.3	18.4	20.8	13.6	8.0	5.4	2.6	7.7
<b>All children aged 0–12 years</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

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

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

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

## CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS, Type of care by state or territory of usual residence

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Children who used child care	517.5	374.5	318.9	119.1	143.5	33.3	15.6	31.0	1 553.4
Children who didn't use child care	614.4	447.1	367.6	122.4	198.9	48.7	15.7	22.3	1 836.9
Type of care									
Formal care(a)									
Before and/or after school care	73.2	60.7	50.5	23.9	9.8	*2.4	*2.9	6.6	230.0
Long day care centre	110.0	61.7	93.0	16.1	26.5	7.5	*3.5	6.3	324.7
Family day care	31.0	22.1	25.2	11.0	9.7	3.8	*1.6	2.7	106.9
Occasional care centre	13.1	19.9	*6.7	*3.7	5.3	*1.8	**0.1	*0.8	51.4
Other formal care	*4.3	*4.8	*5.4	*1.4	*1.6	—	**0.3	*0.7	18.5
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	223.0	165.0	176.6	54.5	52.1	15.0	8.4	16.7	711.5
Informal care									
Grandparent	235.5	166.0	104.4	58.1	67.0	16.2	*3.7	10.4	661.2
Brother/sister	21.6	12.8	12.4	*2.9	6.5	*0.7	*1.1	*1.6	59.5
Other relative	88.3	62.6	36.6	20.4	25.9	5.2	*1.8	5.7	246.5
Other person	72.9	41.7	47.6	9.9	24.5	3.6	*2.9	4.2	207.3
Children who used informal care(c)(d)	391.3	268.8	189.9	85.1	115.1	24.1	9.3	20.5	1 104.1
Children who used formal care(a) only	126.2	105.7	129.0	34.0	28.3	9.2	6.3	10.5	449.3
Children who used informal care only	294.5	209.5	142.3	64.6	91.3	18.2	7.1	14.3	841.9
Children who used both formal(a) and informal care	96.8	59.3	47.6	20.5	23.8	5.8	*2.2	6.2	262.2
<b>All children aged 0–12 years</b>	<b>1 131.8</b>	<b>821.6</b>	<b>686.4</b>	<b>241.6</b>	<b>342.3</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>3 390.3</b>

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Children who used child care	45.7	45.6	46.5	49.3	41.9	40.6	49.9	58.2	45.8
Children who didn't use child care	54.3	54.4	53.5	50.7	58.1	59.4	50.1	41.8	54.2
Type of care									
Formal care(a)									
Before and/or after school care	6.5	7.4	7.4	9.9	2.9	*2.9	*9.2	12.3	6.8
Long day care centre	9.7	7.5	13.6	6.7	7.7	9.1	*11.2	11.8	9.6
Family day care	2.7	2.7	3.7	4.6	2.8	4.6	*5.2	5.0	3.2
Occasional care centre	1.2	2.4	*1.0	*1.5	1.5	*2.2	**0.5	*1.6	1.5
Other formal care	*0.4	*0.6	*0.8	*0.6	*0.5	—	**0.9	*1.4	0.5
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	19.7	20.1	25.7	22.6	15.2	18.3	27.0	31.4	21.0
Informal care									
Grandparent	20.8	20.2	15.2	24.1	19.6	19.8	*12.0	19.4	19.5
Brother/sister	1.9	1.6	1.8	*1.2	1.9	*0.8	*3.5	*3.0	1.8
Other relative	7.8	7.6	5.3	8.4	7.6	6.3	*5.8	10.8	7.3
Other person	6.4	5.1	6.9	4.1	7.2	4.4	*9.1	7.9	6.1
Children who used informal care(c)(d)	34.6	32.7	27.7	35.2	33.6	29.4	29.7	38.5	32.6
Children who used formal care(a) only	11.2	12.9	18.8	14.1	8.3	11.2	20.1	19.7	13.3
Children who used informal care only	26.0	25.5	20.7	26.8	26.7	22.3	22.8	26.8	24.8
Children who used both formal(a) and informal care	8.6	7.2	6.9	8.5	7.0	7.1	*6.9	11.7	7.7
<b>All children aged 0–12 years</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

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

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

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

## CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS, Type of care by selected demographic characteristics

	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)	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)								
Children who used child care	1 228.4	324.9	1 494.3	59.1	1 008.4	350.4	194.5	1 553.4
Children who didn't use child care	1 577.3	259.6	1 709.4	127.5	1 137.4	446.5	253.0	1 836.9
Type of care								
Formal care(b)								
Before and/or after school care	167.1	62.9	227.0	*3.0	177.8	36.8	15.3	230.0
Long day care centre	269.5	55.2	309.1	15.6	216.0	72.5	36.2	324.7
Family day care	84.3	22.7	102.6	*4.4	46.4	37.1	23.5	106.9
Occasional care centre	42.0	9.4	48.9	*2.5	31.9	11.0	8.4	51.4
Other formal care	15.9	*2.6	18.4	**0.2	10.6	*3.7	*4.2	18.5
Children who used formal care(b)(c)(d)	563.4	148.1	686.1	25.4	471.8	155.5	84.3	711.5
Informal care								
Grandparent	560.4	100.8	639.7	21.5	443.3	138.9	79.0	661.2
Brother/sister	46.2	13.4	56.8	*2.8	33.0	15.6	11.0	59.5
Other relative	123.7	122.7	236.7	9.7	164.6	51.5	30.4	246.5
Other person	167.2	40.0	200.9	*6.3	121.4	56.7	29.2	207.3
Children who used informal care(d)(e)	857.5	246.6	1 066.1	38.0	712.9	248.6	142.6	1 104.1
Children who used formal care(b) only	370.9	78.3	428.2	21.1	295.5	101.9	51.9	449.3
Children who used informal care only	665.1	176.8	808.2	33.7	536.6	194.9	110.3	841.9
Children who used both formal(b) and informal care	192.4	69.8	257.9	*4.3	176.2	53.6	32.4	262.2
<b>All children aged 0–12 years</b>	<b>2 805.8</b>	<b>584.5</b>	<b>3 203.7</b>	<b>186.6</b>	<b>2 145.8</b>	<b>796.9</b>	<b>447.6</b>	<b>3 390.3</b>
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)								
Children who used child care	43.8	55.6	46.6	31.7	47.0	44.0	43.5	45.8
Children who didn't use child care	56.2	44.4	53.4	68.3	53.0	56.0	56.5	54.2
Type of care								
Formal care(b)								
Before and/or after school care	6.0	10.8	7.1	*1.6	8.3	4.6	3.4	6.8
Long day care centre	9.6	9.4	9.6	8.4	10.1	9.1	8.1	9.6
Family day care	3.0	3.9	3.2	*2.3	2.2	4.7	5.3	3.2
Occasional care centre	1.5	1.6	1.5	*1.3	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.5
Other formal care	0.6	*0.5	0.6	**0.1	0.5	*0.5	*0.9	0.5
Children who used formal care(b)(c)(d)	20.1	25.3	21.4	13.6	22.0	19.5	18.8	21.0
Informal care								
Grandparent	20.0	17.2	20.0	11.5	20.7	17.4	17.7	19.5
Brother/sister	1.6	2.3	1.8	*1.5	1.5	2.0	2.4	1.8
Other relative	4.4	21.0	7.4	5.2	7.7	6.5	6.8	7.3
Other person	6.0	6.9	6.3	*3.4	5.7	7.1	6.5	6.1
Children who used informal care(d)(e)	30.6	42.2	33.3	20.4	33.2	31.2	31.9	32.6
Children who used formal care(b) only	13.2	13.4	13.4	11.3	13.8	12.8	11.6	13.3
Children who used informal care only	23.7	30.2	25.2	18.0	25.0	24.5	24.6	24.8
Children who used both formal(b) and informal care	6.9	11.9	8.1	*2.3	8.2	6.7	7.2	7.7
<b>All children aged 0–12 years</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
* 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) 'Other' includes 'Outer Regional Australia' and 'Remote Australia'.								
(b) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.								
(c) All children who used formal care, including those who used 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 who used informal care, including those who used both informal and formal care.								



# CHILDREN 0–12 YEARS WHO USED CHILD CARE, Type of care by weekly hours of care

## WEEKLY HOURS OF CARE

Type of care	WEEKLY HOURS OF CARE								Total	Mean hours	Median hours
	Less than 5	5–9	10–19	20–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45 or more			
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)											
Type of care											
Formal care(a)											
Before and/or after school care	106.9	74.1	44.6	*3.9	**0.4	—	—	—	230.0	6.0	5
Long day care centre	10.7	75.3	118.5	64.5	18.9	8.6	11.7	16.5	324.7	18.4	16
Family day care	8.7	28.2	33.0	20.0	*4.3	*4.3	*5.0	*3.3	106.9	16.9	14
Occasional care centre	26.9	13.1	11.4	—	—	—	—	—	51.4	5.8	4
Other formal care	8.8	*5.1	*3.1	—	**0.6	—	**0.7	**0.3	18.5	10.1	5
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	154.3	180.9	208.4	90.4	25.6	13.2	18.5	20.1	711.5	13.6	10
Informal care											
Grandparent	243.7	164.2	128.5	63.6	12.7	*6.0	13.2	29.3	661.2	12.4	6
Other relative(d)	96.3	55.5	50.3	30.9	10.7	*7.0	*5.9	50.6	304.3	20.5	10
Other person	101.7	46.1	31.2	16.3	*2.9	*4.2	**0.4	*4.4	207.3	9.7	5
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	385.2	253.3	203.8	106.0	29.1	16.3	21.6	88.9	1 104.1	15.0	7
Children who used formal care(a) only	91.9	112.2	134.9	51.3	18.8	8.8	15.0	16.5	449.3	14.2	10
Children who used informal care only	300.3	179.9	154.6	80.6	23.2	13.9	18.0	71.3	841.9	15.6	7
Children who used formal(a) and informal care	8.4	35.5	73.2	61.2	19.9	12.8	14.8	36.4	262.2	25.6	21
<b>All children aged 0–12 years who used child care</b>	<b>400.6</b>	<b>327.6</b>	<b>362.7</b>	<b>193.0</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>1 553.4</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>10</b>

## PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)

Type of care	PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)										
Formal care(a)											
Before and/or after school care	46.5	32.2	19.4	*1.7	**0.2	—	—	—	100.0	..	..
Long day care centre	3.3	23.2	36.5	19.9	5.8	2.7	3.6	5.1	100.0	..	..
Family day care	8.2	26.4	30.8	18.7	*4.0	*4.1	*4.7	*3.1	100.0	..	..
Occasional care centre	52.2	25.5	22.3	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	..	..
Other formal care	47.6	*27.6	*16.5	—	**3.1	—	**3.9	**1.4	100.0	..	..
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	21.7	25.4	29.3	12.7	3.6	1.9	2.6	2.8	100.0	..	..
Informal care											
Grandparent	36.9	24.8	19.4	9.6	1.9	*0.9	2.0	4.4	100.0	..	..
Other relative(d)	31.6	18.2	16.5	10.2	3.5	*2.3	*1.9	16.6	100.0	..	..
Other person	49.1	22.2	15.1	7.9	*1.4	*2.0	**0.2	*2.1	100.0	..	..
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	34.9	22.9	18.5	9.6	2.6	1.5	2.0	8.1	100.0	..	..
Children who used formal care(a) only	20.5	25.0	30.0	11.4	4.2	2.0	3.3	3.7	100.0	..	..
Children who used informal care only	35.7	21.4	18.4	9.6	2.8	1.6	2.1	8.5	100.0	..	..
Children who used formal(a) and informal care	3.2	13.6	27.9	23.3	7.6	4.9	5.6	13.9	100.0	..	..
<b>All children aged 0–12 years who used child care</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(b) All children who used formal care, including those who used 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 non-resident parent, brother/sister and other relative.

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

# CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO USED CHILD CARE, Type of care by number of weekdays used

	NUMBER OF WEEKDAYS CARE USED					TYPE OF DAYS ATTENDED CARE			Total
	One weekday	Two weekdays	Three weekdays	Four weekdays	Five weekdays	Weekdays only	Weekdays and weekend	Weekend only	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Type of care									
Formal care(a)									
Before and/or after school care	61.7	45.0	40.0	24.8	58.5	230.0	—	—	230.0
Long day care centre	84.3	101.0	72.1	29.0	38.3	324.0	**0.7	—	324.7
Family day care	30.8	26.6	18.6	13.2	16.0	103.3	*1.9	*1.7	106.9
Occasional care centre	30.0	16.8	*2.5	**0.8	**1.0	51.1	—	**0.3	51.4
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)(d)	194.7	191.4	133.9	70.9	119.6	706.2	*4.3	**1.1	711.5
Informal care									
Grandparent	290.6	123.3	62.7	23.6	71.8	507.2	64.8	89.2	661.2
Brother/sister	24.7	8.0	*3.7	*4.6	11.3	47.4	*5.0	*7.1	59.5
Other relative	101.4	38.2	16.9	10.1	19.8	130.8	55.6	62.1	246.5
Other person	97.0	30.8	20.3	*5.5	17.1	157.4	13.4	36.5	207.3
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	456.6	194.6	108.5	48.9	122.5	777.1	154.0	173.0	1 104.1
Children who used formal care(a) only	111.7	119.9	77.2	46.4	93.6	446.6	*2.2	**0.5	449.3
Children who used informal care only	327.5	144.2	86.6	40.6	112.7	588.5	123.1	130.2	841.9
Children who used both formal(a) and informal care	13.2	58.8	68.9	59.0	62.5	185.9	76.3	—	262.2
<b>All children aged 0–12 years who used child care</b>	<b>452.3</b>	<b>322.9</b>	<b>232.7</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>268.7</b>	<b>1 221.0</b>	<b>201.6</b>	<b>130.7</b>	<b>1 553.4</b>

	NUMBER OF WEEKDAYS CARE USED					TYPE OF DAYS ATTENDED CARE			Total
	One weekday	Two weekdays	Three weekdays	Four weekdays	Five weekdays	Weekdays only	Weekdays and weekend	Weekend only	
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Type of care									
Formal care(a)									
Before and/or after school care	26.8	19.6	17.4	10.8	25.4	100.0	—	—	100.0
Long day care centre	26.0	31.1	22.2	8.9	11.8	99.8	**0.2	—	100.0
Family day care	28.8	24.9	17.4	12.3	14.9	96.6	*1.8	*1.6	100.0
Occasional care centre	58.3	32.7	*4.8	**1.6	**2.0	99.4	—	**0.6	100.0
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)(d)	27.4	26.9	18.8	10.0	16.8	99.2	*0.6	**0.1	100.0
Informal care									
Grandparent	44.0	18.6	9.5	3.6	10.9	76.7	9.8	13.5	100.0
Brother/sister	41.6	13.4	*6.3	*7.8	19.0	79.5	*8.5	*12.0	100.0
Other relative	41.1	15.5	6.8	4.1	8.1	53.1	22.6	25.2	100.0
Other person	46.8	14.9	9.8	*2.7	8.2	75.9	6.4	17.6	100.0
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	41.4	17.6	9.8	4.4	11.1	70.4	13.9	15.7	100.0
Children who used formal care(a) only	24.9	26.7	17.2	10.3	20.8	99.4	*0.5	**0.1	100.0
Children who used informal care only	38.9	17.1	10.3	4.8	13.4	69.9	14.6	15.5	100.0
Children who used both formal(a) and informal care	5.0	22.4	26.3	22.5	23.8	70.9	29.1	—	100.0
<b>All children aged 0–12 years who used child care</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

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

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

(d) Children who used formal care included children with other formal care.

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

# CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO USED FORMAL CARE(a), Main reason used formal care(b)

## MAIN REASON USED FORMAL CARE(a)(b)

	Work-related(c)	Personal(d)	Beneficial for child(e)	Other	Total
CHILDREN AGED 0–4 YEARS ('000)					
Type of formal care used(a)					
Before and/or after school care	*2.1	—	—	—	*2.1
Long day care centre	171.7	44.9	75.5	11.0	303.0
Family day care	56.8	15.6	16.2	*2.0	90.5
Occasional care centre	13.9	16.5	15.0	*1.8	47.2
Other formal care	*3.6	*5.3	*4.7	**0.2	13.7
<b>Children who used formal care(a)(f)(g)</b>	<b>237.6</b>	<b>79.4</b>	<b>108.3</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>439.9</b>

## ALL CHILDREN ('000)(h)

Type of formal care used(a)					
Before and/or after school care	192.9	21.7	*6.4	9.0	230.0
Long day care centre	186.5	47.1	80.1	11.0	324.7
Family day care	70.1	17.3	16.4	*3.1	106.9
Occasional care centre	17.1	16.7	15.9	*1.8	51.4
Other formal care	*5.2	*7.0	*4.8	**1.5	18.5
<b>Children who used formal care(a)(f)(g)</b>	<b>458.7</b>	<b>106.3</b>	<b>120.4</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>711.5</b>

## PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AGED 0–4 YEARS (%)

Type of formal care used(a)					
Before and/or after school care	*100.0	—	—	—	*100.0
Long day care centre	56.7	14.8	24.9	3.6	100.0
Family day care	62.7	17.2	17.9	*2.2	100.0
Occasional care centre	29.5	34.9	31.8	*3.7	100.0
Other formal care	*26.1	*38.6	*34.3	**1.1	100.0
<b>Children who used formal care(a)(f)(g)</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## PROPORTION OF ALL CHILDREN (%)

Type of formal care used(a)					
Before and/or after school care	83.9	9.4	*2.8	3.9	100.0
Long day care centre	57.5	14.5	24.7	3.4	100.0
Family day care	65.5	16.2	15.3	*2.9	100.0
Occasional care centre	33.2	32.5	30.9	*3.4	100.0
Other formal care	*27.9	*38.0	*25.9	**8.2	100.0
<b>Children who used formal care(a)(f)(g)</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(b) 'Main reason used formal care' was asked in relation to formal care in general and not each individual type of care.

(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 parent(s) a break/time alone', 'voluntary/community activity', 'caring for relatives', 'ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist', 'other parent-related reason'.

(e) 'Beneficial for child' includes 'good for child' and 'prepare for school'.

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

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

(h) Includes children aged 5–12 years.

CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO USED INFORMAL CARE, Main reason used informal care(a)

MAIN REASON USED INFORMAL CARE(a)					
	Work-related(b)	Personal(c)	Beneficial for child(d)	Other	Total
CHILDREN AGED 0–4 YEARS ('000)					
Informal care					
Grandparent	173.2	139.4	13.6	23.6	349.8
Other relative(e)	27.9	32.9	*2.2	25.2	88.1
Other person	36.8	26.4	**1.5	*3.9	68.6
<b>Children who used informal care(f)(g)</b>	<b>223.9</b>	<b>189.9</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>479.2</b>
CHILDREN AGED 5–12 YEARS ('000)					
Informal care					
Grandparent	168.7	95.2	14.9	32.5	311.4
Other relative(e)	83.9	60.9	*4.5	66.8	216.2
Other person	76.9	40.8	*5.6	15.3	138.6
<b>Children who used informal care(f)(g)</b>	<b>304.8</b>	<b>188.5</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>107.5</b>	<b>624.9</b>
ALL CHILDREN ('000)					
Informal care					
Grandparent	341.9	234.6	28.5	56.1	661.2
Other relative(e)	111.8	93.8	*6.7	92.0	304.3
Other person	113.7	67.3	*7.1	19.2	207.3
<b>Children who used informal care(f)(g)</b>	<b>528.7</b>	<b>378.3</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>156.3</b>	<b>1 104.1</b>
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AGED 0–4 YEARS (%)					
Informal care					
Grandparent	49.5	39.9	3.9	6.7	100.0
Other relative(e)	31.6	37.3	*2.5	28.6	100.0
Other person	53.7	38.5	**2.1	*5.7	100.0
<b>Children who used informal care(f)(g)</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AGED 5–12 YEARS (%)					
Informal care					
Grandparent	54.2	30.6	4.8	10.4	100.0
Other relative(e)	38.8	28.2	*2.1	30.9	100.0
Other person	55.4	29.5	*4.1	11.0	100.0
<b>Children who used informal care(f)(g)</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
PROPORTION OF ALL CHILDREN (%)					
Informal care					
Grandparent	51.7	35.5	4.3	8.5	100.0
Other relative(e)	36.7	30.8	*2.2	30.2	100.0
Other person	54.9	32.5	*3.4	9.3	100.0
<b>Children who used informal care(f)(g)</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) 'Main reason used informal care' was asked in relation to informal care in general and not each individual type of care.  
 (b) 'Work-related' reasons included 'looking for work' and 'work-related study/ training'.  
 (c) 'Personal' reasons include 'other study/training', 'sport', 'shopping', 'entertainment/social activity', 'give parent(s) a break/time alone', 'voluntary/community activity', 'caring for relatives', 'ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist', 'other parent-related reason'.  
 (d) 'Beneficial for child' includes 'good for child' and 'prepare for school'.  
 (e) 'Other relative' includes non-resident parent, brother/sister and other relative.  
 (f) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.  
 (g) All children who used informal care, including those who used both formal and informal care.

	COUPLE		ONE PARENT		TOTAL	
	FAMILY		FAMILY		TOTAL	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED A LONG DAY CARE CENTRE						
Main reason chose particular long day care centre						
Cost	*3.6	*1.3	**1.6	**2.9	*5.2	*1.6
Availability	44.3	16.4	10.2	18.5	54.5	16.8
Hours of operation	10.9	4.1	*1.6	*3.0	12.6	3.9
Quality/reputation(a)	108.2	40.2	19.6	35.4	127.8	39.4
Close to home	57.1	21.2	12.8	23.1	69.8	21.5
Convenient to work/school	19.5	7.2	*2.4	*4.4	21.9	6.8
Other	23.9	8.9	*5.8	*10.6	29.8	9.2
<i>All children aged 0–12 years who attended a long day care centre(b)</i>	269.5	100.0	55.2	100.0	324.7	100.0
All reasons chose particular long day care centre						
Cost	13.7	5.1	*4.2	*7.6	17.9	5.5
Availability	73.4	27.2	17.4	31.5	90.8	28.0
Hours of operation	34.7	12.9	*5.4	*9.7	40.1	12.3
Quality/reputation(a)	150.5	55.9	27.2	49.3	177.7	54.7
Close to home	120.8	44.8	25.8	46.7	146.6	45.1
Convenient to work/school	43.8	16.3	7.9	14.4	51.8	15.9
Other	41.1	15.3	*7.3	*13.2	48.4	14.9

\* 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 'quality/reputation' of education program and of care.

(b) Includes persons who were not asked these questions because their child's care centre was not identified as a long day care centre during the survey interview, but was later classified as a long day care centre.

# CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO USED CHILD CARE, Type of care by weekly cost of care(a)

## WEEKLY COST OF CARE(a)

Type of care	WEEKLY COST OF CARE(a)								Total	Mean cost (\$)(b)	Median cost (\$)(b)
	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(c)											
Before and/or after school care	15.1	50.9	49.0	60.7	31.4	11.4	*5.1	*6.3	230.0	26.0	19
Long day care centre	*6.4	15.6	31.1	72.1	56.1	33.1	28.3	81.9	324.7	70.3	50
Family day care	8.3	16.5	15.9	30.2	8.7	8.2	*7.5	11.5	106.9	42.4	25
Occasional care centre	*4.1	15.3	12.7	9.6	*5.6	*2.5	—	**1.6	51.4	21.8	13
Other formal care	*3.0	*4.5	*3.3	*2.2	*2.2	**0.3	**0.9	*2.2	18.5	37.0	13
Children who used formal care(c)(d)(e)	34.0	96.6	106.4	166.7	105.2	57.6	40.0	105.0	711.5	49.4	31
Informal care											
Grandparent	640.7	**1.0	*3.5	*7.1	*3.3	*4.0	**0.8	**0.9	661.2	1.2	0
Other relative(f)	289.1	**0.9	**1.1	*5.2	*3.2	*2.0	**0.4	*2.3	304.3	2.8	0
Other person	146.4	*3.5	8.9	16.7	9.3	9.2	**0.5	12.8	207.3	22.9	0
Children who used informal care(e)(g)	1 007.5	*5.3	13.6	29.0	15.8	15.2	*1.7	16.0	1 104.1	5.8	0
Children who used formal care(c) only	24.0	59.8	67.8	110.1	64.3	34.3	21.7	67.2	449.3	49.5	30
Children who used informal care only	768.9	*4.6	10.4	18.7	12.0	12.5	*1.7	13.1	841.9	6.0	0
Children who used both formal(c) and informal care	8.7	34.7	36.4	55.3	39.4	24.9	21.3	41.6	262.2	54.4	38
<b>All children aged 0–12 years who used child care</b>	<b>801.6</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>114.6</b>	<b>184.0</b>	<b>115.7</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>122.0</b>	<b>1 553.4</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>0</b>

## PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)

Type of care											
Formal care(c)											
Before and/or after school care	6.6	22.1	21.3	26.4	13.6	5.0	*2.2	*2.8	100.0	..	..
Long day care centre	*2.0	4.8	9.6	22.2	17.3	10.2	8.7	25.2	100.0	..	..
Family day care	7.8	15.4	14.9	28.3	8.2	7.7	*7.0	10.8	100.0	..	..
Occasional care centre	*8.0	29.7	24.7	18.8	*10.8	*4.9	—	**3.2	100.0	..	..
Other formal care	*16.2	*24.2	*17.9	*11.7	*11.9	**1.4	**4.9	*11.7	100.0	..	..
Children who used formal care(c)(d)(e)	4.8	13.6	15.0	23.4	14.8	8.1	5.6	14.8	100.0	..	..
Informal care											
Grandparent	96.9	**0.1	*0.5	*1.1	*0.5	*0.6	**0.1	**0.1	100.0	..	..
Other relative(f)	95.0	**0.3	**0.4	*1.7	*1.1	*0.7	**0.1	*0.8	100.0	..	..
Other person	70.6	*1.7	4.3	8.0	4.5	4.4	**0.2	6.2	100.0	..	..
Children who used informal care(e)(g)	91.3	*0.5	1.2	2.6	1.4	1.4	*0.2	1.4	100.0	..	..
Children who used formal care(c) only	5.3	13.3	15.1	24.5	14.3	7.6	4.8	15.0	100.0	..	..
Children who used informal care only	91.3	*0.5	1.2	2.2	1.4	1.5	*0.2	1.6	100.0	..	..
Children who used both formal(c) and informal care	3.3	13.2	13.9	21.1	15.0	9.5	8.1	15.9	100.0	..	..
<b>All children aged 0–12 years who used child care</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>

\* 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 has been paid but does not include adjustment for the new Child Care Tax Rebate. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21-25.

(b) Median and mean costs were calculated for all those who used child care, including those for whom the weekly cost was 'no cost'.

(c) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

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

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

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

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

WEEKLY HOURS OF FORMAL CARE

Less than 5    5–9    10–19    20–29    30–34    35–39    40–44    45 or more    Total

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)

Weekly cost of formal care(a)(b)	Less than 5	5–9	10–19	20–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45 or more	Total
No cost	13.9	*6.9	9.2	**1.3	**0.2	**1.0	**0.4	**1.1	34.0
\$1–\$9	58.5	21.0	13.9	*2.5	**0.2	**0.4	—	—	96.6
\$10–\$19	49.0	27.9	21.4	*5.9	**1.4	—	**0.8	—	106.4
\$20–\$39	22.7	76.6	46.0	14.3	*3.1	**1.2	**1.0	*1.9	166.7
\$40–\$59	8.7	33.7	47.3	8.9	*4.0	**0.9	**0.5	**1.1	105.2
\$60–\$79	**1.3	*7.5	33.3	8.8	*2.1	*1.9	*2.1	**0.6	57.6
\$80–\$99	—	*3.5	16.5	13.0	*3.3	**1.2	**0.9	**1.6	40.0
\$100 or more	**0.2	*3.9	20.7	35.7	11.4	*6.6	12.9	13.7	105.0
<b>All children aged 0–12 who used formal care(a)</b>	<b>154.3</b>	<b>180.9</b>	<b>208.4</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>711.5</b>

COST OF CARE (\$)

	Less than 5	5–9	10–19	20–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45 or more	Total
Mean cost of care per week(c)	13.0	30.5	49.2	84.1	101.6	122.1	137.6	148.9	49.4
Median cost of care per week(c)	10	28	46	81	87	85	130	150	31

- \* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.
- (b) Net cost to parent(s) after the Child Care Benefit has been paid but does not include adjustment for the new Child Care Tax Rebate. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21-25.
- (c) Median and mean costs were calculated for all children who used formal care including those for whom the weekly cost was 'no cost'.

## FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO USED CHILD CARE AND/OR PRESCHOOL(a), Type used and income of parents by weekly cost(b)

### WEEKLY COST OF CARE(b)

	No cost	\$1–\$9	\$10–\$19	\$20–\$39	\$40–\$59	\$60–\$99	\$100 or more	Total(c)	Mean cost(d)	Median cost(d)
NUMBER OF FAMILIES ('000)										
Type of care used by family										
Formal care and/or preschool(e)	44.3	80.5	103.5	159.1	115.3	115.9	145.4	766.8	60.7	38
Informal care(f)	747.4	*2.0	5.9	16.4	13.8	10.9	20.3	818.6	8.2	0
Formal care/preschool only	26.7	43.9	54.4	89.2	67.2	62.8	79.0	424.2	61.7	38
Informal care only	439.9	*1.3	*3.1	8.2	7.4	*4.5	11.7	476.0	7.1	0
Formal care/preschool and informal care	16.3	34.2	45.3	62.5	47.0	57.9	77.5	342.6	69.3	44
Couple family										
Weekly income of parents										
Less than \$400(g)	10.2	*4.9	*4.4	*1.9	*3.4	*1.8	*1.4	28.5	21.8	8
\$400–\$599	15.9	*4.4	*4.7	*4.2	*3.9	*2.3	*2.4	37.9	26.0	5
\$600–\$799	22.7	7.9	7.5	12.5	*4.0	*3.0	*3.3	61.3	22.6	9
\$800–\$999	43.4	7.1	8.0	21.5	9.7	7.1	6.7	103.5	28.9	10
\$1000–\$1199	42.7	*5.1	12.3	16.3	14.7	12.9	7.6	112.0	34.1	15
\$1200–\$1399	39.8	*5.1	7.8	14.7	15.1	13.5	13.0	109.0	39.1	20
\$1400–\$1999	80.9	7.8	12.0	29.0	25.9	30.8	47.3	234.4	53.0	30
\$2000 or more	55.7	*4.7	8.5	11.5	17.6	26.1	48.9	173.1	82.4	45
Total couple families(h)	359.9	54.1	75.8	124.1	104.5	106.5	151.7	978.9	47.6	19
One parent family										
Weekly income of parent										
Less than \$400(g)	37.3	8.6	7.5	12.9	*3.6	*4.3	*2.1	76.3	18.0	2
\$400–\$799	54.5	13.0	13.6	16.5	8.1	8.4	*4.6	119.2	20.5	3
\$800 or more	17.6	*2.0	*4.1	*5.1	*3.9	*4.0	8.5	45.1	52.6	15
Total one parent families(h)	123.0	25.3	27.0	35.8	17.1	18.7	16.5	263.9	25.3	3
<b>All families with children aged 0–12 years who used child care and/or preschool</b>	<b>482.9</b>	<b>79.4</b>	<b>102.8</b>	<b>159.9</b>	<b>121.6</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>168.1</b>	<b>1 242.8</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>15</b>

- \* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
- (a) For families, it was not possible to separate the cost of preschool from the cost of formal care. Information about the cost of care and preschool to families was obtained in relation to all children in the family attending child care. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 14.
- (b) Net cost to parent(s) after the Child Care Benefit has been paid but does not include adjustment for the new Child Care Tax Rebate. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21–25. Also includes cost of preschool.

- (c) Includes weekly cost of care 'not determined'.
- (d) Median and mean costs were calculated for all those families who used child care, including those for whom the weekly cost was 'no cost'.
- (e) All families who used formal care and/or preschool, including those who also used informal care.
- (f) All families who used informal care, including those who also used formal care and/or preschool.
- (g) Includes nil and negative incomes.
- (h) Includes 'don't know/not stated'.



WEEKLY COST OF CARE(b)

	No cost	\$1–\$9	\$10–\$19	\$20–\$39	\$40–\$59	\$60–\$99	\$100 or more	Total(c)	Mean cost(d)	Median cost(d)
PROPORTION OF FAMILIES (%)										
Type of care used by family										
Formal care and/or preschool(e)	5.8	10.5	13.5	20.7	15.0	15.1	19.0	100.0	..	..
Informal care(f)	91.3	*0.2	0.7	2.0	1.7	1.3	2.5	100.0	..	..
Formal care/preschool only	6.3	10.3	12.8	21.0	15.8	14.8	18.6	100.0	..	..
Informal care only	92.4	*0.3	*0.7	1.7	1.5	*0.9	2.5	100.0	..	..
Formal care/preschool and informal care	4.8	10.0	13.2	18.2	13.7	16.9	22.6	100.0	..	..
Couple family										
Weekly income of parents										
Less than \$400(g)	35.7	*17.1	*15.3	*6.8	*12.0	*6.5	*4.9	100.0	..	..
\$400–\$599	42.0	*11.6	*12.5	*11.0	*10.3	*6.2	*6.5	100.0	..	..
\$600–\$799	37.0	12.9	12.3	20.5	*6.5	*4.9	*5.4	100.0	..	..
\$800–\$999	41.9	6.9	7.7	20.7	9.4	6.9	6.5	100.0	..	..
\$1000–\$1199	38.1	*4.6	11.0	14.5	13.1	11.5	6.8	100.0	..	..
\$1200–\$1399	36.5	*4.7	7.2	13.4	13.9	12.4	11.9	100.0	..	..
\$1400–\$1999	34.5	3.3	5.1	12.4	11.0	13.1	20.2	100.0	..	..
\$2000 or more	32.2	*2.7	4.9	6.6	10.2	15.1	28.3	100.0	..	..
Total couple families(h)	36.8	5.5	7.7	12.7	10.7	10.9	15.5	100.0	..	..
One parent family										
Weekly income of parent										
Less than \$400(g)	48.9	11.3	9.8	16.9	*4.8	*5.6	*2.7	100.0	..	..
\$400–\$799	45.7	10.9	11.4	13.8	6.8	7.1	*3.9	100.0	..	..
\$800 or more	38.9	*4.5	*9.0	*11.4	*8.6	*8.8	18.8	100.0	..	..
Total one parent families(h)	46.6	9.6	10.2	13.6	6.5	7.1	6.2	100.0	..	..
<b>All families with children aged 0–12 years who used child care and/or preschool</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>

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

.. not applicable

(a) For families, it was not possible to separate the cost of preschool from the cost of formal care. Information about the cost of care and preschool to families was obtained in relation to all children in the family attending child care. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 14.

(b) Net cost to parent(s) after the Child Care Benefit has been paid but does not include adjustment for the new Child Care Tax Rebate. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21-25. Also includes cost of preschool.

(c) Includes weekly cost of care 'not determined'.

(d) Median and mean costs were calculated for all those families who used child care, including those for whom the weekly cost was 'no cost'.

(e) All families who used formal care and/or preschool, including those who also used informal care.

(f) All families who used informal care, including those who also used formal care and/or preschool.

(g) Includes nil and negative incomes.

(h) Includes 'don't know/not stated'.

	WEEKLY INCOME OF PARENTS								TOTAL
	Less than \$400(a)	\$400– \$599	\$600– \$799	\$800– \$999	\$1000– \$1199	\$1200– \$1399	\$1400– \$1999	\$2000 or more	Total children in couple families(b)
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Children who used child care	30.2	39.4	73.4	123.9	138.2	143.5	306.6	231.2	1 228.4
Children who didn't use child care	83.3	109.3	154.0	192.5	186.1	155.6	254.9	160.7	1 577.3
Type of care									
Formal care(c)									
Before and/or after school care	*2.0	**0.6	*3.8	9.0	11.1	24.6	50.4	50.0	167.1
Long day care centre	9.4	*7.6	19.4	30.7	37.2	27.5	63.9	43.5	269.5
Family day care	**1.3	*3.6	*6.4	9.9	7.9	11.7	21.9	12.9	84.3
Occasional care centre	*2.2	*1.8	*3.4	*6.3	*2.5	*5.3	10.8	*5.8	42.0
Children who used formal care(c)(d)(e)(f)	15.6	14.6	33.5	56.6	59.7	68.0	144.6	112.0	563.4
Informal care									
Grandparent	9.8	18.9	32.8	56.2	67.8	63.8	138.2	104.8	560.4
Other relative(g)	*3.3	*5.8	11.6	20.8	17.6	20.7	43.7	28.2	169.7
Other person	*4.8	*3.7	*6.3	14.8	17.9	18.2	39.3	39.1	167.2
Children who used informal care(e)(h)	16.9	28.1	48.4	89.4	97.8	96.8	213.7	163.3	857.5
Children who used formal care(c) only	13.3	11.3	25.0	34.5	40.4	46.6	93.0	67.9	370.9
Children who used informal care only	14.6	24.9	39.9	67.3	78.5	75.5	162.1	119.2	665.1
Children who used both formal(c) and informal care	*2.3	*3.3	8.5	22.1	19.3	21.3	51.6	44.1	192.4
<b>All children aged 0–12 years in couple families</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>148.7</b>	<b>227.3</b>	<b>316.4</b>	<b>324.2</b>	<b>299.0</b>	<b>561.6</b>	<b>391.9</b>	<b>2 805.8</b>
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Children who used child care	26.6	26.5	32.3	39.2	42.6	48.0	54.6	59.0	43.8
Children who didn't use child care	73.4	73.5	67.7	60.8	57.4	52.0	45.4	41.0	56.2
Type of care									
Formal care(c)									
Before and/or after school care	*1.8	**0.4	*1.7	2.9	3.4	8.2	9.0	12.8	6.0
Long day care centre	8.3	*5.1	8.5	9.7	11.5	9.2	11.4	11.1	9.6
Family day care	**1.1	*2.4	*2.8	3.1	2.4	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.0
Occasional care centre	*1.9	*1.2	*1.5	*2.0	*0.8	*1.8	1.9	*1.5	1.5
Children who used formal care(c)(d)(e)(f)	13.8	9.8	14.7	17.9	18.4	22.7	25.7	28.6	20.1
Informal care									
Grandparent	8.6	12.7	14.4	17.8	20.9	21.3	24.6	26.7	20.0
Other relative(g)	*2.9	*3.9	5.1	6.6	5.4	6.9	7.8	7.2	6.0
Other person	*4.2	*2.5	*2.8	4.7	5.5	6.1	7.0	10.0	6.0
Children who used informal care(e)(h)	14.9	18.9	21.3	28.3	30.2	32.4	38.0	41.7	30.6
Children who used formal care(c) only	11.7	7.6	11.0	10.9	12.4	15.6	16.6	17.3	13.2
Children who used informal care only	12.8	16.7	17.5	21.3	24.2	25.2	28.9	30.4	23.7
Children who used both formal(c) and informal care	*2.1	*2.2	3.7	7.0	6.0	7.1	9.2	11.3	6.9
<b>All children aged 0–12 years in couple families</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
* 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 nil and negative incomes.									
(b) Includes 'don't know/not stated'.									
(c) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.									
(d) All children who used formal care, including those who used both formal and informal care.									
(e) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.									
(f) Children who used formal care included children who used other formal care.									
(g) 'Other relative' includes non-resident parent, brother/sister and other relative.									
(h) All children who used informal care, including those who used both informal and/or formal care.									

	WEEKLY INCOME OF PARENT				TOTAL
	Less than \$400(a)	\$400–\$799	\$800–\$1199	\$1200 or more	Total children in one parent families(b)
.....					
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)					
Children who used child care	83.2	153.7	36.2	22.4	324.9
Children who didn't use child care	110.5	115.0	8.9	*3.8	259.6
Type of care					
Formal care(c)					
Before and/or after school care	10.0	28.0	14.1	*6.4	62.9
Long day care centre	15.9	27.6	*7.0	**1.5	55.2
Family day care	*4.5	12.4	**1.6	**1.0	22.7
Children who used formal care(c)(d)(e)(f)	35.7	69.8	22.1	9.0	148.1
Informal care					
Grandparent	28.1	48.3	10.3	7.8	100.8
Other relative(g)	30.3	65.2	15.9	10.8	134.6
Other person	11.1	16.8	*3.7	*3.3	40.0
Children who used informal care(e)(h)	62.6	117.5	25.4	19.4	246.6
Children who used formal care(c) only	20.6	36.1	10.8	*3.0	78.3
Children who used informal care only	47.6	83.8	14.1	13.4	176.8
Children who used both formal(c) and informal care	15.1	33.7	11.3	*6.0	69.8
<b>All children aged 0–12 years in one parent families</b>	<b>193.8</b>	<b>268.7</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>584.5</b>

.....					
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)					
Children who used child care	43.0	57.2	80.3	85.4	55.6
Children who didn't use child care	57.0	42.8	19.7	*14.6	44.4
Type of care					
Formal care(c)					
Before and/or after school care	5.2	10.4	31.3	*24.3	10.8
Long day care centre	8.2	10.3	*15.5	**5.6	9.4
Family day care	*2.3	4.6	*3.5	**4.0	3.9
Children who used formal care(c)(d)(e)(f)	18.4	26.0	48.9	34.3	25.3
Informal care					
Grandparent	14.5	18.0	22.9	30.0	17.2
Other relative(g)	15.7	24.3	35.2	41.2	23.0
Other person	5.7	6.3	*8.2	*12.4	6.9
Children who used informal care(e)(h)	32.3	43.7	56.4	74.1	42.2
Children who used formal care(c) only	10.6	13.5	24.0	*11.3	13.4
Children who used informal care only	24.5	31.2	31.4	51.1	30.2
Children who used both formal(c) and informal care	7.8	12.5	25.0	*23.0	11.9
<b>All children aged 0–12 years in one parent families</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- \* 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 nil and negative incomes.
- (b) Includes 'don't know/not stated'.
- (c) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.
- (d) All children who used formal care, including those who used both formal and informal care.

- (e) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.
- (f) Includes children who used an occasional care centre or other formal care.
- (g) 'Other relative' includes non-resident parent, brother/sister and other relative.
- (h) All children who used informal care, including those who used both informal and/or formal care.

CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO USED FORMAL CARE(a), Whether Child Care Benefit claimed for any type of formal care

	<i>Benefit paid direct to provider</i>	<i>Benefit paid direct to parents(b)</i>	<i>Benefit not claimed</i>	<i>No cost</i>	<i>Total(c)</i>
.....					
COUPLE FAMILY					
Type of formal care(a)					
Before and/or after school care	103.7	14.5	36.9	12.0	167.1
Long day care centre	225.1	23.4	17.9	*3.2	269.5
Family day care	67.1	*7.6	*6.8	*2.8	84.3
Occasional care centre	15.5	*3.8	19.3	*3.4	42.0
Other formal care	*5.6	**0.4	*7.2	*2.8	15.9
Weekly income of parents(d)					
Less than \$600(e)	23.5	*2.4	*2.2	*2.1	30.2
\$600–\$799	28.3	**1.1	*3.4	**1.0	33.5
\$800–\$999	44.7	*2.2	*7.3	*3.1	56.6
\$1000–\$1199	50.7	*2.5	*4.2	*2.7	59.7
\$1200–\$1399	53.5	*4.9	*6.1	*4.2	68.0
\$1400–\$1999	106.3	15.1	19.2	*5.1	144.6
\$2000 or more	64.4	15.0	32.1	*1.9	112.0
Weekly cost of formal care(a)(f)					
\$0–\$9	45.3	*3.7	19.4	23.8	92.2
\$10–\$19	54.2	*5.4	20.5	—	80.2
\$20–\$39	111.8	10.2	14.8	—	136.3
\$40–\$59	67.4	9.2	12.7	—	89.3
\$60–\$79	39.2	*4.5	*4.3	—	48.0
\$80–\$99	28.4	*4.2	*3.2	—	35.8
\$100 or more	67.6	12.5	12.7	—	92.8
<i>Children aged 0–12 years who used formal care(a)(c)(g)</i>	<i>407.7</i>	<i>49.3</i>	<i>87.6</i>	<i>23.8</i>	<i>563.4</i>
.....					
ONE PARENT FAMILY					
<i>Children aged 0–12 years who used formal care(a)(c)</i>	<i>125.4</i>	<i>*4.4</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>148.1</i>
.....					
ALL FAMILIES					
<b>All children aged 0–12 years who used formal care(a)(c)</b>	<b>533.1</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>711.5</b>
.....					
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution	(d)	Number of children who used the specified Child Care Benefit arrangement for one or more types of care whose parent(s) have income in the specified range.			
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use	(e)	Includes nil or negative income.			
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)	(f)	Net cost to parent(s) after the Child Care Benefit has been paid but does not include adjustment for the new Child Care Tax Rebate. See Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 21-25.			
(a) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.	(g)	Includes 'don't know/not stated' for income.			
(b) Includes those intending to claim the Child Care Benefit.					
(c) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.					

	USED FORMAL CARE(a)		USED INFORMAL CARE	
	'000	%	'000	%
BENEFIT CLAIMED				
Benefit paid direct to provider(b)	533.1	91.0	..	..
Benefit paid direct to parents(c)	53.7	9.2	..	..
Main reason benefit paid direct to parents rather than to provider				
Carer/centre not eligible	*4.2	*0.7	..	..
Not yet applied	15.5	2.6	..	..
Not aware of other options	*7.3	*1.2	..	..
Not worth the effort	*3.3	*0.6	..	..
Enforced saving	*6.2	*1.1	..	..
Other	17.7	3.0	..	..
Total children whose benefit paid direct to parents(c)(d)	53.7	9.2	..	..
Total children for whom benefit was claimed(c)(d)	585.6	100.0	..	..
BENEFIT NOT CLAIMED				
Main reason benefit not claimed				
Carer/centre not eligible	20.2	20.8	28.7	31.1
Not aware of benefit	23.8	24.6	16.9	18.3
Not worth the effort	17.1	17.6	17.5	19.0
Income too high	23.9	24.6	13.1	14.2
Fees too low	*2.0	*2.1	**1.1	**1.2
Other(e)	10.0	10.3	15.0	16.2
Total children whose benefit not claimed(d)	97.1	100.0	92.3	100.0
<b>All children aged 0–12 years who used child care(d)(f)</b>	<b>711.5</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1 104.1</b>	<b>..</b>

\* 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

(a) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(b) This information was not collected for informal care. Most informal care does not have the option of direct payments to the provider.

(c) Includes those intending to claim the Child Care Benefit.

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

(e) 'Other' includes 'centre receives other government funding', 'salary sacrificing/employer/third party fully covers cost of child care', 'care not work-related' and 'receives other government assistance/child care assistance'.

(f) Includes children for whom the cost of care was nil.

	0–4 YEARS		5–12 YEARS		TOTAL	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
USED FORMAL CARE (a)						
Children who used formal care only						
Additional formal care required in previous four weeks	27.1	10.1	*6.6	*3.7	33.7	7.5
No additional formal care required in previous four weeks	242.1	89.9	173.5	96.3	415.5	92.5
<i>All children who used formal care only(c)</i>	269.2	100.0	180.1	100.0	449.3	100.0
Children who used both formal and informal care						
Additional formal care required in previous four weeks	18.0	10.5	*5.3	*5.8	23.3	8.9
No additional formal care required in previous four weeks	152.7	89.5	86.2	94.2	239.0	91.1
<i>All children who used both formal and informal care(c)</i>	170.7	100.0	91.6	100.0	262.2	100.0
All children who used formal care						
Additional formal care required in previous four weeks	45.1	10.3	11.9	4.4	57.0	8.0
No additional formal care required in previous four weeks	394.8	89.7	259.7	95.6	654.5	92.0
<i>All children who used formal care(c)(d)</i>	439.9	100.0	271.6	100.0	711.5	100.0
DID NOT USE FORMAL CARE (a)						
Children who used informal care only						
Formal care required in previous four weeks	29.7	9.6	31.0	5.8	60.7	7.2
No formal care required in previous four weeks	278.8	90.4	502.3	94.2	781.1	92.8
<i>All children who used informal care only(c)</i>	308.5	100.0	533.3	100.0	841.9	100.0
Children who did not use informal care						
Formal care required in previous four weeks	31.3	6.3	39.4	2.9	70.7	3.8
No formal care required in previous four weeks	469.6	93.7	1 296.6	97.1	1 766.2	96.2
<i>All children who did not use informal care(c)</i>	500.9	100.0	1 336.0	100.0	1 836.9	100.0
All children who did not use formal care						
Formal care required in previous four weeks	61.0	7.5	70.4	3.8	131.4	4.9
No formal care required in previous four weeks	748.5	92.5	1 798.9	96.2	2 547.4	95.1
<i>All children who did not use formal care(c)</i>	809.5	100.0	1 869.3	100.0	2 678.8	100.0
ALL CHILDREN						
(Additional) formal care required in previous four weeks(e)	106.1	8.5	82.3	3.8	188.4	5.6
No (additional) formal care required in previous four weeks(f)	1 143.2	91.5	2 058.6	96.2	3 201.8	94.4
<b>All children</b>	<b>1 249.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2 140.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 390.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(b) See discussion of reported requirement for (additional) formal care in the Summary of Findings.

(c) Use refers to use in the previous week.

(d) All children who used formal care in the previous week, including those who used both formal and informal care.

(e) Includes both children who had not used formal care in the previous week for whom formal care was wanted and children who had used formal care in the previous week for whom additional formal care was wanted.

(f) Includes both children who had not used formal care in the previous week for whom no formal care was wanted and children who had used formal care in the previous week for whom no additional formal care was wanted.

CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO REQUIRED (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE IN THE PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS(a)(b)(c), Main type and number of days required by age of child in years

	0–4 YEARS		5–8 YEARS		9–12 YEARS		TOTAL	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Main type of care required</b>								
Before and/or after school care	—	—	39.4	76.1	24.9	81.7	64.4	34.2
Long day care centre	51.0	48.0	*1.9	*3.7	—	—	52.9	28.0
Family day care	14.4	13.5	*2.1	*4.0	**1.4	**4.7	17.9	9.5
Occasional care centre	33.1	31.2	*4.8	*9.2	*2.9	*9.5	40.8	21.6
Other formal care	*7.7	*7.2	*3.6	*7.0	**1.3	**4.1	12.6	6.7
<i>Children who required (additional) formal care(a)</i>	106.1	100.0	51.8	100.0	30.5	100.0	188.4	100.0
<b>Number of days required in the previous four weeks</b>								
1 day	35.2	33.2	13.8	26.6	*7.2	*23.5	56.1	29.8
2 days	22.3	21.1	13.0	25.1	9.5	31.0	44.8	23.8
3 days	*7.6	*7.2	*5.6	*10.8	*3.9	*12.8	17.1	9.1
4 days	19.2	18.1	*4.7	*9.0	**0.6	**2.0	24.4	13.0
5–9 days	14.0	13.2	8.7	16.8	*6.0	*19.8	28.8	15.3
10 or more days	*4.9	*4.6	*2.9	*5.7	*2.8	*9.2	10.6	5.6
<i>Children who required (additional) formal care(a)(d)</i>	106.1	100.0	51.8	100.0	30.5	100.0	188.4	100.0
Mean number of days required	3.3	..	3.6	..	4.1	..	3.5	..
Median number of days required	2	..	2	..	2	..	2	..

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(b) Includes both children who had not used formal care in the previous week for whom formal care was wanted, and children who had used formal care in the previous week for whom additional formal care was wanted.

(c) See discussion of reported requirement for (additional) formal care in the Summary of Findings.

(d) Total includes children whose parents did not know how many days of care they required in the previous four weeks.

CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO REQUIRED (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE IN PREVIOUS FOUR WEEKS(a)(b)(c), Main reason care required and main reason required care not used by age of child in years

	0–4 YEARS		5–8 YEARS		9–12 YEARS		TOTAL	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Main reason (additional) formal care(a) required in previous four weeks</b>								
<b>Work-related reasons</b>								
Work	40.1	37.8	31.0	59.8	18.0	58.9	89.1	47.3
Other work-related reasons(d)	9.1	8.6	*2.0	*4.0	**1.0	**3.4	12.2	6.5
<i>Total work-related reasons</i>	49.2	46.4	33.0	63.8	19.0	62.4	101.3	53.7
<b>Personal reasons</b>								
Give parents a break/time alone	12.5	11.7	*3.5	*6.8	*2.3	*7.4	18.3	9.7
Ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist	*4.0	*3.8	*1.7	*3.3	**1.5	**5.0	*7.2	*3.8
Other personal reasons(e)	16.8	15.8	9.1	17.6	*6.3	*20.7	32.2	17.1
<i>Total personal reasons</i>	33.3	31.3	14.4	27.8	10.1	33.1	57.7	30.6
<b>Beneficial for child and other child-related reasons(f)</b>								
Other reason	*4.9	*4.7	**1.4	**2.7	**0.2	**0.8	*6.6	*3.5
<b>Main reason required formal care(a) not used</b>								
No services exist/don't know of any in area	*5.1	*4.8	*5.9	*11.4	8.6	28.0	19.5	10.4
Cost or too expensive	13.9	13.1	11.3	21.8	*5.5	*18.2	30.7	16.3
Booked out or no places	49.0	46.2	9.1	17.5	*4.7	*15.2	62.8	33.3
Other service-related(g)	9.2	8.7	*7.5	*14.5	*2.7	*8.8	19.4	10.3
Child-related(h)	*5.3	*5.0	*1.8	*3.4	*3.1	*10.1	10.2	5.4
Other	13.4	12.6	10.8	20.8	*4.3	*14.0	28.5	15.1
Not known whether care available	10.1	9.5	*5.5	*10.6	*1.7	*5.6	17.3	9.2
<b>All children who required (additional) formal care(a) in previous four weeks(b)</b>	<b>106.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(b) Includes both children who had not used formal care in the previous week for whom formal was wanted, and children who had used formal care in the previous week for whom additional formal care was wanted.

(c) See discussion of reported requirement for (additional) formal care in the Summary of Findings.

(d) 'Other work-related reasons' includes 'looking for work' and 'work-related study or training'.

(e) 'Other personal reasons' includes 'entertainment or social activity', 'other study or training', 'sport' and 'shopping'.

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

(g) 'Other service-related' reasons includes 'transport or distance', 'time or days available not suitable', 'parents unhappy with service or carers', and 'not flexible enough/not available at short notice'.

(h) 'Child-related' reasons include 'child too young or old', 'child's preference', and 'child has special needs (illness or disability)'.



CHILDREN AGED 0–12 YEARS WHO DID NOT REQUIRE (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE(a),  
Main reason why (additional) formal care(a) not required by age of child in years(b)

	0–4 YEARS		5–8 YEARS		9–12 YEARS		TOTAL	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Main reason did not require (additional) formal care(a) in previous four weeks</b>								
Cost or too expensive	41.0	3.6	31.9	3.2	26.0	2.4	99.0	3.1
Other service-related(c)	19.1	1.7	15.6	1.6	14.8	1.4	49.5	1.5
Child too young/old	81.3	7.1	*7.1	*0.7	64.0	6.0	152.4	4.8
Other child-related(d)	*5.8	*0.5	10.1	1.0	17.1	1.6	33.0	1.0
Not working, prefer/available to look after child	725.2	63.4	659.3	66.3	644.5	60.6	2 029.1	63.4
Prefer other type of care	53.3	4.7	42.0	4.2	47.5	4.5	142.8	4.5
Other	51.1	4.5	63.9	6.4	68.4	6.4	183.4	5.7
No reason	162.6	14.2	164.9	16.6	181.2	17.0	508.6	15.9
<b>Children who did not require (additional) formal care(a) in previous four weeks(e)</b>	<b>1 143.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>995.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 063.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 201.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(b) See discussion of reported requirement for (additional) formal care in the Summary of Findings.

(c) 'Other service-related' reasons includes 'transport or distance', 'time or days available not suitable', 'parents unhappy with service or carers', and 'not flexible enough/not available at short notice'.

(d) 'Other child-related' reasons include 'child's preference', and 'child has special needs (illness or disability)'.

(e) Total includes an estimated 4,100 children for whom this question was not asked.

CHILDREN AGED 4–11 YEARS WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL(a), Use of vacation care in the previous twelve months

	COUPLE FAMILY				ONE PARENT FAMILY			Total
	Both parents employed	One parent employed	Neither parent employed	Children in couple families(b)(c)	Parent employed	Parent not employed	Children in one parent families	
CHILDREN AGED 4–8 YEARS ('000)								
Attended vacation care program in previous 12 months	82.3	19.7	*3.4	110.4	30.7	11.5	42.2	152.6
Did not attend vacation care program in previous 12 months	373.5	271.7	41.7	698.8	66.3	82.0	148.3	847.1
Would have liked to attend	50.0	36.4	*6.7	95.1	10.4	12.8	23.2	118.3
Would not have liked to attend	323.4	235.3	34.9	603.7	55.9	69.2	125.1	728.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>455.8</b>	<b>291.4</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>809.2</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>190.6</b>	<b>999.7</b>
CHILDREN AGED 9–11 YEARS ('000)								
Attended vacation care program in previous 12 months	62.5	15.6	*2.9	83.1	12.8	9.9	22.7	105.9
Did not attend vacation care program in previous 12 months	363.0	185.1	30.5	587.3	60.8	64.9	125.7	713.0
Would have liked to attend	43.8	24.5	*6.5	76.7	12.3	15.2	27.5	104.2
Would not have liked to attend	319.2	160.6	23.9	510.6	48.5	49.7	98.2	608.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>425.5</b>	<b>200.7</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>670.5</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>148.4</b>	<b>818.9</b>
CHILDREN AGED 4–11 YEARS ('000)								
Attended vacation care program in previous 12 months	144.8	35.3	*6.3	193.5	43.5	21.5	65.0	258.5
Did not attend vacation care program in previous 12 months	736.4	456.8	72.2	1 286.1	127.1	146.9	274.0	1 560.2
Would have liked to attend	93.8	60.9	13.3	171.8	22.7	28.0	50.7	222.5
Would not have liked to attend	642.6	395.9	58.9	1 114.4	104.4	118.9	223.3	1 337.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>881.3</b>	<b>492.1</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>1 479.7</b>	<b>170.7</b>	<b>168.3</b>	<b>339.0</b>	<b>1 818.6</b>

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

(a) Data only collected for 4–11 year olds.

(b) Includes an estimated 26,800 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope/coverage of the Labour Force Survey.

(c) Includes an estimated 1,000 children in same-sex couple families.

	COUPLE FAMILY				ONE PARENT FAMILY			Total
	Both parents employed	One parent employed	Neither parent employed	Children in couple families(b)(c)	Parent employed	Parent not employed	Children in one parent families	
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AGED 4–8 YEARS (%)								
Attended vacation care program in previous 12 months	18.0	6.8	*7.6	13.6	31.7	12.3	22.2	15.3
Did not attend vacation care program in previous 12 months	82.0	93.2	92.4	86.4	68.3	87.7	77.8	84.7
Would have liked to attend	11.0	12.5	*14.9	11.7	10.7	13.7	12.2	11.8
Would not have liked to attend	71.0	80.8	77.5	74.6	57.6	74.0	65.7	72.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AGED 9–11 YEARS (%)								
Attended vacation care program in previous 12 months	14.7	7.8	*8.7	12.4	17.4	13.3	15.3	12.9
Did not attend vacation care program in previous 12 months	85.3	92.2	91.3	87.6	82.6	86.7	84.7	87.1
Would have liked to attend	10.3	12.2	*19.6	11.4	16.8	20.3	18.5	12.7
Would not have liked to attend	75.0	80.0	71.7	76.2	65.8	66.4	66.1	74.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AGED 4–11 YEARS (%)								
Attended vacation care program in previous 12 months	16.4	7.2	*8.1	13.1	25.5	12.7	19.2	14.2
Did not attend vacation care program in previous 12 months	83.6	92.8	91.9	86.9	74.5	87.3	80.8	85.8
Would have liked to attend	10.6	12.4	16.9	11.6	13.3	16.6	15.0	12.2
Would not have liked to attend	72.9	80.5	75.0	75.3	61.2	70.6	65.9	73.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Data only collected for 4–11 year olds.

(b) Includes an estimated 26,800 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope/coverage of the Labour Force Survey.

(c) Includes an estimated 1,000 children in same-sex couple families.

	FATHER EMPLOYED			FATHER NOT EMPLOYED	TOTAL
	<i>Mother employed full time</i>	<i>Mother employed part time</i>	<i>Mother not employed</i>	<i>Mother employed or not employed(a)</i>	<i>Total children in couple families(b)(c)</i>
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)					
Children who used child care	317.9	526.2	305.5	55.8	1 228.4
Children who didn't use child care	209.6	505.8	662.2	174.4	1 577.3
Type of care					
Formal care(d)					
Before and/or after school care	71.0	63.3	21.0	7.8	167.1
Long day care centre	55.9	119.2	74.2	13.8	269.5
Family day care	22.0	40.6	16.5	*3.9	84.3
Occasional care centre	*3.6	19.1	17.2	*1.9	42.0
Other formal care	*2.3	*7.1	*5.6	**0.8	15.9
<i>Children who used formal care(d)(e)(f)</i>	152.0	241.1	130.8	27.9	563.4
Informal care					
Grandparent	129.9	262.9	143.1	17.4	560.4
Other relative(g)	53.5	65.5	40.4	*6.2	169.7
Other person	48.0	72.9	33.4	9.7	167.2
<i>Children who used informal care(f)(h)</i>	221.8	379.8	209.8	32.4	857.5
Children who used formal care(d) only	96.1	146.4	95.7	23.4	370.9
Children who used informal care only	165.9	285.1	174.7	27.9	665.1
Children who used both formal(d) and informal care	55.9	94.7	35.1	*4.5	192.4
<b>All children aged 0–12 years in couple families</b>	<b>527.5</b>	<b>1 032.0</b>	<b>967.8</b>	<b>230.2</b>	<b>2 805.8</b>

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)					
Children who used child care	60.3	51.0	31.6	24.2	43.8
Children who didn't use child care	39.7	49.0	68.4	75.8	56.2
Type of care					
Formal care(d)					
Before and/or after school care	13.5	6.1	2.2	3.4	6.0
Long day care centre	10.6	11.5	7.7	6.0	9.6
Family day care	4.2	3.9	1.7	*1.7	3.0
Occasional care centre	*0.7	1.8	1.8	*0.8	1.5
Other formal care	*0.4	*0.7	*0.6	**0.3	0.6
<i>Children who used formal care(d)(e)(f)</i>	28.8	23.4	13.5	12.1	20.1
Informal care					
Grandparent	24.6	25.5	14.8	7.5	20.0
Other relative(g)	10.1	6.4	4.2	*2.7	6.0
Other person	9.1	7.1	3.5	4.2	6.0
<i>Children who used informal care(f)(h)</i>	42.1	36.8	21.7	14.1	30.6
Children who used formal care(d) only	18.2	14.2	9.9	10.2	13.2
Children who used informal care only	31.5	27.6	18.1	12.1	23.7
Children who used both formal(d) and informal care	10.6	9.2	3.6	*1.9	6.9
<b>All children aged 0–12 years in couple families</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) Employed mother may be employed full-time or part-time.

(b) Includes an estimated 2,900 children in same sex couple families.

(c) Includes an estimated 45,400 children in couple families where one parent was out of scope/coverage of the Labour Force Survey.

(d) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(e) All children who used 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 non-resident parent, brother/sister and other relative.

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

	Parent employed	Parent not employed	Total children in one parent families
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)			
Children who used child care	194.4	130.6	324.9
Children who didn't use child care	67.2	192.4	259.6
Type of care			
Formal care(a)			
Before and/or after school care	53.0	9.9	62.9
Long day care centre	29.9	25.4	55.2
Family day care	12.9	9.7	22.7
Occasional care centre	*3.4	*6.0	9.4
Other formal care	**1.3	**1.4	*2.6
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	96.1	52.1	148.1
Informal care			
Grandparent	63.7	37.1	100.8
Other relative(d)	79.2	55.4	134.6
Other person	30.8	9.2	40.0
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	152.3	94.3	246.6
Children who used formal care(a) only	42.1	36.2	78.3
Children who used informal care only	98.3	78.5	176.8
Children who used both formal(a) and informal care	54.0	15.8	69.8
<b>All children aged 0–12 years in one parent families</b>	<b>261.6</b>	<b>322.9</b>	<b>584.5</b>

	Parent employed	Parent not employed	Total children in one parent families
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)			
Children who used child care	74.3	40.4	55.6
Children who didn't use child care	25.7	59.6	44.4
Type of care			
Formal care(a)			
Before and/or after school care	20.3	3.1	10.8
Long day care centre	11.4	7.9	9.4
Family day care	4.9	3.0	3.9
Occasional care centre	*1.3	*1.9	1.6
Other formal care	**0.5	**0.4	*0.5
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	36.7	16.1	25.3
Informal care			
Grandparent	24.3	11.5	17.2
Other relative(d)	30.3	17.1	23.0
Other person	11.8	2.9	6.9
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	58.2	29.2	42.2
Children who used formal care(a) only	16.1	11.2	13.4
Children who used informal care only	37.6	24.3	30.2
Children who used both formal(a) and informal care	20.6	4.9	11.9
<b>All children aged 0–12 years in one parent families</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13.

(b) All children who used formal care, including those who used 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 non-resident parent, brother/sister and other relative.

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

	COUPLE FAMILIES (a)		ONE PARENT FAMILIES		ALL FAMILIES (a)	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
FAMILIES WITH EMPLOYED FATHER						
Work arrangements used by father						
Flexible working hours	381.5	24.2	14.5	52.6	395.9	24.7
Permanent part-time work	43.1	2.7	*4.2	*15.1	47.3	2.9
Shiftwork	94.8	6.0	*2.3	*8.2	97.0	6.0
Work at home	135.2	8.6	*4.8	*17.5	140.0	8.7
Other(b)	38.1	2.4	*1.4	*5.0	39.5	2.5
<i>All families where father used work arrangements(c)</i>	<i>524.0</i>	<i>33.2</i>	<i>18.7</i>	<i>67.8</i>	<i>542.7</i>	<i>33.8</i>
All families where father did not use work arrangements	1 052.7	66.7	8.9	32.2	1 061.6	66.1
All families with father employed(d)	1 577.7	100.0	27.6	100.0	1 605.3	100.0
FAMILIES WITH EMPLOYED MOTHER						
Work arrangements used by mother						
Flexible working hours	472.5	43.7	71.5	42.9	544.1	43.6
Permanent part-time work	379.6	35.1	60.9	36.5	440.4	35.3
Shiftwork	87.1	8.1	13.2	7.9	100.3	8.0
Work at home	199.1	18.4	15.3	9.2	214.4	17.2
Job sharing	41.8	3.9	5.6	3.4	47.4	3.8
Other	26.1	2.4	*4.6	*2.8	30.7	2.5
<i>All families where mother used work arrangements(c)</i>	<i>795.3</i>	<i>73.6</i>	<i>119.7</i>	<i>71.8</i>	<i>915.0</i>	<i>73.3</i>
All families where mother did not use work arrangements	284.0	26.3	46.6	28.0	330.6	26.5
All families with mother employed(d)	1 081.2	100.0	166.7	100.0	1 247.8	100.0
ALL FAMILIES WITH AT LEAST ONE PARENT EMPLOYED (e)						
Work arrangements used by either parent						
Flexible working hours	661.8	40.8	86.0	44.4	747.9	41.2
Permanent part-time work	395.4	24.4	65.0	33.6	460.5	25.3
Shiftwork	158.8	9.8	15.5	8.0	174.3	9.6
Work at home	271.7	16.7	20.2	10.4	291.8	16.1
Job sharing	48.5	3.0	5.8	3.0	54.2	3.0
Other	45.6	2.8	5.9	3.0	51.4	2.8
<i>All families where either parent used work arrangements(c)</i>	<i>969.2</i>	<i>59.7</i>	<i>138.0</i>	<i>71.2</i>	<i>1 107.2</i>	<i>60.9</i>
All families where neither parent used work arrangements	651.6	40.1	55.4	28.6	707.0	38.9
<b>All families with at least one parent employed(d)</b>	<b>1 623.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>193.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 817.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

(a) Excludes an estimated 2,400 same-sex couple families.

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

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

(d) Includes families whose working arrangements could not be determined. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 16.

(e) Excludes an estimated 20,600 families where one member was out of scope/coverage of the Labour Force Survey.

	March 1996	June 1999	June 2002	June 2005
	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....				
State or territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	81.7	r72.8	73.5	77.5
Victoria	53.2	r73.0	62.1	74.8
Queensland	26.2	r51.9	53.3	55.7
South Australia	16.4	r20.2	17.4	19.0
Western Australia	15.3	r10.4	22.4	20.2
Tasmania	3.3	r2.7	6.2	4.2
Northern Territory	1.7	r2.6	*1.4	*1.9
Australian Capital Territory	2.8	r3.3	3.0	3.8
Age of child				
0–3 years	69.9	r60.0	47.2	48.8
4 years	118.3	r130.5	148.0	159.2
5 years or more	12.3	r46.4	44.0	49.1
Area of usual residence				
Capital City	120.9	r126.9	142.9	149.4
Balance of State/Territory	79.6	r110.0	96.2	107.7
Family composition				
Couple family	178.7	r200.8	207.3	224.6
One parent family	21.8	r36.1	31.9	32.5
Main language spoken at home by child(a)				
English	na	na	227.4	245.5
Other	na	na	11.8	11.6
<b>All children who attended preschool</b>	<b>200.6</b>	<b>r236.9</b>	<b>239.1</b>	<b>257.1</b>

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

na not available

r revised

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

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Main reason chose particular preschool centre(a)</b>								
Cost	na	na	na	na	*5.3	*2.2	*4.2	*1.6
Availability	na	na	na	na	23.8	10.0	30.9	12.0
Hours of operation	na	na	na	na	*3.9	*1.6	*7.5	*2.9
Cost/availability/hours of operation(b)	na	na	32.6	13.8	33.0	13.8	42.6	16.6
Quality/reputation(c)	na	na	76.1	32.1	92.2	38.6	98.5	38.3
Close to home	na	na	78.8	33.3	75.4	31.6	78.3	30.4
Convenient to work/school(d)	na	na	17.5	7.4	13.6	5.7	18.8	7.3
Other	na	na	26.6	11.2	23.1	9.6	18.6	7.2
<b>Weekly hours attended preschool</b>								
Less than 5 hours	26.4	13.2	r37.0	r15.6	23.6	9.9	27.2	10.6
5–9 hours	63.2	31.5	r66.2	r27.9	72.9	30.5	54.8	21.3
10–14 hours	71.7	35.7	r90.0	r38.0	91.6	38.3	104.6	40.7
15–19 hours	24.4	12.2	r32.4	r13.7	37.1	15.5	49.4	19.2
20 hours or more	14.9	7.4	r11.3	r4.8	13.9	5.8	21.2	8.2
<b>Number of weekdays attended preschool</b>								
One	36.3	18.1	r53.3	r22.5	42.7	17.9	36.1	14.0
Two	73.6	36.7	r73.1	r30.9	86.9	36.3	95.8	37.3
Three	51.0	25.4	r71.4	r30.1	72.2	30.2	85.8	33.4
Four	22.6	11.2	r24.4	r10.3	26.2	10.9	22.3	8.7
Five	17.2	8.6	r14.7	r6.2	11.2	4.7	17.1	6.7
<b>All children who attended preschool(e)</b>	<b>200.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>r236.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>239.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>257.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

na not available

r revised

(a) 'Main reason chose particular preschool centre' was not collected in 1996.

(b) 'Cost', 'availability', 'hours of operation' were collapsed in 1999.

(c) Includes 'quality/reputation' of education program and of care.

(d) 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's/sister's school'.

(e) Includes persons who did not know their care centre was a preschool.



	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Couple family</b>								
Employment status of parents								
Both parents employed full time	16.9	8.4	r20.1	r8.5	18.5	7.7	23.1	9.0
One parent employed full time and one parent employed part time	62.8	31.3	r68.9	r29.1	70.4	29.4	92.8	36.1
One parent employed full time and one parent not employed	78.2	39.0	r86.5	r36.5	90.1	37.7	78.8	30.6
Both parents employed part time	**0.6	**0.3	*r2.7	*r1.1	*3.3	*1.4	*5.4	*2.1
One parent employed part time and one parent not employed	7.7	3.8	r5.8	r2.5	8.0	3.3	10.6	4.1
Neither parent employed	12.5	6.2	r16.8	r7.1	14.6	6.1	10.0	3.9
Whether other care used								
Formal care only	10.8	5.4	14.4	6.1	24.0	10.0	32.1	12.5
Informal care only	62.9	31.4	74.5	31.5	54.2	22.7	71.7	27.9
Formal and informal care	9.3	4.6	14.0	5.9	15.3	6.4	20.2	7.8
No other care	95.7	47.7	97.8	41.3	113.8	47.6	100.7	39.2
<i>Children in couple families(a)</i>	178.7	89.1	200.8	84.7	207.3	86.7	224.6	87.4
<b>One parent family</b>								
Employment status of parent								
Parent employed full time	*3.6	*1.8	*r3.2	*r1.4	*2.9	*1.2	*4.3	*1.7
Parent employed part time	*3.3	*1.7	r10.6	r4.5	9.9	4.2	8.5	3.3
Parent not employed	14.9	7.4	r22.3	r9.4	19.1	8.0	19.7	7.7
Whether other care used								
Formal care only	**1.0	**0.5	4.4	1.9	*5.2	*2.2	*5.7	*2.2
Informal care only	8.5	4.2	14.3	6.0	9.7	4.1	10.7	4.2
Formal and informal care	*1.9	*0.9	4.1	1.7	*4.4	*1.8	*5.5	*2.1
No other care	10.5	5.3	13.3	5.6	12.6	5.3	10.6	4.1
<i>Children in one parent families</i>	21.8	10.9	36.1	15.3	31.9	13.3	32.5	12.6
<b>All children who attended preschool</b>	<b>200.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>r236.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>239.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>257.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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

r revised

(a) Includes an estimated 3,900 children in families where one parent was out of scope/coverage of the Labour Force Survey.

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0–4 YEARS								
Children who used child care	694.7	53.8	750.0	58.9	693.4	55.8	748.4	59.9
Children who didn't use child care	597.6	46.2	524.3	41.1	548.8	44.2	500.9	40.1
Type of care								
Formal care(a)								
Before and/or after school care	*4.4	*0.3	*r1.7	*r0.1	*4.3	*0.3	*2.1	*0.2
Long day care	170.8	13.2	r227.1	r17.8	282.2	22.7	303.0	24.3
Family day care	74.6	5.8	r72.4	r5.7	76.8	6.2	90.5	7.2
Occasional care	47.5	3.7	r43.0	r3.4	33.8	2.7	47.2	3.8
Other formal care	17.9	1.4	r15.5	r1.2	8.5	0.7	13.7	1.1
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	305.5	23.6	346.6	27.2	393.6	31.7	439.9	35.2
Informal care								
Grandparent(d)	na	na	376.6	29.6	312.6	25.2	349.8	28.0
Brother/sister	22.8	1.8	12.3	1.0	10.4	0.8	*3.7	*0.3
Other relative(d)	391.0	30.3	94.7	7.4	84.5	6.8	84.4	6.8
Other person	128.9	10.0	104.7	8.2	85.9	6.9	68.6	5.5
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	517.9	40.1	549.0	43.1	456.0	36.7	479.2	38.4
Children who used formal care(a) only	176.8	13.7	201.0	15.8	237.4	19.1	269.2	21.5
Children who used informal care only	389.2	30.1	403.4	31.7	299.8	24.1	308.5	24.7
Children who used formal(a) and informal care	128.6	10.0	145.6	11.4	156.2	12.6	170.7	13.7
All Children	1 292.4	100.0	1 274.2	100.0	1 242.2	100.0	1 249.3	100.0

## CHILDREN AGED 5–11 YEARS

Children who used child care	700.9	38.7	738.1	39.9	690.7	37.2	735.8	39.4
Children who didn't use child care	1 109.6	61.3	1 110.6	60.1	1 167.1	62.8	1 129.9	60.6
Type of care								
Formal care(a)								
Before and/or after school care	107.4	5.9	r153.7	r8.3	166.8	9.0	225.0	12.1
Long day care	6.9	0.4	r16.6	r0.9	14.8	0.8	20.8	1.1
Family day care	21.6	1.2	r15.0	r0.8	19.1	1.0	15.6	0.8
Occasional care	*4.9	*0.3	*r2.6	*r0.1	*2.4	*0.1	*2.3	*0.1
Other formal care	*4.3	*0.2	*r1.5	*r0.1	*3.2	*0.2	*4.3	*0.2
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	141.3	7.8	186.5	10.1	203.5	11.0	264.5	14.2
Informal care								
Grandparent(d)	na	na	286.1	15.5	279.1	15.0	281.6	15.1
Brother/sister	142.3	7.9	61.9	3.3	60.1	3.2	47.0	2.5
Other relative(d)	335.0	18.5	127.4	6.9	123.8	6.7	141.2	7.6
Other person	189.1	10.4	189.3	10.2	141.3	7.6	129.8	7.0
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	610.5	33.7	613.2	33.2	563.2	30.3	560.6	30.0
Children who used formal care(a) only	90.4	5.0	125.0	6.8	127.5	6.9	175.2	9.4
Children who used informal care only	559.6	30.9	551.6	29.8	487.2	26.2	471.3	25.3
Children who used formal(a) and informal care	50.8	2.8	61.6	3.3	76.0	4.1	89.3	4.8
All Children	1 810.5	100.0	1 848.7	100.0	1 857.8	100.0	1 865.7	100.0

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

na not available

r revised

(a) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. To enable comparisons over time preschool has been removed from 'formal care' for all time periods shown in this table.

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

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

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

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

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
ALL CHILDREN AGED 0–11 YEARS								
Children who used child care	1 395.6	45.0	1 488.1	47.7	1 384.1	44.6	1 484.2	47.6
Children who didn't use child care	1 707.2	55.0	1 634.8	52.3	1 716.0	55.4	1 630.9	52.4
Type of care								
Formal care(a)								
Before and/or after school care	111.7	3.6	r155.4	r5.0	171.0	5.5	227.0	7.3
Long day care	177.7	5.7	r243.7	r7.8	297.0	9.6	323.8	10.4
Family day care	96.2	3.1	r87.4	r2.8	95.9	3.1	106.1	3.4
Occasional care	52.4	1.7	r45.6	r1.5	36.3	1.2	49.5	1.6
Other formal care	22.2	0.7	r16.9	r0.5	11.7	0.4	18.0	0.6
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)	446.7	14.4	533.1	17.1	597.1	19.3	704.4	22.6
Informal care								
Grandparent(d)	na	na	662.7	21.2	591.6	19.1	631.4	20.3
Brother/sister	165.1	5.3	74.2	2.4	70.5	2.3	50.7	1.6
Other relative(d)	726.0	23.4	222.2	7.1	208.3	6.7	225.6	7.2
Other person	318.0	10.2	294.0	9.4	227.2	7.3	198.4	6.4
Children who used informal care(c)(e)	1 128.3	36.4	1 162.1	37.2	1 019.2	32.9	1 039.8	33.4
Children who used formal care(a) only	267.3	8.6	326.0	10.4	364.9	11.8	444.4	14.3
Children who used informal care only	948.9	30.6	955.0	30.6	787.0	25.4	779.9	25.0
Children who used formal(a) and informal care	179.5	5.8	207.1	6.6	232.2	7.5	260.0	8.3
<b>All Children</b>	<b>3 102.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 122.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 115.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

na not available

r revised

(a) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. To enable comparisons over time preschool has been removed from 'formal care' for all time periods shown in this table.

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

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

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

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

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0–4 YEARS								
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)								
Additional formal care required in previous four weeks	36.0	11.8	35.5	10.3	40.9	10.4	45.1	10.3
No additional formal care required in previous four weeks	269.5	88.2	311.1	89.7	352.7	89.6	394.8	89.7
<i>Children who used formal care</i>	305.5	100.0	346.6	100.0	393.6	100.0	439.9	100.0
Children who used informal care only(b)								
Formal care required in previous four weeks	46.1	11.8	35.1	8.7	28.1	9.4	29.7	9.6
No formal care required in previous four weeks	343.1	88.2	368.3	91.3	271.6	90.6	278.8	90.4
<i>Children who used informal care only</i>	389.2	100.0	403.4	100.0	299.8	100.0	308.5	100.0
Children who did not use child care(b)								
Formal care required in previous four weeks	41.1	6.9	33.4	6.4	32.3	5.9	31.3	6.3
No formal care required in previous four weeks	556.5	93.1	490.9	93.6	516.6	94.1	469.6	93.7
<i>Children who did not use child care</i>	597.6	100.0	524.3	100.0	548.8	100.0	500.9	100.0
All children								
(Additional) formal care required in previous four weeks(d)	123.2	9.5	104.0	8.2	101.3	8.2	106.1	8.5
No (additional) formal care required in previous four weeks(e)	1 169.1	90.5	1 170.3	91.8	1 140.9	91.8	1 143.2	91.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 292.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 274.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 242.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 249.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
CHILDREN AGED 5–11 YEARS								
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)								
Additional formal care required in previous four weeks	9.9	7.0	13.2	7.1	12.3	6.1	11.9	4.5
No additional formal care required in previous four weeks	131.3	93.0	173.4	92.9	191.2	93.9	252.6	95.5
<i>Children who used formal care</i>	141.3	100.0	186.5	100.0	203.5	100.0	264.5	100.0
Children who used informal care only(b)								
Formal care required in previous four weeks	57.6	10.3	42.6	7.7	26.2	5.4	28.7	6.1
No formal care required in previous four weeks	502.0	89.7	509.0	92.3	461.0	94.6	442.7	93.9
<i>Children who used informal care only</i>	559.6	100.0	551.6	100.0	487.2	100.0	471.3	100.0
Children who did not use child care(b)								
Formal care required in previous four weeks	50.7	4.6	30.3	2.7	29.5	2.5	37.8	3.3
No formal care required in previous four weeks	1 058.9	95.4	1 080.3	97.3	1 137.6	97.5	1 092.1	96.7
<i>Children who did not use child care</i>	1 109.6	100.0	1 110.6	100.0	1 167.1	100.0	1 129.9	100.0
All children								
(Additional) formal care required in previous four weeks(d)	118.2	6.5	86.0	4.7	68.0	3.7	78.4	4.2
No (additional) formal care required in previous four weeks(e)	1 692.2	93.5	1 762.7	95.3	1 789.8	96.3	1 787.3	95.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 810.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 848.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 857.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 865.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>
ALL CHILDREN AGED 0–11 YEARS								
Children who used formal care(a)(b)(c)								
Additional formal care required in previous four weeks	45.9	10.3	48.7	9.1	53.2	8.9	57.0	8.1
No additional formal care required in previous four weeks	400.8	89.7	484.4	90.9	543.8	91.1	647.3	91.9
<i>Children who used formal care</i>	446.7	100.0	533.1	100.0	597.1	100.0	704.4	100.0
Children who used informal care only(b)								
Formal care required in previous four weeks	103.7	10.9	77.6	8.1	54.4	6.9	58.4	7.5
No formal care required in previous four weeks	845.1	89.1	877.3	91.9	732.6	93.1	721.5	92.5
<i>Children who used informal care only</i>	948.9	100.0	955.0	100.0	787.0	100.0	779.9	100.0
Children who did not use child care(b)								
Formal care required in previous four weeks	91.8	5.4	63.6	3.9	61.8	3.6	69.1	4.2
No formal care required in previous four weeks	1 615.4	94.6	1 571.2	96.1	1 654.2	96.4	1 561.8	95.8
<i>Children who did not use child care</i>	1 707.2	100.0	1 634.8	100.0	1 716.0	100.0	1 630.9	100.0
All children								
(Additional) formal care required in previous four weeks(d)	241.4	7.8	189.9	6.1	169.4	5.5	184.5	5.9
No (additional) formal care required in previous four weeks(e)	2 861.4	92.2	2 933.0	93.9	2 930.7	94.5	2 930.6	94.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 102.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 122.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3 115.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. To enable comparisons over time preschool has been removed from 'formal care' for all time periods shown in this table.

(b) Use refers to use in the previous week.

(c) All children who used formal care in the previous week, including those who used both formal and informal care.

(d) Includes both children who had not used formal care in the previous week for whom formal care was wanted, and children who had used formal care in the previous week for whom additional formal care was wanted.

(e) Includes both children who had not used formal care in the previous week for whom no formal care was wanted, and children who had used formal care in the previous week for whom no additional formal care was wanted.

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0–4 YEARS								
Main type of care required								
Before and/or after school care	*3.3	*2.7	*2.4	*2.3	*2.4	*2.4	—	—
Long day care	36.3	29.5	40.7	39.2	42.7	42.2	51.0	48.0
Family day care	22.7	18.5	18.4	17.7	24.3	24.0	14.4	13.5
Occasional care	57.3	46.5	35.9	34.5	29.4	29.0	33.1	31.2
Other formal care	*3.6	*2.9	6.5	6.2	*2.5	*2.5	*7.7	*7.2
<i>Children who required additional formal care(a)(b)</i>	<i>123.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>104.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>101.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>106.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>
CHILDREN AGED 5–11 YEARS								
Main type of care required								
Before and/or after school care	81.6	69.0	60.2	70.0	45.4	66.7	60.9	77.7
Long day care	*2.7	*2.3	4.7	5.5	*3.5	*5.2	*1.9	*2.4
Family day care	6.3	5.3	6.1	7.1	*4.8	*7.0	*3.3	*4.2
Occasional care	24.8	21.0	7.8	9.0	8.2	12.0	*7.7	*9.8
Other formal care	*2.8	*2.4	7.3	8.5	*6.1	*9.0	*4.7	*5.9
<i>Children who required additional formal care(a)(b)</i>	<i>118.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>86.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>68.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>78.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>
ALL CHILDREN AGED 0–11 YEARS								
Main type of care required								
Before and/or after school care	84.9	35.2	62.6	33.0	47.8	28.2	60.9	33.0
Long day care	39.0	16.2	45.4	23.9	46.3	27.3	52.9	28.6
Family day care	29.0	12.0	24.5	12.9	29.1	17.2	17.7	9.6
Occasional care	82.1	34.0	43.7	23.0	37.6	22.2	40.8	22.1
Other formal care	6.4	2.7	13.7	7.2	8.6	5.1	12.3	6.7
<b>Children who required additional formal care(a)(b)</b>	<b>241.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>189.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>169.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>184.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) In surveys prior to 2005, the definition of 'formal care' included preschool. To enable comparisons over time preschool has been removed from 'formal care' for all time periods shown in this table.

(b) Includes both children who had not used formal care in the previous week for whom formal care was wanted and children who had used formal care in the previous week for whom additional formal care was wanted.

	MARCH 1996		JUNE 1999		JUNE 2002		JUNE 2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
FAMILIES WITH AN EMPLOYED FATHER								
Work arrangements used by father								
Flexible working hours	214.2	16.4	232.0	18.0	272.5	21.7	377.2	24.8
Permanent part-time work	17.6	1.3	23.9	1.9	36.9	2.9	44.8	2.9
Shiftwork	70.8	5.4	68.5	5.3	67.5	5.4	93.0	6.1
Work at home	88.4	6.8	94.9	7.4	114.0	9.1	132.8	8.7
Job sharing	10.5	0.8	6.7	0.5	6.4	0.5	12.6	0.8
Other	16.7	1.3	16.0	1.2	19.4	1.5	25.5	1.7
<i>All families where father used work arrangements(b)</i>	340.9	26.1	343.5	26.7	377.6	30.0	518.0	34.0
All families where father did not use work arrangements	965.4	73.9	943.2	73.3	880.1	70.0	1 003.1	65.9
<b>All families with father employed(c)</b>	<b>1 306.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 286.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 257.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 522.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
FAMILIES WITH AN EMPLOYED MOTHER								
Work arrangements used by mother								
Flexible working hours	281.2	31.3	340.9	36.8	370.8	38.8	511.4	44.4
Permanent part-time work	260.4	29.0	312.1	33.7	333.7	34.9	411.4	35.7
Shiftwork	57.8	6.4	79.1	8.5	70.8	7.4	93.6	8.1
Work at home	164.7	18.3	142.9	15.4	173.9	18.2	202.7	17.6
Job sharing	36.0	4.0	36.2	3.9	40.1	4.2	45.3	3.9
Other	23.8	2.6	32.6	3.5	32.4	3.4	30.2	2.6
<i>All families where mother used work arrangements(b)</i>	617.6	68.7	627.3	67.8	672.7	70.4	856.6	74.3
All families where mother did not use work arrangements	281.4	31.3	298.2	32.2	282.4	29.6	294.1	25.5
<b>All families with mother employed(c)</b>	<b>898.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>925.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>955.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 152.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
ALL FAMILIES WITH AT LEAST ONE PARENT EMPLOYED (d)								
Work arrangements used by either parent								
Flexible working hours	412.7	28.5	474.7	32.5	515.8	35.4	712.4	41.4
Permanent part-time work	275.0	19.0	336.0	23.0	356.5	24.4	437.7	25.4
Shiftwork	118.7	8.2	135.7	9.3	124.0	8.5	167.3	9.7
Work at home	216.0	14.9	198.1	13.5	238.7	16.4	279.3	16.2
Job sharing	41.1	2.8	40.0	2.7	43.3	3.0	52.2	3.0
Other	40.4	2.8	46.0	3.1	47.8	3.3	50.1	2.9
<i>All families where either parent used work arrangements(b)</i>	756.7	52.3	773.2	52.9	820.6	56.2	1 054.9	61.3
All families where neither parent used work arrangements	689.8	47.7	689.4	47.1	638.3	43.8	663.8	38.6
<b>All families with at least one parent employed(c)</b>	<b>1 446.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 462.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 458.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1 721.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
(a) Excludes an estimated 1,800 same-sex couple families.					(c) Includes families whose working arrangements could not be determined. See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 16.			
(b) Components do not add to total as parents could use more than one type of work arrangement.					(d) Excludes an estimated 29,000 couple families where one parent was out of scope/coverage of the Labour Force Survey.			

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains results from the Child Care Survey conducted throughout Australia in June 2005. The Child Care Survey is a continuation of a series of surveys on this topic conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in June 2002. The main aim of the survey was to collect data on the use of child care for children aged 0–12 years, and some aspects of families' requirements for formal care. Information was also collected on the receipt and non-receipt of the Child Care Benefit (CCB), and the income and working arrangements used to help care for children of parents with children aged 0–12 years.

**2** The Child Care Survey was conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The monthly publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the LFS. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing relevant to both the LFS and supplementary surveys.

**3** From April 2001 the LFS has been conducted using a redesigned questionnaire containing additional questions and some minor definitional changes. These changes also affect the supplementary surveys. For further details, see *Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (cat. no. 6295.0) and *Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (cat. no. 6232.0).

### CAI IMPLEMENTATION

**4** In October 2003, the ABS began the progressive implementation of computer assisted interviewing (CAI) into the LFS (and its supplementary surveys). Under CAI, interviewers record responses directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer. In the 2005 survey, the CAI method was used for all survey interviews. The change of interviewing method is not expected to have affected the Child Care Survey estimates in any meaningful way.

### SCOPE

**5** Information was collected in relation to children aged 0–12 years living in private dwellings. This was a change in scope in 2005 compared with previous surveys, which covered children aged 0–11 years only. See paragraph 13 for more information.

**6** The survey excluded children visiting the dwelling and students at boarding school. Persons excluded from the LFS are:

- members of the Australian permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia.

**7** In households where all adults were out of scope of the LFS, no information was obtained for the Child Care Survey. However, as long as at least one adult 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 Child Care Survey.

**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 the 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.

### COVERAGE

**9** The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in June 2005. In the LFS, coverage rules were applied which aim to ensure that each person was associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

**10** Information was obtained through interviews conducted over a two-week period between 6–17 June 2005. Data collected on the use of child care related to the week prior to the interview, with the exception of Tasmania where it related to 23–29 May 2005 to avoid Tasmanian school holidays.

**11** In each selected household, detailed information about the child care arrangements for each child was collected for a maximum of two children. Information was obtained from an adult who permanently resided in the selected household and was always either the child's parent, step-parent or guardian. In selected households with more than two children aged 0–12 years, two children were randomly selected and the complete set of child care information was collected for them. Summary information was collected for the additional children including: number attending child care; CCB arrangements; and the cost of formal and informal care.

**12** This sampling methodology is the same as that for 2002. Different sampling methodologies were used in previous surveys. In 1999 a small set of information was collected for each of the 3rd, 4th and 5th children in the household and in the 1996 survey and earlier, a complete set of child care information was collected for all children resident in a selected household.

### CHANGES BETWEEN SURVEYS

**13** Two major changes were made to the 2005 Child Care Survey:

- First, the scope of the survey was changed to cover children aged 0–12 years. Previous surveys covered children aged 0–11 years only. The change in age scope was made following advice to the ABS that many 12 year olds attend primary school and could therefore use formal child care, primarily before and/or after school care, but very few children aged over 12 years use formal child care. As a result of this change, the Child Care Survey provides almost complete coverage of children attending formal child care services, which brings the survey into closer alignment with other related data collections such as the Australian Government Census of Child Care Services conducted by the Department of Family, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
- Second, preschool has been excluded from the definition of formal care. This was due to the widely-accepted view that the main focus of preschools is education and preparing children for school, rather than providing a child care service. Many child care services also include developmental and educational programs and preschools provide a child care service at the same time as they provide education, so there is some overlap. Data on preschool attendance continued to be collected as part of the survey but, where possible, preschool is presented separately from formal child care.

**14** For some of the information included in this publication, it is not possible to present data relating to the use of formal care without also including data related to the use of preschool as a form of child care. This affects Table 6 (Main reason used formal care) and Table 11 (showing the cost of child care to families). Cost of care to the family is calculated by adding the child care costs for all children in the family, not just those selected for the survey questionnaire. The survey questionnaire only collected detailed information such as the type of formal care and the cost of each type of formal care for a maximum of two selected children in each family. Preschool use and costs could be separated out from formal and informal care costs for each of the children surveyed. However, for any remaining children in the family, only summary information such as total cost for all formal care, combined with preschool, was collected.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### CHANGES BETWEEN SURVEYS

*continued*

- 15** Three other minor changes were made in the 2005 Child Care Survey:
- There was a minor adjustment to the wording of questions about the cost of child care. This was done to ensure that costs reported covered a period of one week.
  - The weighting methodology for family estimates differs from that used for the 2002 Child Care Survey. In 2002, the method for determining the family level weights for the Child Care Survey involved adjusting the Demography household benchmarks by unweighted Child Care Survey information. This adjustment accounted for the differing scope of the Demography benchmarks (based on information obtained from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing with other factors taken into account) and the Child Care Survey. In 2005, the method used for obtaining the Child Care family weights involved using Demography person benchmarks with an added household level constraint in order to calculate the family weights. This method did not require household benchmarks in order to produce family weights. After the 2005 Child Care Survey family weights were calculated, they were added up to produce various family estimates.
  - Another change was the exclusion of questions about whether children attending a long day care or occasional care centre received a preschool or kindergarten program delivered by an early childhood education teacher. These questions were excluded as the quality of the data obtained from these questions in the 2002 Child Care Survey was considered to be poor. However it is recognised that this is a topic of interest and similar questions may be reinstated in future, pending successful testing.

### USING THE DATA

- 16** It should be noted that as a result of questionnaire sequencing errors:
- Information about attendance at vacation care and some information about before and/or after school care (time of day of attendance at before and/or after school care program, location of before and/or after school care) was not collected for children aged 12 years.
  - Information about the working arrangements used by parents to help care for their child was not collected for a small number of people.

**17** Minor revisions have been made to 1999 data showing detailed types of formal child care, to make the data consistent with 1996, 2002 and 2005. In 1999 a processing step was omitted which meant that some records which should have been classified as one of the specific types of formal care (before and/or after school care, long day care centre, family day care, occasional care, preschool), were classified as 'other formal care'. Revised estimates are indicated in relevant tables with an 'r'.

### CHILD CARE BENEFIT AND THE CHILD CARE TAX REBATE

**18** The Child Care Benefit (CCB) was introduced in July 2000 and replaced Child Care Assistance and the Child Care Rebate. The CCB is a payment to help families who use approved and registered care.

**19** 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. For more information on different types of family assistance, including the CCB, see <<http://www.familyassist.gov.au>>.

**20** A new tax offset, called the Child Care Tax Rebate, was passed by Parliament in December 2005. In general terms, this change means that families with a tax liability will be eligible for 30 per cent of out-of-pocket expenses incurred for approved child care, up to a maximum of \$4,000 per child per year. The Child Care Tax Rebate applies to out-of-pocket expenses for approved child care incurred since 1 July 2004 and can be claimed for the first time in relation to the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 in 2005–06

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### CHILD CARE BENEFIT AND THE CHILD CARE TAX REBATE *continued*

income tax returns. See the following section on cost of care for more information about the impact of the Child Care Tax Rebate on Child Care Survey data.

### COST OF CARE

**21** Within this publication, cost of care is reported as the net cost of care to the parents after the CCB has been paid and does not take into account any rebate that families may claim (after 30 June 2006 for the first time) as a result of the newly introduced Child Care Tax Rebate.

**22** 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 Child Care Survey prompt families to report the out-of-pocket amount they have paid to the child care service provider. Therefore in the majority of cases, the cost of child care to the family, taking the CCB into account, is directly collected in the survey.

**23** In a minority of cases, where the 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 2004–05 provided by the Department of Families, 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, whether the care is part-time or full-time.

**24** In estimating the CCB, it was assumed that:

- if the parent intended to claim the CCB, then the care provider was eligible (i.e. approved or registered child care services)
- basic eligibility requirements for the benefit were met (e.g. residency and children's immunisation)
- parents 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)
- parents 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.

**25** When being claimed by families, the Child Care Tax Rebate will be based on the net costs of child care, i.e. after taking any CCB to a family during a financial year into account. However, there was insufficient information to calculate a family's potential rebate from the Child Care Tax Rebate in the 2005 Child Care Survey. The survey collected information on the current weekly cost of child care at the time of the survey (i.e. June 2005), and did not collect any information about how much time during the year children had attended child care. Care should therefore be taken when using estimates of cost of care data presented in this publication, as the Child Care Tax Rebate would ultimately reduce the costs as published for many families.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMAL CHILD CARE

**26** The 2005 Child Care Survey, and its predecessors, collected information to support investigations of the overall demand for formal child care services. This includes information on the actual use of formal child care services, the 'felt need' for formal child care for those who hadn't used it, and the 'felt need' for additional child care for those who had used it (in the reference week). Further information about the reasons formal care was not required (which included responses such as the costs being too high) and for not using child care even though it was required was also collected to provide further insights into issues of the level of need for additional child care services.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMAL CHILD CARE *continued*

**27** The summary measure of unmet need for child care services presented in this publication, both for 2005 and in the comparative time series tables (see tables 28 and 29), is based on the responses to a combination of questions about parents 'felt need' for formal child care services in the previous four weeks. This measure shown in the tables by the label '(Additional) formal care required' refers to both:

- parents who said they had wanted to use a formal service in the previous four weeks (whose child had not used a formal child care service in the previous week) and,
- parents who said they had wanted to use 'more' formal services in the previous four weeks (whose child had used a formal child care service in the previous week)

**28** It should be noted that while this indicator supports comparisons of requirements for formal child care between population subgroups and change over time, it is not an indicator of the required number of additional child care places and should not be misinterpreted as referring to 'the number of children on waiting lists for child care' or 'the actual number of additional child care places required' or as a definitive measure of unmet need for formal child care.

**29** A limitation of using the 'felt need' measure, described above, as an unqualified measure of unmet demand for a service is that it does not indicate the conditions under which the interest in using a service would become effective. For example, no reference is made to the time periods in for which the care may be required, (which, as shown in table 17, may be a relatively small amount for many families), 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 influence a persons decision to use a child care service for their child. Assessing levels of demand for child care places must therefore be more specific about such conditions.

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

**30** Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- 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

**31** The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in June 2008.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**32** 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*.

### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**33** In addition to the statistics included in this publication, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**34** Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0)
- *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0)
- *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia, August 2004 to June 2005* (cat. no. 6239.0)
- *Child Care, Australia, June 2002* (cat. no. 4402.0)
- *Children, Australia: A Social Report, 2002* (cat. no. 4119.0)
- *Family Characteristics, Australia, June 2003* (cat. no. 4442.0)
- *Household and Family Projections, Australia, 1996–2021* (cat. no. 3236.0)
- *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 2005* (cat. no. 6220.0)

**35** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

## APPENDIX DATA ITEMS LIST

### DATA ITEMS LIST

The ABS has a range of data available from the Survey of Child Care 2005. This section lists the data items that relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

#### Characteristics of families

Number of children aged 0–12 in family  
Age of the youngest child in the family  
State or Territory of usual residence  
Area of usual residence  
Family composition  
Australian Standard Geographic Classification remoteness structure/ARIA

#### Characteristics of parents

Age of father  
Age of mother  
Full-time/part-time employment status of father  
Full-time/part-time employment status of mother  
Full-time/part-time employment status of parent(s)  
Labour force status of father  
Labour force status of mother  
Labour force status of parents  
Weekly hours worked by father  
Weekly hours worked by mother  
Work arrangements used by either parent to help care for their child(ren)  
Work arrangements used by father to help care for his children  
Work arrangements used by mother to help care for her children  
Whether father studying full time  
Whether mother studying full time  
All sources of cash income of father  
All sources of cash income of mother  
All sources of cash income of parents  
Principal source of cash income of father  
Principal source of cash income of mother  
Principal source of cash income of parents  
Weekly income of father  
Weekly income of mother  
Weekly income of parent(s)  
Proportion of family income that is spent on child care

#### Characteristics of children

Sex of Child  
Age in months of child  
Age of Child  
Country of Birth  
Main language spoken at home by child  
Whether attended school

#### Child care arrangements for families

Type of care and/or preschool used by family  
Weekly cost of child care and/or preschool to the family  
Whether provider receives Child Care Benefit for any formal care and/or preschool used by family  
Whether parent(s) intend to claim Child Care Benefit for cost any formal care and/or preschool to the family

#### Child care arrangements for families *cont.*

Whether parent(s) intend to claim Child Care Benefit for the cost of any informal care to the family  
Whether parent(s) intend to claim Child Care Benefit for the cost of any care and/or preschool to the family  
Number of children using formal care and/or preschool in the family  
Number of children using informal care in the family

#### Child care arrangements for children

Type of care and/or preschool used  
Type of care  
Weekly cost of care after the Child Care Benefit  
Weekly hours of care  
Number of weekdays care used  
Number of weekend days care used  
Number of days care used  
Type of days attended care  
All reasons used formal care and/or preschool  
All reasons used informal care  
Main reason used formal care and/or preschool  
Main reason used informal care  
Whether use of formal care or preschool changed in last 12 months  
Whether use of informal care changed in last 12 months  
Main reason use of formal care or preschool changed in last 12 months  
Main reason use of informal care changed in last 12 months  
Whether care provider receives Child Care Benefit to reduce the cost of the care  
Whether Child Care Benefit claimed for care  
Whether parent(s) intend to claim for the cost of care  
Main reason intends to claim for the cost of the care rather than have the benefit paid directly to the carer  
Main reason does not intend to claim Child Care Benefit for formal care  
Main reason does not intend to claim Child Care Benefit for informal care

#### Requirements for formal care in previous four weeks

Whether (additional) formal care required in previous four weeks  
Whether (additional) formal care or preschool required in previous four weeks  
Whether (additional) preschool required in previous four weeks  
Main reason did not require (additional) formal care or preschool in previous four weeks  
Main type of formal care or preschool required in previous four weeks

APPENDIX DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

**Requirements for formal care in previous four weeks *cont.***

Main type of formal care required in previous four weeks  
Main reason (additional) formal care required in previous four weeks  
Main reason (additional) formal care or preschool required in previous four weeks  
Main reason (additional) preschool required in previous four weeks  
Number of days (additional) formal care required in previous four weeks  
Number of days (additional) formal care or preschool required in previous four weeks  
Number of days (additional) preschool required in previous four weeks  
Main reason did not use required formal care or preschool in previous four weeks  
Main reason did not use required formal care in previous four weeks  
Main reason did not use required preschool in previous four weeks  
Whether preferred type of formal care or preschool available in previous four weeks  
Whether preferred type of formal care available in previous four weeks  
Whether preschool available in previous four weeks  
Main reason preferred formal care or preschool was not available in previous four weeks

**Requirements for formal care in previous four weeks *cont.***

Main reason preferred formal care was not available in previous four weeks  
Main reason preferred preschool was not available in previous four weeks

**Child care arrangements for each type of care**

Day of care  
Hours of care

**Child care arrangements for specific types of care**

Whether attended vacation care  
Whether required vacation care  
Time of day of attendance at before and/or after school care program  
Location of before and/or after school care  
Whether long day care centre provides care before 9am and or after 5pm  
Whether long day care centre conducts its program during school holidays  
All reasons for choosing a long day care centre  
Main reason for choosing a long day care centre  
If long day care (centre) service is located where would be most suited  
Preferred location of long day care centre  
All reasons for not using preferred location of long day care centre  
All reasons for choosing a preschool  
Main reason for choosing a preschool

## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

### ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

**1** Estimates of children were 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. Independent estimates of these distribution characteristics of children were also used to improve the estimation procedure for family estimates.

### 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. 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.

**3** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see tables T1 and T2). There are separate SE tables for estimates of number of children and estimates of number of families. Each SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using the data collected in this survey. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation among SEs for different estimates of the same size.

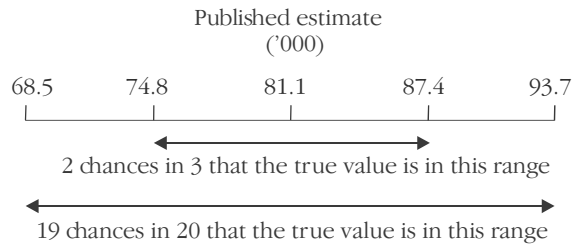
### CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS

**4** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of children is as follows. Calculation of SEs relating to estimates of families use table T2 instead of table T1. Table 1 shows that the estimated number of children aged 3 who used formal care only is 81,100. Since this estimate is between 50,000 and 100,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 5,050 and 7,050 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & SE \text{ of estimate} \\ &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\ &= 5,050 + \left( \left( \frac{81,100 - 50,000}{100,000 - 50,000} \right) \times (7,050 - 5,050) \right) \\ &= 6,294 \\ &= 6,300 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)} \end{aligned}$$

**5** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 74,800 to 87,400 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 68,500 to 93,700. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS *continued*



**6** In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs so that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

**7** 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. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

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

**8** For example, in table 1 the estimate for the total number of children aged 3 who used child care (formal and/or informal) is 175,300. The estimated number of children aged 3 who used formal care only is 81,100, so the proportion of children aged 3 who used formal care only out of those children who used child care is 81,100/175,300 or 46.3%. The SE of the total number of children aged 3 who used child care may be calculated by interpolation as 9,100 (rounded to the nearest 100). To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, which gives 9,100/175,300 = 5.2%. The SE for the number of children aged 3 who used formal care only was calculated above as 6,300, which converted to an RSE is 6,300/81,100 = 7.8%. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(7.8)^2 - (5.2)^2} = 5.8\%$$

giving a SE for the proportion (46.3%) of 2.7 percentage points (=46.3\*5.8/100).

**9** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of children aged 3 who used formal care only out of those who used child care is between 43.6% and 49.0% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 40.9% to 51.7%.

DIFFERENCES

**10** Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). 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:

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



**TECHNICAL NOTE** DATA QUALITY *continued*

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DIFFERENCES *continued*

**11** While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

# STANDARD ERRORS

## T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF CHILD ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	STANDARD ERROR									RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR
	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	Aust. %
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	150	150	130	130	110	120	120	90	150	150.0
200	240	240	200	190	180	170	180	150	230	115.0
300	320	310	270	250	230	210	230	190	300	100.0
500	440	430	380	330	320	270	310	260	410	82.0
700	540	530	470	400	390	320	380	320	500	71.4
1,000	670	660	590	490	480	390	470	390	620	62.0
1,500	850	830	760	620	620	480	590	480	780	52.0
2,000	1 010	970	900	720	730	560	700	560	920	46.0
2,500	1 150	1 100	1 000	800	850	650	800	600	1 050	42.0
3,000	1 250	1 200	1 150	900	900	700	900	650	1 150	38.3
3,500	1 400	1 300	1 250	950	1 000	750	950	700	1 250	35.7
4,000	1 500	1 400	1 350	1 050	1 100	800	1 050	750	1 350	33.8
5,000	1 700	1 600	1 500	1 150	1 200	900	1 150	850	1 550	31.0
7,000	2 000	1 900	1 800	1 400	1 450	1 100	1 400	950	1 850	26.4
10,000	2 400	2 250	2 150	1 650	1 750	1 350	1 700	1 050	2 200	22.0
15,000	2 950	2 700	2 650	2 000	2 200	1 700	2 150	1 200	2 750	18.3
20,000	3 400	3 100	3 050	2 300	2 550	2 000	2 500	1 350	3 200	16.0
30,000	4 100	3 700	3 650	2 800	3 100	2 500	3 100	1 500	3 900	13.0
40,000	4 700	4 200	4 150	3 200	3 550	2 950	3 600	1 600	4 500	11.3
50,000	5 200	4 600	4 600	3 550	4 000	3 350	4 050	1 650	5 050	10.1
100,000	7 000	6 050	6 100	4 800	5 500	5 000	5 800	1 850	7 050	7.1
150,000	8 200	7 050	7 150	5 700	6 550	6 350	7 150	1 950	8 500	5.7
200,000	9 200	7 800	7 950	6 450	7 450	7 550	8 250	2 000	9 700	4.9
300,000	10 700	8 950	9 150	7 600	8 850	9 600	..	2 050	11 650	3.9
500,000	12 850	10 550	10 850	9 250	10 900	13 100	..	..	14 650	2.9
1,000,000	16 200	12 900	13 350	12 000	14 300	..	..	..	19 650	2.0
2,000,000	20 000	15 450	16 050	15 350	18 400	..	..	..	26 150	1.3
5,000,000	25 650	19 000	19 850	..	..	..	..	..	37 450	0.7
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48 450	0.5

.. not applicable

## STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

### T2 STANDARD ERRORS OF FAMILY ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	STANDARD ERROR									RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR
	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	Aust. %
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	
100	150	140	130	110	120	100	110	90	100	100.0
200	230	220	210	170	190	160	170	140	170	85.0
300	300	280	270	220	240	200	210	190	220	73.3
500	420	390	370	300	320	270	280	250	310	62.0
700	510	480	450	360	390	330	340	310	390	55.7
1,000	630	590	550	440	470	390	410	370	490	49.0
1,500	800	750	690	550	590	480	490	450	630	42.0
2,000	940	880	810	630	680	550	560	520	750	37.5
2,500	1 050	1 000	900	700	750	600	600	550	850	34.0
3,000	1 200	1 100	1 000	800	850	650	650	600	950	31.7
3,500	1 300	1 200	1 100	850	900	700	700	650	1 050	30.0
4,000	1 350	1 250	1 150	900	950	750	750	700	1 150	28.8
5,000	1 550	1 400	1 300	1 000	1 100	800	800	750	1 300	26.0
7,000	1 800	1 700	1 550	1 150	1 250	900	900	850	1 550	22.1
10,000	2 150	2 000	1 800	1 350	1 500	1 000	1 050	900	1 900	19.0
15,000	2 650	2 450	2 200	1 600	1 800	1 150	1 150	1 050	2 350	15.7
20,000	3 000	2 750	2 500	1 800	2 000	1 250	1 250	1 100	2 700	13.5
30,000	3 600	3 300	2 950	2 150	2 400	1 350	1 400	1 200	3 350	11.2
40,000	4 050	3 750	3 300	2 400	2 700	1 450	1 500	1 250	3 850	9.6
50,000	4 450	4 100	3 650	2 600	2 950	1 500	1 600	1 300	4 250	8.5
100,000	5 850	5 350	4 750	3 300	3 850	1 650	1 800	1 350	5 900	5.9
150,000	6 800	6 200	5 500	3 800	4 500	1 750	1 900	1 400	7 050	4.7
200,000	7 500	6 850	6 100	4 150	5 000	1 800	1 950	1 400	8 000	4.0
300,000	8 600	7 850	6 950	4 650	5 700	1 800	..	1 400	9 450	3.2
500,000	10 100	9 200	8 150	5 400	6 750	1 800	..	..	11 600	2.3
1,000,000	12 350	11 250	10 000	6 400	8 350	..	..	..	15 000	1.5
2,000,000	14 750	13 400	11 950	7 450	10 150	..	..	..	19 150	1.0
5,000,000	18 050	16 350	14 700	..	..	..	..	..	25 600	0.5
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31 200	0.3

.. not applicable

## GLOSSARY

<b>(Additional) formal care</b>	Additional formal care required in the last four weeks for children already using formal care, and formal care required in the last four weeks for children who did not currently use any.
<b>Approved care</b>	Child care provided by a service provider that participates satisfactorily in the Australian Government funded quality assurance system and has been approved to receive Child Care Benefit payments on behalf of eligible families. 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 .
<b>Area of usual residence</b>	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.
<b>Before and/or after school care</b>	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.
<b>Brother/sister care</b>	Informal care by the child's brothers or sisters, including step brothers or sisters.
<b>Child care arrangements</b>	Relates to those types of care described as formal and informal.
<b>Child Care Benefit (CCB)</b>	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. The CCB was introduced on 1 July 2000, when it replaced the Child Care Cash Rebate and Childcare Assistance.
<b>Child Care Tax Rebate</b>	A new 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 per cent of out-of-pocket expenses incurred for approved child care, up to a maximum of \$4,000 per child per year. The Child Care Tax Rebate applies to out-of-pocket expenses for approved child care incurred since 1 July 2004 and can be claimed in relation to the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 for the first time in 2005–06 income tax returns. The Child Care Tax Rebate is available for families who receive Child Care Benefit (CCB) and meet the CCB work, study and training test.
<b>Children</b>	Children aged 0–12 years in scope for the survey.
<b>Cost of care</b>	Cost, net of Child Care Benefit, to parents for a child to attend care. In most cases, where the Child Care Benefit was paid directly to the child care service provider, the cost of care was directly collected in the survey. In a small number of cases, where the Child Care Benefit was not paid direct to the provider, the Child Care Benefit was estimated and subtracted from the reported cost of care. Information on the Child Care Tax Rebate was not included as part of the survey as it had not been made available for families to claim at that time.  See the Explanatory Notes for more information about the Child Care Benefit, the Child Care Tax Rebate, and how cost of care data were calculated.
<b>Family</b>	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.
<b>Family day care</b>	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.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Family type</b>	Refers to one parent or couple families.
<b>Father</b>	The natural, adopted or step father of the child, or the male legal guardian of the child, or the spouse or de facto partner of the mother. The father must be resident in the same household as the child.
<b>Formal care</b>	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.
<b>Full-time/part-time workers</b>	<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>
<b>Grandparent care</b>	Informal care provided by the child's grandmother or grandfather.
<b>Hours of care</b>	Number of hours a child attended child care in the reference week.
<b>Hours worked</b>	Number of hours actually worked by the child's parent(s) in the reference week.
<b>Informal care</b>	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 parent living elsewhere) and care by other (unrelated) people such as friends, neighbours, nannies or babysitters. It may be paid or unpaid.
<b>Long day care centre</b>	A type of formal care that is centre-based and 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.
<b>Mean</b>	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.
<b>Median</b>	The value that divides the population into two equal parts, one falling below the value and one above.
<b>Mother</b>	The natural, adopted or step mother of the child, the female legal guardian of the child, or the spouse or de facto partner of the father. The mother must be resident in the same household as the child.
<b>Occasional care</b>	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.
<b>Other formal care</b>	A type of formal care other than before and/or after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care.
<b>Other person care</b>	Informal care by people who are not related to the child such as family friends, babysitters, nannies or neighbours.
<b>Other relative care</b>	Informal care by relatives of the child excluding (step) brothers and sisters, and grandparents. It includes care by the child's other parent living elsewhere, 'in-laws' who are not grandparents of the child and other relatives such as aunt, uncle or cousin .
<b>Preschool</b>	Educational and developmental programs for children in the year (or in some jurisdictions, two years) before they begin full-time primary education.
<b>Reason used care/reason required additional formal care</b>	<p>Respondents were asked to identify all reasons and the main reason formal care was required in the previous four weeks.</p> <p>Work-related reasons include working, looking for work and studying/training for work.</p> <p>Personal reasons include study or training not related to work, shopping, entertainment, social or sporting activities, giving parents a break/time alone, caring for relatives, visiting doctor, or undertaking voluntary/community activities.</p>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Reason used care/reason required additional formal care</b> <i>continued</i>	Beneficial for child reasons include good for child and preparation for school.
<b>Registered care</b>	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.
<b>Remoteness</b>	<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>
<b>Vacation care</b>	A service provided to school children during the school holidays.
<b>Weekly income of parents</b>	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.
<b>Work arrangements</b>	Arrangements, such as flexible working hours, permanent 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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