



# Child Care in Australia

August 2013



## Key facts

- There were more than 1 million children using approved child care in the September quarter 2012, up 33.4 per cent since the September quarter 2004, attending more than 15,100 services.
- To support more than 726,000 families using child care, the Australian Government is investing more than \$25 billion over the next four years, more than triple that provided in the four years prior to 2007.
- The National Quality Framework is being rolled out without any significant increase in fees.
- Child care affordability has improved since 2004-05 with out-of-pocket costs to families decreasing across all income levels. The Australian Government is meeting approximately 70 per cent of average long day childcare costs for a family earning \$70,000 per year.

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## Introduction

The Australian Government's agenda for early childhood education and child care focuses on providing Australian families with high-quality, accessible, affordable, flexible and integrated early childhood education and child care.

The Australian Government subsidises the cost of child care for eligible families through the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate. This report provides an analysis of child care quality, affordability, including financial assistance, fees and costs, the amount child care is being used and the availability and access of that care, along with some flexible approaches to child care. Where possible, times series information has been presented to allow the reader to gauge the changes that have occurred in child care.

The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care (National Quality Framework) will deliver a higher standard of care for children in the critical areas of education, health and safety and provides clear and comprehensive information for families so they can choose the best services for their child.

The Australian child care sector continues to grow and change over time. It is central in promoting workforce participation and efforts to improve child development outcomes, to give all children the best start in life.

## Child Care Quality

### National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care

The National Quality Framework was developed as part of the 2009 Council of Australian Governments' initiative *Investing in the Early Years—A National Early Childhood Development Strategy*. The National Quality Framework has applied to long day care, family day care, outside school hours care and preschools (known as kindergarten in some jurisdictions) in Australia from 1 January 2012.

The National Quality Framework creates a jointly governed uniform national approach to the regulation and quality assessment of education and care services. It replaces the previously separate State and Territory licensing and quality assurance processes.

The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), a statutory authority established in 2010, oversees the National Quality Framework and its application across jurisdictions to ensure that it is implemented in a nationally consistent way.

Under the National Quality Framework, services are regularly assessed and rated against the seven Quality Areas of the National Quality Standard. Regulatory Authorities in each state and territory are responsible for undertaking the assessment and rating of services. Assessment and rating visits commenced from June 2012, with final ratings being issued to services approximately eight weeks after the visit. A service has 14 days in which to request a review of its ratings.

Key requirements such as qualifications and educator-to-child ratios are being phased in between 2012 and 2020.

As at 30 June 2013 there were 13,286 services currently approved under the National Quality Framework in the National Quality Agenda IT System. This consisted of 96 per cent centre-based services made up of approximately 50 per cent long day care, 23 per cent outside school hours care and 24 per cent preschool and 4 per cent family day care services.

Of the 2,564 services that have been assessed to date 56.1 per cent are meeting or exceeding the National Quality Standard with 43.6 per cent working towards the National Quality Standard and only 0.3 per cent requiring significant improvement.

Information on the national quality standard ratings at a state/territory level can be found at Appendix 1, Table A1.

**Table 1: National quality standard ratings, June 2013**

Final overall rating	Number of services <sup>1</sup>	Per cent with rating <sup>2</sup>
Exceeding national quality standard	588	22.9
Meeting national quality standard	850	33.2
Working towards national quality standard	1,119	43.6
Significant improvement required	7	0.3

Source: NQAITS, data extracted 23 July 2013.

Further information on the National Quality Framework-can be found at <http://acecqa.gov.au/>.

## Affordability of Child Care

Affordable child care supports families' workforce participation and helps children spend time in high-quality early childhood education and child care services.

### Early Childhood Education and Care Funding

There has been a long history of the Australian Government providing funding to assist families to access early childhood education and care. The Government first provided financial assistance for child care in 1972. Since then there has been significant investment in child care, particularly over the past several years, and this investment is set to continue into the future.

The Australian Government subsidises the cost of child care for eligible families through the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate. Child Care Benefit was introduced in 2000 and was supplemented with the Child Care Rebate in 2004.

In 2008, the Australian Government increased the rate of the Child Care Rebate from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of out-of-pocket expenses for child care. At the same time, the annual maximum amount available in the Child Care Rebate was increased from \$4,354 up to \$7,500 per child.

The Australian Government investment in early childhood education and care has increased significantly over time. In the four year period, 2003-04 to 2006-07, the Government support for early childhood education and care, through the provision of Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate, was \$6.3 billion<sup>3</sup> this increased to \$12.7 billion over the next four year period covering 2007-08 to 2010-11<sup>4,5</sup> while the Government's investment for the four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15<sup>6</sup> is expected to total \$19.3 billion. From 2013-14 to 2016-17 the Australian Government's investment will have reached more than \$22 billion, which is more than triple the investment (\$6.3 billion) in the four years covering 2003-04 to 2006-07.

<sup>1</sup> The services that have been rated to date do not necessarily represent a random sample or a representative cross section of services. Only a small number of services have been rated, particularly in the smaller jurisdictions and remote and very remote areas. Therefore, caution should be taken in drawing conclusions about patterns or trends.

<sup>2</sup> Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

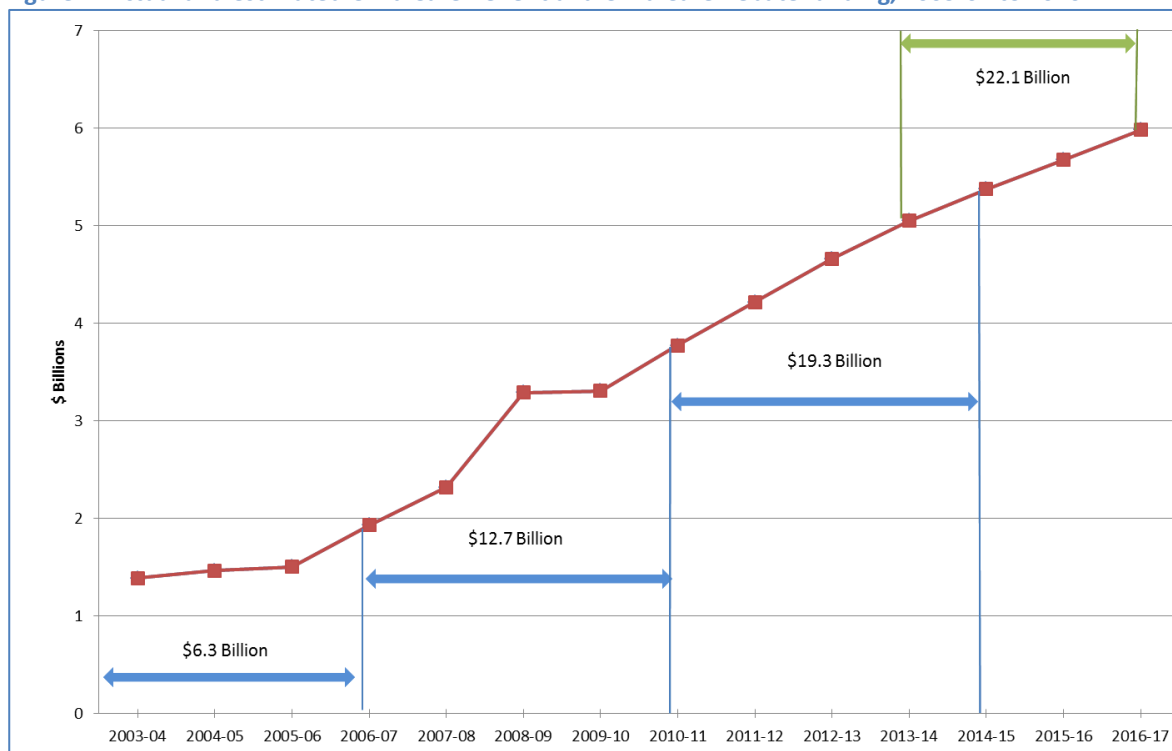
<sup>3</sup> 2003-04 to 2006-07 figures are based on the actuals from the respective FAHCSIA Annual Reports. These figures do not include any payments that were delivered via the ATO.

<sup>4</sup> 2007-08 figures are based on data provided by FAHCSIA and the DEEWR Annual Report.

<sup>5</sup> 2008-09 to 2011-12 figures are derived from the respective DEEWR Annual Report.

<sup>6</sup> The current and forward estimates from 2012-13 to 2016-17 are derived from the 2013-14 DEEWR Budget.

Figure 1: Actual and estimated Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate funding, 2003-04 to 2016-17



Source: DEEWR administrative and forward estimates data.

## Financial Assistance

### Child Care Benefit

Child Care Benefit is a payment from the Australian Government that helps with the cost of child care. It is received as a lump sum payment or as reduced child care fees.

The Child Care Benefit rates that apply from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 are shown below (Table 2). These rates increase annually, in line with the annual Consumer Price Indexation changes.

Table 2: Child Care Benefit rates by service type

Child Care Benefit approved care service type	Child Care Benefit hourly rates (maximum weekly limits apply)
Standard hourly rate Long Day Care <sup>7</sup> , Outside School Hours Care and Occasional Care	\$3.99 per hour for one child in care <sup>8</sup>
Rate for standard hours for Family Day Care and In Home Care	\$5.32 (\$3.99 x 1.3333) x per hour – for one child in care <sup>8</sup> (up to a maximum of \$199.50 per week) <sup>9</sup>
Rate for non-standard hours for Family Day Care and In Home Care	\$5.32 (\$3.99 x 1.3333) per hour – for one child in care <sup>8</sup>

Source: Child Care Services Handbook, found at <http://deewr.gov.au/child-care-service-handbook>.

<sup>7</sup> A part time loading percentage applies to non-school children in long day care centres.

<sup>8</sup> Rates for school children are 85 per cent of the rates in the table.

<sup>9</sup> Child Care Benefit ceiling amount for family day care and in home care services.

## Child Care Rebate

In addition to the Child Care Benefit, the Child Care Rebate is a payment from the Australian Government that helps working families with the cost of child care. The Child Care Rebate is not income tested; families may be eligible to receive this rebate even if the family income is too high to receive the Child Care Benefit.

If using approved child care for the purposes of work, training or study-related reasons the Government will provide families with 50 per cent of out-of-pocket child care costs, up to the annual cap. For the 2012-13 year, the Child Care Rebate annual cap is \$7,500 per child per year.

## Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance

The Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance program provides assistance with child care fees for parents receiving income support, mostly sole parents, while they work, study or train to enter or re-enter the workforce. The Australian Government is investing heavily to help more parents, especially sole parents, access skills and training that will lead to jobs.

To meet the growing demand for this program the Australian Government is investing an extra \$254.1 million over four years to 2016. The program will also be better targeted to support parents, Australian businesses and the Government's Skilling Australia reforms which are aimed at securing the future prosperity of Australia.

The Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance program builds on work the Australian Government is doing to make quality child care more affordable and accessible.

## Community Support Program

The Community Support Program provides financial help to child care service providers to improve access to child care for children, families and communities. It complements the help given to families through the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate.

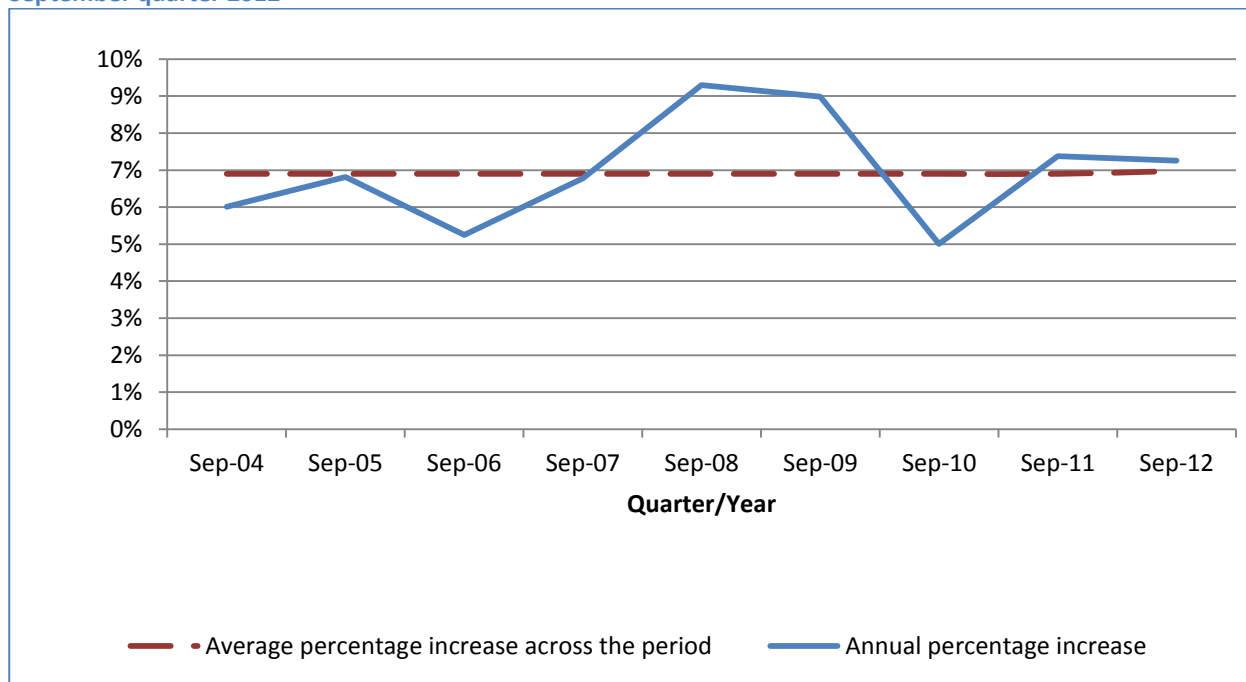
The Australian Government will provide approximately \$129.3 million, during the 2012-2013 financial year, directly to child care and related services through:

- support payments to help operators meet the costs associated with establishing a new child care service; and
- support payments designed to help child care operators to deliver services in circumstances where it may be difficult.

## Fees

The average hourly fees for long day care increased by 7.3 per cent nationally, from the September quarter 2011 to the September quarter 2012, this was marginally lower than the annual percentage growth to the September quarter 2011 (7.4 per cent). Figure 2 shows the annual percentage increase to hourly fees of 7.3 per cent from September quarter 2011 to the September quarter 2012 is only marginally over the average annual percentage increase of 6.9 per cent for the period September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2011.

**Figure 2: Average and annual percentage change to long day care hourly fees, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

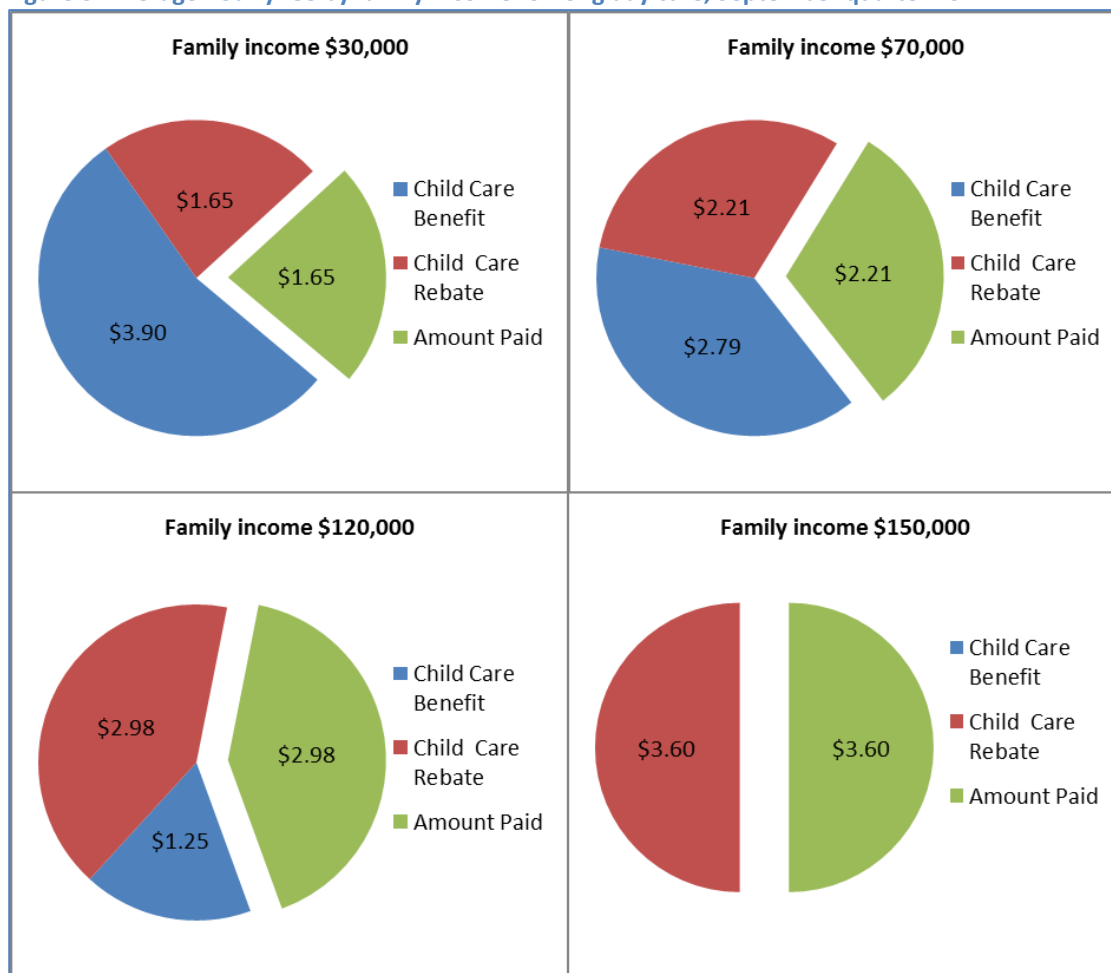
While it is not possible to disaggregate and apportion movement in fees charged to any specific issue; for example the National Quality Framework or general changes to business costs, local market conditions or service operating models, the total average fee increase between September quarter 2011 and September quarter 2012 has been approximately 50 cents per day, of which approximately 45 cents would be accounted for by trend growth (assuming annual growth of 6.9 per cent, as shown in Figure 2). This 50 cents per day impact (5 cents per hour for a 10 hour day) is less than the Access Economics' estimate of an increase of approximately \$1.07 per day between 2011 and 2012.

Charging practices, including fees, are commercial decisions made by individual services. Although child care services are responsible for setting their own fees, where a service claims that an increase to fees is related to the introduction of the National Quality Framework, Australian Consumer Law requires, among other things that they should be careful to ensure their claim can be substantiated.

The average hourly fee for long day care was \$7.20 in the September quarter 2012. Figure 3 shows the amount paid per hour, broken into Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate and out of pocket payments. The amount paid per hour, after Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate, for long day care was \$1.65 for a family income of \$30,000, \$2.21 for a family income of \$70,000, \$2.98 for a family income of \$120,000 per annum and \$3.60 per hour for \$150,000 per annum.

Further information on long day care fees at a state/territory level can be found at Appendix 1, Table A2.

Figure 3: Average hourly fee by family income for long day care, September quarter 2012



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Note: Totals may not equal \$7.20 due to rounding.

### Costs of Child care

Out-of-pocket cost of child care is an indicator of the Government's objective that Australian families have access to children's services irrespective of their financial circumstances<sup>10</sup>.

Out-of-pocket costs<sup>11</sup> to parents have fallen from 2004 to 2012 across the income spectrum. In 2004, the out-of-pocket costs, after Australian Government subsidies, for a family with one child in long day care full time and earning a gross income of \$75,000 a year were 13.0 per cent of disposable income. In 2012, this proportion had declined to just 8.4 per cent. For families with a gross annual income of \$115,000 the proportion of disposable income spent on child care declined from 11.4 per cent in 2004 to 8.6 per cent in 2012.

Figure 4 presents the out-of-pocket costs (before and after Australian Government subsidies) for families with one child using long day care for 50 hours of care per week. Before subsidies, out-of-pocket costs varied from 39.7 per cent of weekly disposable income for families earning a gross income of \$35,000 per year, to 15.4 per cent for families earning a gross income of \$150,000 per year. After subsidies, out-of-pocket costs were significantly reduced to approximately 9.0 per cent of disposable income across all income ranges.

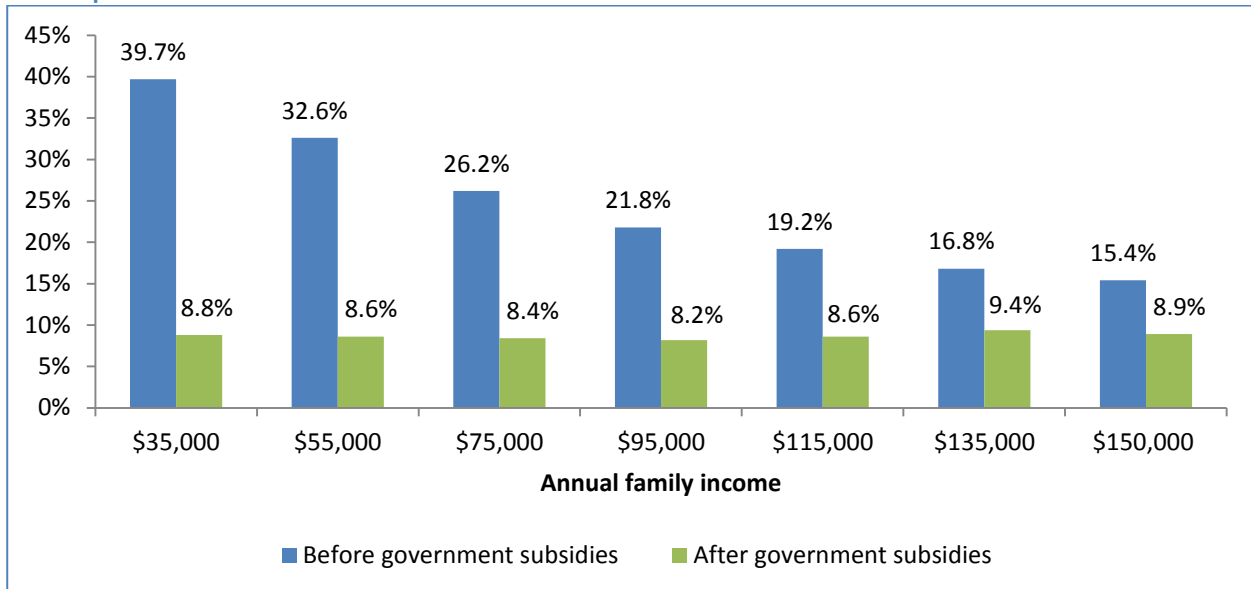
Further information on the out-of-pocket costs in long day care at a state/territory level can be found at Appendix 1, Table A3.

<sup>10</sup> Report on Government Services 2012.

<sup>11</sup> Out-of-pocket cost of child care is defined as the proportion of weekly disposable income that families spend on child care services.



**Figure 4: Out-of-pocket costs for one child in long day care before and after Australian Government subsidies, March quarter 2012**



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

## Support to families

The amount of assistance provided by the Australian Government to families has increased over time. In 2006, a family with one child in long day care and with an annual income of \$55,000 received approximately \$92 per week (in Australian Government subsidies) to assist with child care costs. By 2009, due to significant changes to Australian Government subsidies, including increasing the Child Care Rebate to 50 per cent of out of pocket costs, this same family would have received approximately \$210 per week in subsidies for child care. By 2012, this same family could now be subsidised by the Australian Government to the value of \$250 per week. Figure 5 shows the comparison of the amount of Australian Government subsidies provided to Australian families per week from 2004-05 to 2011-12. On average, Australian Government child care fee assistance increased \$109 per week from 2004 to 2012, with higher increases at the lower income levels (\$127 per week for a family with an annual income of \$75,000) and smaller increases in the higher income brackets (\$70 per week for a family with an annual income of \$135,000).

**Figure 5: Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate weekly rates for annual family income bands, 2004-05 and 2011-12**



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

## Increase in Child Care Rebate

In July 2008, the rate of the Child Care Rebate increased from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of out-of-pocket expenses for child care. At the same time, the annual maximum amount available from the Child Care Rebate was increased from \$4,354 up to \$7,500 per child per year. In 2011-12 it is estimated that the average annual Child Care Rebate received per family was \$2,132, well below the \$7,500 cap.

If there had been no increase to the Child Care Rebate rate or the Child Care Rebate cap, it is estimated that in 2011-12, 27,150 families would have hit the \$4,354 cap, and that the average annual Child Care Rebate per family would have been \$1,275, providing almost \$1,000 less per child per family each year.

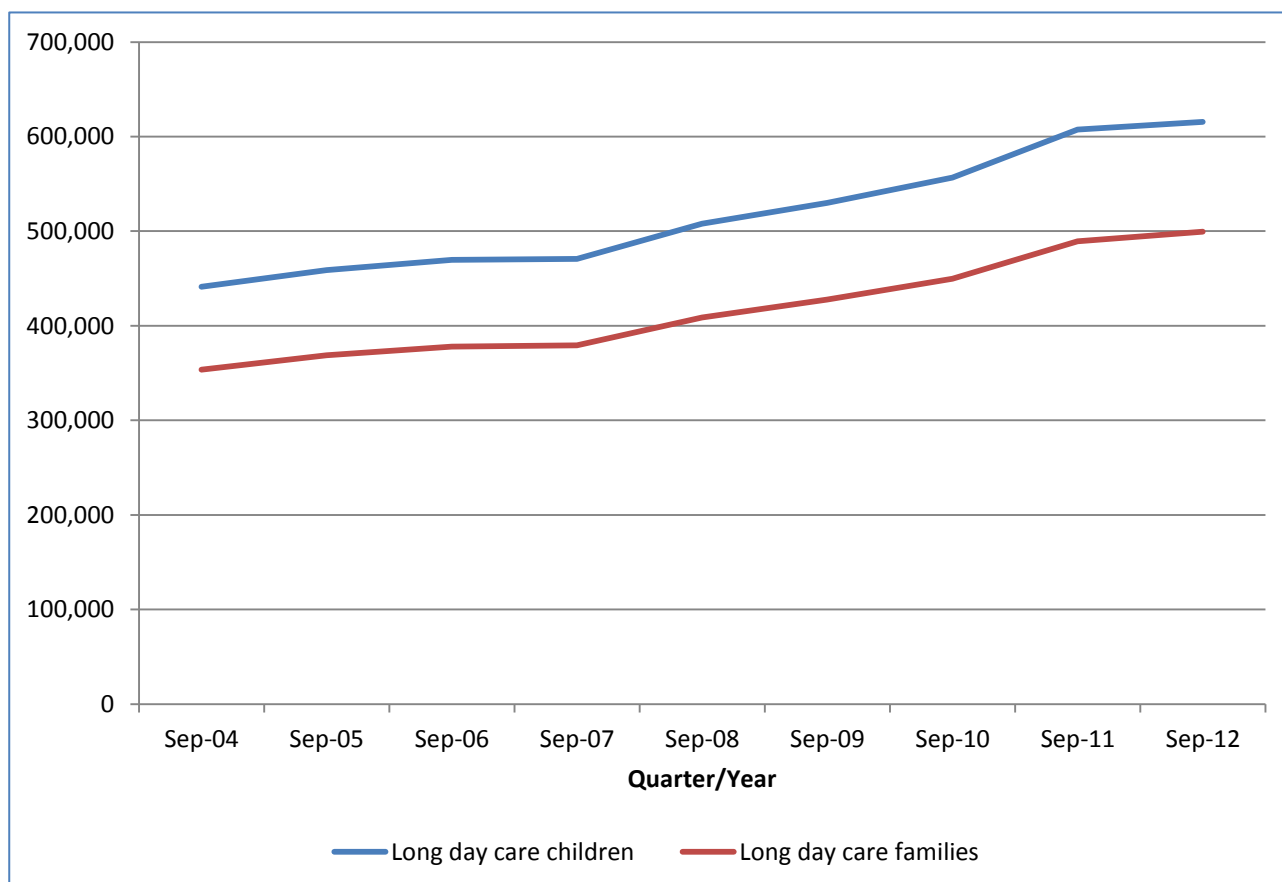
## Child Care Usage

### Children and Families

#### Long Day Care

The latest data (Figure 6) shows that the number of children using approved long day care has increased over time from September quarter 2004 to the September quarter 2012. Between the September quarter 2004 and the September quarter 2007 the growth in children using child care was 6.7 per cent and families were 7.3 per cent. In the period, September quarter 2008 to September quarter 2011 the number of children in long day care grew by 19.6 per cent and families by 19.7 per cent. Overall, the number of children using long day care increased by 39.5 per cent from the September quarter 2004 to the September quarter 2012, the number of families increased by 41.3 per cent over the same period.

Figure 6: Number of children and families using long day care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Table 3 shows the number of children using long day care grew from 441,240 in the September quarter 2004 to 615,630 in the September quarter 2012. For the same time period, the number of families using long day care increased by almost 146,000, from 353,520 in the September quarter 2004 to 499,470 in the September quarter 2012.

**Table 3: Number of children and families using long day care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

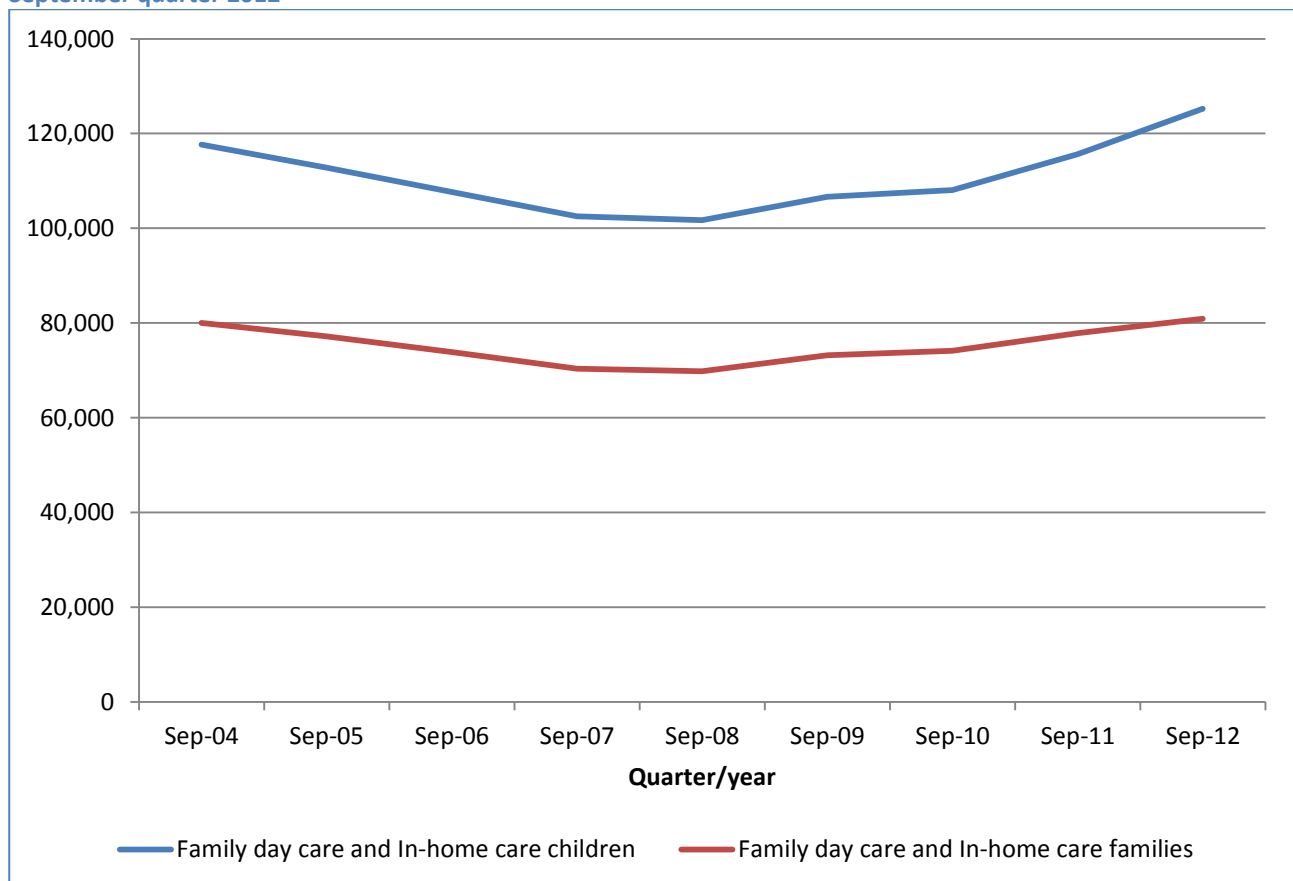
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Children</b>	441,240	459,030	469,580	470,860	507,990	530,030	556,650	607,510	615,630
<b>Families</b>	353,520	368,910	378,140	379,250	408,790	427,660	449,760	489,410	499,470

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

### Family Day Care and In Home Care

Figure 7 shows that the number of children using approved family day care and in home care in the September quarter 2012 was virtually unchanged from the levels seen in the September quarter 2004. A similar result can be seen with the number of families using family day care and in home care. The decline in both children and families using family day care and in home care to 2008-09 is due to in home care being a capped program and once services close these places are returned to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for allocation at a later date. The latest allocation of places occurred in late 2012. The increase in the number of children and families using family day care and in home care from 2008-09 is due to the strong growth in family day care.

**Figure 7: Number of children and families using family day care and in home care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

The number of children using family day care and in home care grew moderately from 117,670 in the September quarter 2004 to 125,230 in the September quarter 2012. The number of families increased from 80,000 to 80,890 for the same period.

**Table 4: Number of children and families using family day care and in home care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

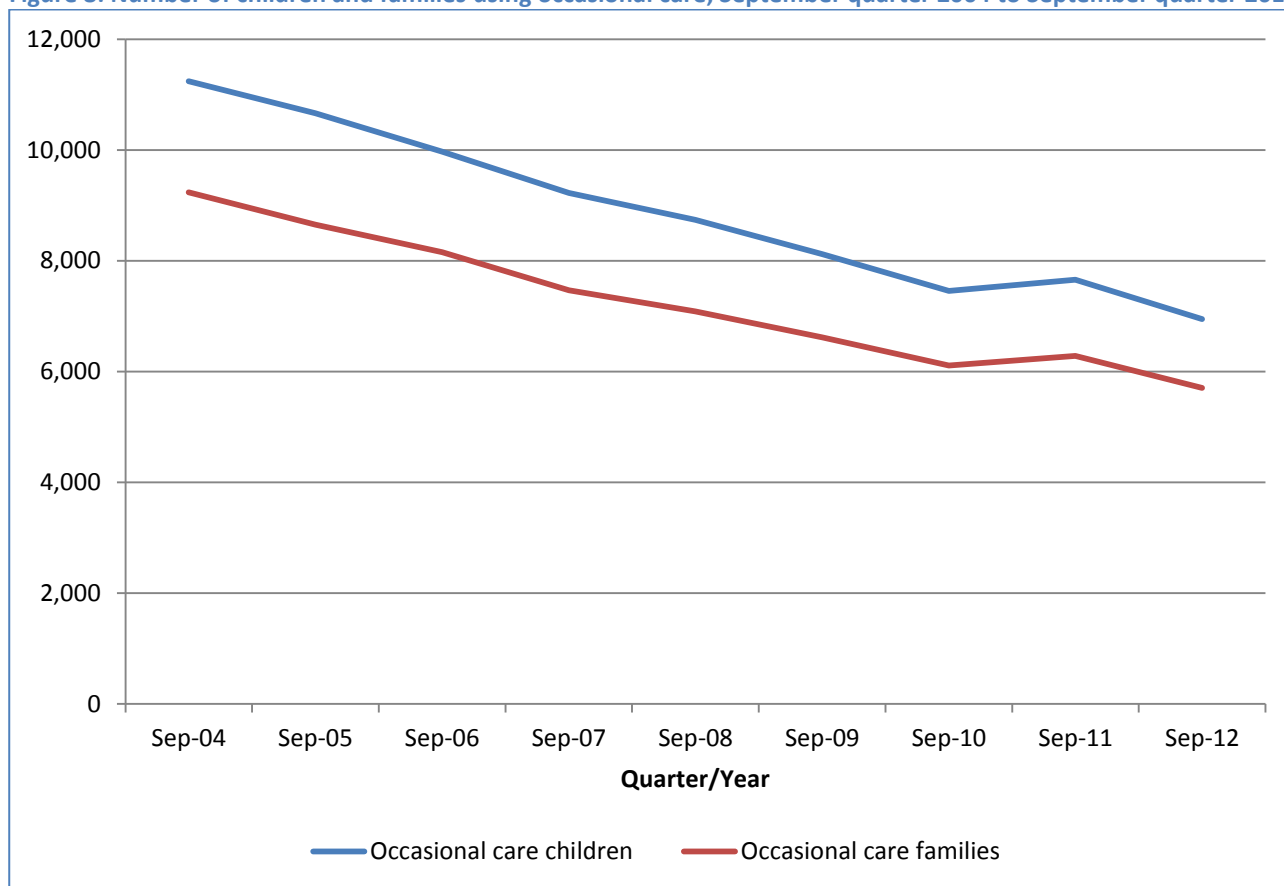
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Children</b>	117,670	112,830	107,660	102,530	101,720	106,640	108,090	115,660	125,230
<b>Families</b>	80,000	77,190	73,890	70,320	69,790	73,210	74,110	77,830	80,890

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

### Occasional Care

Figure 8 shows that the number of children using approved occasional care in the September quarter 2012 decreased by 38.2 per cent from the September quarter 2004. As with in home care, occasional care is a capped program and as services close the places are returned to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for allocation at a later date. The latest allocation was in the second half of 2012, therefore it is expected that numbers of children and families will show an increase in subsequent quarters.

**Figure 8: Number of children and families using occasional care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Table 5 shows that the number of children using occasional care reduced from 11,240 in the September quarter 2004 to 6,950 in the September quarter 2012. For the same time period, the number of families also decreased, from 9,240 to 5,710.

**Table 5: Number of children and families using occasional care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

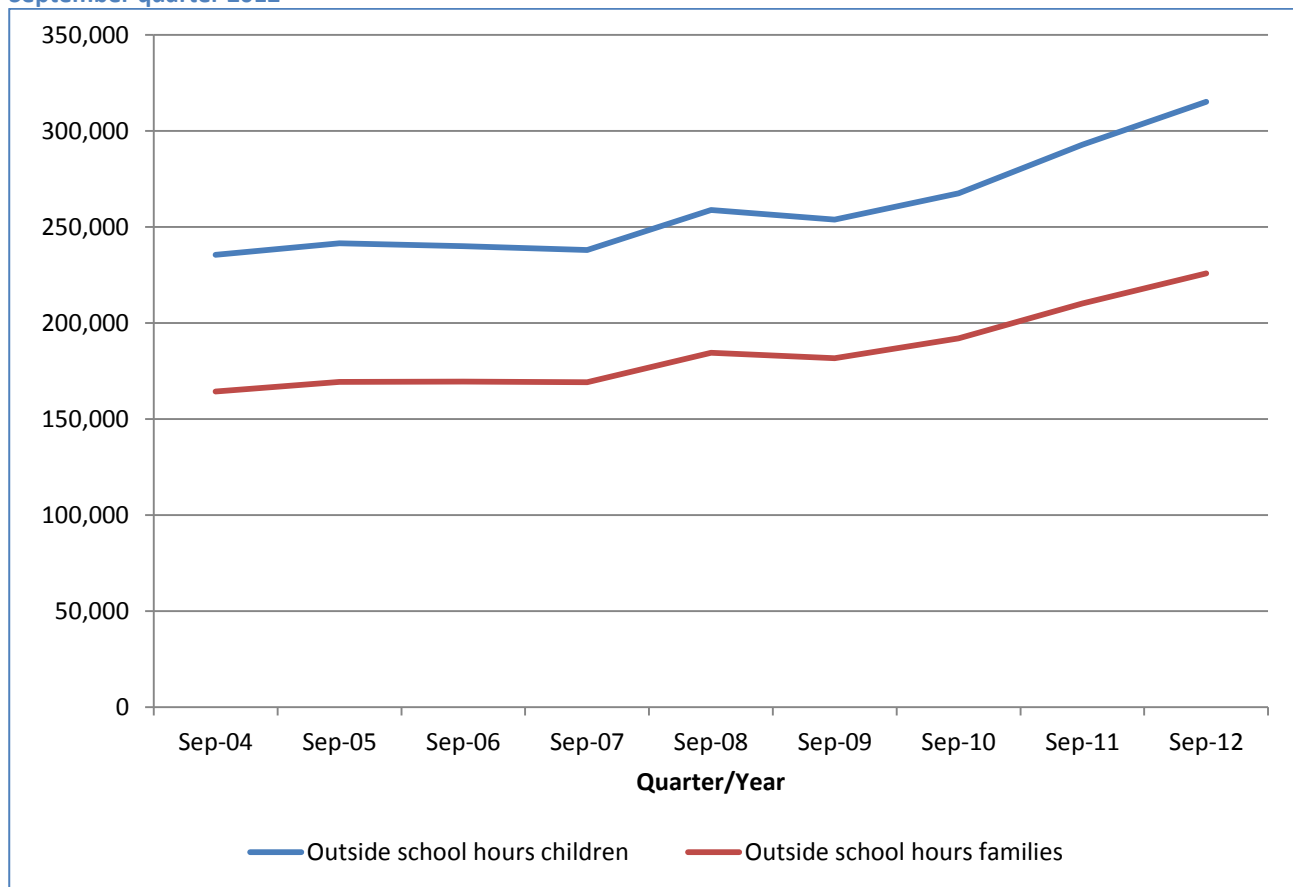
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Children</b>	11,240	10,670	9,970	9,220	8,740	8,120	7,460	7,660	6,950
<b>Families</b>	9,240	8,650	8,160	7,470	7,090	6,620	6,110	6,280	5,710

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

### Outside School Hours Care

Figure 9 shows that the number of children using outside school hours care increased from the September quarter 2004 to the September quarter 2012. Between September quarter 2004 and September quarter 2007 there was 1.0 per cent increase in the number of children and a 2.9 per cent increase in the number of families. There was stronger growth between September quarter 2008 and September quarter 2011; the number of children in outside school hours care increased by 13.1 per cent and the number of families by 13.9 per cent.

**Figure 9: Number of children and families using outside school hours care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Table 6 shows that the number of children using approved outside school hours care in the September quarter was 315,220, an increase of almost 80,000 from September quarter 2004. The number of families has increased by 61,450 to 225,780 for the same time frame.

**Table 6: Number of children and families using outside school hours care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

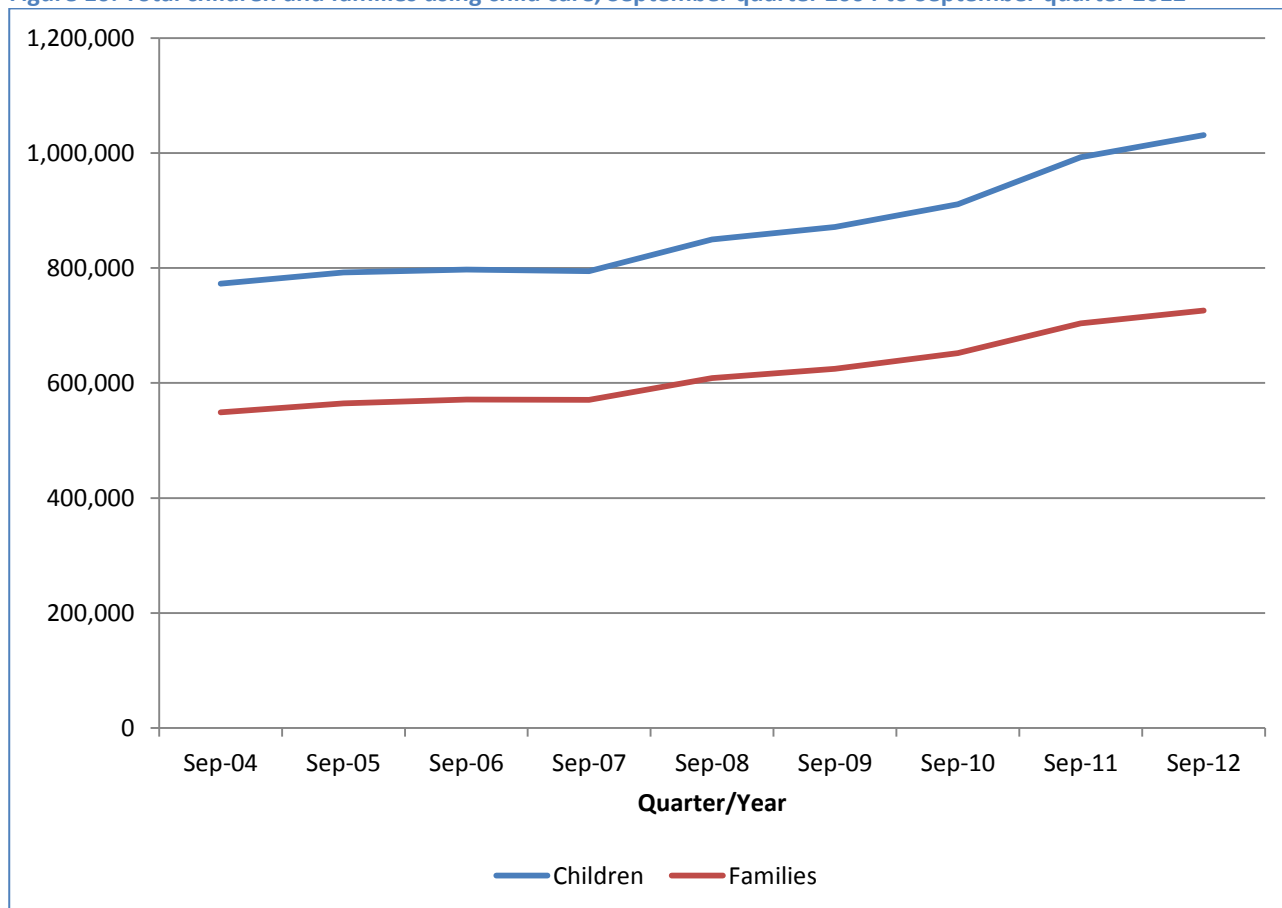
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Children</b>	235,550	241,420	239,990	237,960	258,880	253,760	267,530	292,810	315,220
<b>Families</b>	164,330	169,390	169,510	169,100	184,520	181,580	191,970	210,190	225,780

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

### Total Children and Families

Figure 10 shows the total number of children and families using approved child care has grown over time from the September quarter 2004 to the September quarter 2012. Over the four years from the September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2007 the number of children in Australia using approved child care increased by 2.8 per cent and the number families by 3.9 per cent. For the following four years from the September quarter 2008 to the September quarter 2011 growth was significantly stronger, with the number of children increasing by 16.8 per cent and the number of families by 15.7 per cent. Overall, the number of children using approved child care increased by 33.4 per cent from the September quarter 2004 to the September quarter 2012, while the number of families increased by 32.2 per cent over the same period.

**Figure 10: Total children and families using child care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**



Source: DEEWR administrative data.

The September quarter 2012 was the first quarter where more than a million children were using approved child care in Australia. The number of children increased over each September quarter from 2004 to 2012. There were 1,030,970 children in approved child care in the September quarter 2012, an increase of 257,950 from September quarter 2004; the number of families using child care increased by 176,970 for the same period.

Further information on children and families in child care at a state/territory level by service type can be found at Appendix 1, Tables A4 and A5 respectively.

**Table 7: Total children and families using child care, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Children</b>	773,020	792,260	797,470	794,390	849,610	871,110	910,810	992,520	1,030,970
<b>Families</b>	549,160	564,690	571,390	570,660	608,490	624,640	652,120	704,030	726,130

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

## Usage by Age

In the September quarter 2011, 27.5 per cent of Australian children under twelve attended approved child care an increase from 23.4 per cent (Table 8). Almost half (49.2 per cent) of 3-5 year olds attended child care in the September quarter 2011 up from 43.5 per cent in the September quarter 2006.

**Table 8: Number and proportion of children using child care by age group, September quarter 2006 and September quarter 2011**

Age group	2006	Per cent of population	2011	Per cent of population
0 to 2 years	204,200	26.9%	265,380	31.4%
3 to 5 years	330,110	43.5%	421,430	49.2%
6 to 12 years	259,010	13.9%	299,870	15.9%
<b>Total 0 to 12 years</b>	<b>793,310</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>986,680</b>	<b>27.5%</b>

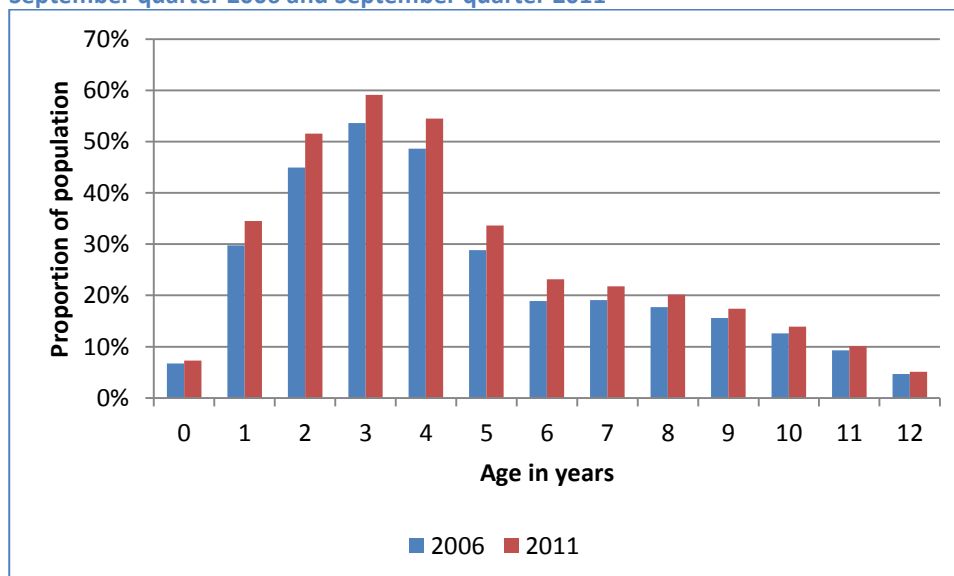
Source: DEEWR administrative data and Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2011.

Note: September quarter 2006 and September quarter 2011 data have been used so as to align as closely as possible with the ABS Census.

Further information on the age of children in child care at a state/territory level can be found at Appendix 1, Table A6.

Figure 11 shows that between 2006 and 2011 there was an increase in the proportion of children using approved child care in all ages from zero to twelve years. Almost six in 10 (59.1 per cent) of 3 year olds used child care in the September quarter 2011.

**Figure 11: Children using approved child care by age, as a proportion of the Australian population, September quarter 2006 and September quarter 2011**



Source: DEEWR administrative data and Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2011.

## Usage by average hours per week

During the September quarter 2012, the average number of hours children used approved child care services was 23.8 hours per week, an increase of 3.5 per cent from the September quarter 2004. The average number of hours per week that children used varied by service type and there has been an increase over time in the average hours each child uses for all service types except outside school hours care (Table 9).

Further information on the average usage by children in child care at a state/territory level can be found at Appendix 1, Table A7.

**Table 9: Average hours per week per child by service type, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Long day care	26.6	26.5	26.2	26.4	26.8	26.1	26.4	26.9	27.5
Family day care and In-home care	20.6	20.4	20.1	20.2	20.0	20.0	20.4	21.7	24.5
Occasional care	9.9	10.3	10.6	11.0	11.5	11.0	11.4	11.6	12.2
Outside school hours care	12.4	11.9	11.2	11.6	12.3	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>23.8</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

## Indigenous Children and Families

During the September quarter 2012, 28,420 Indigenous children (2.8 per cent of all children) used approved child care in Australia. The number of Indigenous children using approved child care has increased since the September quarter 2009 (up by 25.9 per cent). The strongest growth has been in outside school hours care (up 38.9 per cent). The number of Indigenous children in long day care has increased by 26.6 per cent since the September quarter 2009.

There were 19,680 Indigenous families using approved child care during the September quarter 2012, an increase of 25.2 per cent since the September quarter 2009.

Further information on the number of Indigenous children and families in child care at a state/territory level can be found at Appendix 1, Table A8.

**Table 10: Number of Indigenous children and families using child care, September quarter 2009 and September quarter 2012**

	Children		Families	
	2009	2012	2009	2012
Long day care	14,790	18,730	11,460	14,510
Family day care and In-home care	3,320	3,500	2,190	2,360
Occasional care	240	210	180	160
Outside school hours care	4,910	6,820	3,300	4,590
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,580</b>	<b>28,420</b>	<b>15,720</b>	<b>19,680</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Note: As children or families may use more than one service type in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the total.

## Budget Based Funding Program

Under the Budget Based Funding Program, funding is provided to support the delivery of a range of early childhood education and care and school aged care services in a limited number of approved locations. Services funded under the program are predominately located in rural, remote and Indigenous communities. Children including some of the more vulnerable children in Australia, and their families benefit from accessible, affordable and culturally appropriate early childhood education and care and school age care services. These services help children get ready for school, engage parents in their children's education and enable parents to participate in the workforce.

The program currently provides operational funding to some 342 services in all Australian states and territories (except the Australian Capital Territory). In 2012-13, approximately \$62 million was provided to these services, including approximately \$46 million for Indigenous-focused services. Approximately 9,500 children attend services in an average week.



## Child Care Availability

Apart from in home care and occasional care, which remain capped programs, the Australian Government places no restrictions on the number of services or places that can be approved for the purposes of Child Care Benefit.

The mychild website provides families and carers with information on early childhood education, child care, children's health and wellbeing and parenting and family support services. The website contains a searchable database of all Child Care Benefit approved services where families can find information on types of care, location of care, possible vacancies and fees. In addition, the Australian Government Child Care Access Hotline is a free telephone service to help families find child care services.

### Services

Table 11 shows the number of approved child care services has had strong growth since the September quarter 2004, up more than 50 per cent to 15,147 services in September quarter 2012. However, some caution is required when looking at service changes over the past 10 years. In 2009 outside school hours care services that were co-located and co-managed were generally counted as a single service, while with the introduction of the Child Care Management System, before and after school hours care services are now counted as separate services.

Since the September quarter 2004 the number of long day care services has increased by 1,635 services or 35.9 per cent, while there has been a modest increase in the number of family day care and in home care services over this same period of 63 services or 15.9 per cent. As it is not possible to disaggregate the family day care and in home care quarterly numbers back to 2004 this relatively small growth is being masked by increases in family day care being offset by a decline in in home care, noting that in home care is a capped program and the latest allocation was undertaken in late 2012. The decline in occasional care of some 23 services is due to closures over the period, while the number of services is set to increase in 2012-13 with the recent allocation of more places.

Further information on the number of child care services at a state/territory level can be found at Appendix 1, Table A8.

**Table 11: Number of child care services by service type, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Long day care	4,557	4,818	5,103	5,189	5,584	5,758	6,027	6,071	6,192
Family day care and in home care	397	399	392	385	379	379	395	419	460
Occasional care	105	103	102	99	97	91	86	82	82
Outside school hours care <sup>12</sup>	4,964	5,041	5,206	5,125	5,626	7,410	7,567	7,950	8,413
<b>Total services</b>	<b>10,023</b>	<b>10,361</b>	<b>10,803</b>	<b>10,798</b>	<b>11,686</b>	<b>13,638</b>	<b>14,075</b>	<b>14,523</b>	<b>15,147</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

### Access to Child Care

Access to child care places and long waiting lists are key concerns for families. The Australian Government has responded to these concerns by introducing the Child Care Accessibility Fund to assist families in accessing child care in areas of high demand by supporting local governments to deliver more long day care places. The Child Care Accessibility Fund will provide grants to local governments to increase the supply of child care in areas of high demand. Approximately \$5 million is available to local governments through the grants program.

<sup>12</sup> Prior to June quarter 2009, outside school hours care services that were co-located and co-managed were generally counted as a single service. With the introduction of the Child Care Management System, before and after school hours care services are now counted as separate services. This has had the effect of increasing the total number of outside school hours care services.

The Government has also engaged planning experts from the University of Technology, Sydney to develop Best Practice Guidelines for the Planning and Development of Child Care Facilities. The Guidelines will include real examples of leading local governments which streamline approval processes, overcome planning barriers and effectively implement strategies to improve access to child care in their communities. It will showcase successful approaches to child care planning and provide a blueprint to others seeking to improve their child care planning policies.

## Flexible Child Care

### Child Care Flexibility Trials

The Child Care Flexibility Trials recognise the need to provide families with access to more flexible child care options that reflect the changing dynamics of the Australian workforce and modern families. The Trials are funded at \$5.5 million over three years and are part of a broader \$11 million package to increase the flexibility and accessibility of child care.

The Trials will address these changing dynamics by working with key stakeholders to provide families in the trial locations with more flexible care arrangements. These include modifying care to meet unexpected work demands and offering longer opening hours for families working outside of traditional working hours, particularly shift workers.

### Opening Hours of Child Care Services

Data from the 2010 National Workforce Census shows that most services (93.1 per cent) that have opening hours between Monday and Friday do not vary them across the week, with in home care services the most likely to offer variable hours of operation by day of the week (24.0 per cent) as well as care on weekends (53.1 per cent).

Almost all providers (98.2 per cent) provide care five days a week, irrespective of the type of service. Over a third of long day care (34.3 per cent), after school hours care (33.6 per cent), occasional care (38.2 per cent) and vacation care (36.1 per cent) services offer child care outside the standard hours of care of 7:00am and 6:30pm (as defined in the Child Care Services Handbook<sup>13</sup>). In addition the vast majority of before school care (88.9 per cent) and in home care (84.8 per cent) services offer child care outside the standard hours.

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<sup>13</sup> The Child Care Services Handbook can be found at <http://deewr.gov.au/child-care-service-handbook>.

## Conclusion

The number of children using child care has grown strongly since 2004 and more than ever before families are using Child Care Benefit approved child care both as a means of supporting workforce participation and in the early education and development of their children. In the September quarter 2012, more than 1 million children attended child care, from more than 726,000 families, an increase of more than 20 per cent since the September quarter 2008 and up some 33 per cent since the September quarter 2004. To support this significant increase in the number of children in care the number of services has grown to more than 15,100 in the September quarter 2012, with almost 6,200 of these services providing long day care, pointing to greater supply in the sector than ever before.

The evidence is clear, high quality early learning and care provides a strong base for children to receive the very best start in life. In terms of quality, the Australian Government has invested \$73 million to implement the National Quality Framework for education and care to lift the standard of care across the country. Under this new Framework, child care services will be regularly assessed and rated against the seven Quality Areas of the National Quality Standard. As at June 2013, more than half of the child care services that had been assessed had met or exceeded the National Quality Standard.

In line with expectations, the National Quality Framework has not produced significant across-the-board increases in fees. In fact, fee growth over the past two years closely reflects the long term average. Fee growth for long day care services for the September quarter 2011 to the September quarter 2012 was 7.3 per cent nationally. This increase equates to approximately 50 cents per day, which is significantly lower than the independent modelling undertaken by Access Economics, which estimated an increase of approximately \$1.07 a day between 2011 and 2012.

In relation to affordability, Australian Government investment in fee assistance for families in the form of Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate has increased significantly since 2003-04. In the four years from 2003-04 to 2006-07, the Government invested some \$6.3 billion, while in the four years from 2013-14 to 2016-17 it is expected that the Australian Government will invest more than \$22 billion, which is more than triple the investment of the previous Government.

In line with this investment and with the increase to 50 per cent of out-of-pocket costs in the non-means tested Child Care Rebate, the out-of-pocket costs for families across the income spectrum has fallen and child care affordability has improved. Without Australian Government subsidies, a family would be using up to almost 40 per cent of their annual family income on child care costs, while with Australian Government subsidies families now use approximately nine per cent of their family income. In fact, a family earning \$70,000 per year pays only \$2.21 per hour for one child in long day care after Australian Government subsidies.

Child care in Australia is in a good shape. Since the collapse of ABC Learning Centres in 2008 and the actions undertaken by the Government to avert a crisis in child care supply the market has stabilised and we are seeing a period of sustained and controlled growth in a high quality market.

**Table A1: National quality standard ratings by state/territory, June 2013**

Jurisdiction	Significant Improvement Required		Working towards National Quality Standard		Meeting National Quality Standard		Exceeding National Quality Standard		Total
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.
New South Wales	3	0.0%	539	57.0%	255	27.0%	142	15.0%	939
Victoria	1	0.0%	196	26.0%	387	51.0%	178	23.0%	762
Queensland	0	0.0%	187	35.0%	150	28.0%	195	37.0%	532
Western Australia	1	2.0%	38	66.0%	9	16.0%	10	17.0%	58
South Australia	1	1.0%	31	29.0%	33	31.0%	42	39.0%	107
Tasmania	0	0.0%	26	72.0%	3	8.0%	7	19.0%	36
Northern Territory	1	2.0%	56	86.0%	3	5.0%	5	8.0%	65
Australian Capital Territory	0	0.0%	46	71.0%	10	15.0%	9	14.0%	65
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>22.9%</b>	<b>2,564</b>

Source: NQAITS, data extracted 23 July 2013.

Notes:

1. The assessment and rating information is provided for services with a status of "approved" as at the reporting date. A rating is counted once a service has been sent the ratings and the 14 day review period has passed.
2. The services that have been rated to date do not necessarily represent a random sample or a representative cross section of services. Only a small number of services have been rated, particularly in the smaller jurisdictions and remote and very remote areas. Therefore, caution should be taken in drawing conclusions about patterns or trends.
3. WA commenced under the NQF on 1 August 2012 which may result in a lower number of visited services in WA.

**Table A2: Average and annual percentage change to long day care hourly fees by state/territory, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

State/territory	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
New South Wales	6.1%	6.4%	5.7%	5.5%	7.3%	10.9%	4.6%	7.4%	6.1%
Victoria	7.2%	7.8%	3.4%	7.1%	8.7%	8.1%	4.4%	7.6%	9.6%
Queensland	5.6%	6.9%	6.2%	8.3%	11.3%	6.5%	4.9%	6.4%	6.5%
Western Australia	5.4%	5.3%	4.6%	8.4%	10.8%	9.8%	5.7%	8.4%	7.0%
South Australia	5.2%	6.3%	5.7%	7.1%	8.9%	7.1%	5.0%	7.9%	7.6%
Tasmania	4.5%	4.3%	1.9%	5.0%	8.7%	5.2%	6.5%	9.8%	5.9%
Northern Territory	6.3%	7.5%	3.4%	8.4%	8.4%	12.1%	5.0%	7.6%	7.9%
Australian Capital Territory	6.4%	8.5%	4.3%	5.3%	8.2%	13.8%	6.4%	6.3%	6.6%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

**Table A3: Out-of-pocket costs for centre-based long day care before and after subsidies, as a proportion of weekly disposable income, by gross annual family income, March 2012**

Before Government Subsidies	\$35,000	\$55,000	\$75,000	\$95,000	\$115,000	\$135,000	\$150,000
New South Wales	43.0%	35.2%	28.3%	23.6%	20.7%	18.2%	16.7%
Victoria	41.2%	33.8%	27.1%	22.6%	19.9%	17.4%	16.0%
Queensland	36.1%	29.5%	23.8%	19.8%	17.4%	15.2%	14.0%
Western Australia	39.3%	32.2%	25.9%	21.5%	18.9%	16.6%	15.2%
South Australia	37.1%	30.4%	24.5%	20.4%	17.9%	15.7%	14.4%
Tasmania	38.0%	31.2%	25.1%	20.9%	18.4%	16.1%	14.8%
Northern Territory	37.6%	30.8%	24.7%	20.6%	18.1%	15.9%	14.6%
Australian Capital Territory	47.7%	39.1%	31.4%	26.2%	23.0%	20.1%	18.5%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>39.7%</b>	<b>32.6%</b>	<b>26.2%</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>
After Government Subsidies	\$35,000	\$55,000	\$75,000	\$95,000	\$115,000	\$135,000	\$150,000
New South Wales	10.5%	10.0%	9.5%	9.1%	10.1%	10.8%	10.2%
Victoria	9.6%	9.2%	8.9%	8.6%	9.3%	10.0%	9.5%
Queensland	7.0%	7.1%	7.2%	7.2%	7.5%	7.8%	7.5%
Western Australia	8.6%	8.5%	8.3%	8.1%	8.3%	9.2%	8.7%
South Australia	7.5%	7.6%	7.6%	7.5%	7.7%	8.3%	7.9%
Tasmania	8.0%	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%	7.9%	8.7%	8.2%
Northern Territory	7.8%	7.8%	7.7%	7.6%	7.8%	8.5%	8.0%
Australian Capital Territory	12.8%	11.9%	11.1%	11.6%	12.4%	12.8%	12.0%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

**Table A4: Number of children in child care by service type and state/territory, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

New South Wales	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Long day care	141,660	146,730	150,810	149,520	N/A	175,610	184,900	200,550	204,970
Family day care and In-home care	37,030	36,510	35,860	34,870	N/A	36,330	36,980	38,410	39,700
Occasional care	4,220	4,040	3,720	3,230	N/A	2,830	2,760	2,890	2,660
Outside school hours care	57,580	58,660	57,030	55,510	N/A	67,070	76,060	86,680	94,340
<b>Total</b>	<b>231,340</b>	<b>236,930</b>	<b>239,140</b>	<b>235,420</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>273,520</b>	<b>291,790</b>	<b>319,040</b>	<b>332,150</b>
<b>Victoria</b>									
Long day care	83,150	86,990	90,950	92,520	N/A	109,940	119,810	133,500	136,410
Family day care and In-home care	28,210	26,480	24,610	24,020	N/A	25,160	25,930	30,460	37,860
Occasional care	3,200	3,020	3,010	2,980	N/A	2,700	2,300	2,330	2,110
Outside school hours care	60,560	62,640	60,860	61,830	N/A	62,820	65,010	69,090	72,460
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,530</b>	<b>173,660</b>	<b>174,520</b>	<b>176,350</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>195,290</b>	<b>207,440</b>	<b>229,410</b>	<b>242,500</b>
<b>Queensland</b>									
Long day care	130,600	133,780	134,580	136,550	N/A	144,310	147,410	158,040	158,420
Family day care and In-home care	23,930	23,330	22,270	21,320	N/A	22,770	22,840	24,250	24,860
Occasional care	1,700	1,480	1,360	1,320	N/A	1,120	980	970	810
Outside school hours care	59,320	60,780	63,140	62,410	N/A	63,500	64,720	71,050	75,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,720</b>	<b>209,980</b>	<b>212,400</b>	<b>214,870</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>224,940</b>	<b>229,020</b>	<b>246,700</b>	<b>252,510</b>
<b>South Australia</b>									
Long day care	26,690	28,030	29,530	30,300	N/A	34,070	35,390	38,600	38,590
Family day care and In-home care	10,620	9,920	9,550	8,860	N/A	8,430	8,210	7,960	7,950
Occasional care	300	300	240	210	N/A	140	140	150	130
Outside school hours care	31,130	31,420	31,240	30,530	N/A	30,410	30,290	31,350	33,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,320</b>	<b>66,540</b>	<b>67,480</b>	<b>67,170</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>70,240</b>	<b>71,090</b>	<b>75,060</b>	<b>77,020</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>									
Long day care	40,840	43,900	43,420	41,880	N/A	43,230	44,940	49,870	50,400
Family day care and In-home care	8,530	7,900	7,300	5,960	N/A	6,630	6,920	7,350	8,480
Occasional care	1,320	1,340	1,140	1,010	N/A	880	880	940	890
Outside school hours care	12,700	13,660	13,140	13,710	N/A	14,630	15,590	17,350	21,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,940</b>	<b>64,270</b>	<b>62,600</b>	<b>60,600</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>63,130</b>	<b>65,860</b>	<b>72,620</b>	<b>77,370</b>
<b>Tasmania</b>									
Long day care	8,240	9,230	9,900	10,330	N/A	10,700	10,990	11,900	11,230
Family day care and In-home care	6,250	5,610	5,220	4,970	N/A	5,120	5,190	5,370	5,210
Occasional care	260	230	230	230	N/A	220	200	150	130
Outside school hours care	5,790	5,950	6,090	6,360	N/A	6,810	6,520	6,820	6,970
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,210</b>	<b>19,830</b>	<b>20,170</b>	<b>20,660</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>21,670</b>	<b>21,660</b>	<b>22,930</b>	<b>22,180</b>
<b>Northern Territory</b>									
Long day care	3,530	3,680	3,740	3,620	N/A	4,080	4,190	4,600	4,830
Family day care and In-home care	1,030	1,070	990	880	N/A	780	710	650	460
Occasional care	10	<10	10	10	N/A	10	0	0	0
Outside school hours care	2,650	2,670	2,820	2,710	N/A	2,660	2,970	3,260	3,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,050</b>	<b>7,230</b>	<b>7,390</b>	<b>7,040</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>7,360</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>8,360</b>	<b>8,450</b>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>									
Long day care	7,430	7,570	7,710	7,080	N/A	9,050	10,060	11,640	11,850
Family day care and In-home care	2,150	2,070	1,910	1,690	N/A	1,470	1,380	1,280	1,150
Occasional care	250	250	270	230	N/A	220	210	220	220
Outside school hours care	5,980	5,740	5,800	5,040	N/A	5,990	6,570	7,400	8,080
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,370</b>	<b>15,210</b>	<b>15,290</b>	<b>13,690</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>16,360</b>	<b>17,870</b>	<b>20,140</b>	<b>20,910</b>
<b>Australia</b>									
Long day care	441,240	459,030	469,580	470,860	507,990	530,030	556,650	607,510	615,630
Family day care and In-home care	117,670	112,830	107,660	102,530	101,720	106,640	108,090	115,660	125,230
Occasional care	11,240	10,670	9,970	9,220	8,740	8,120	7,460	7,660	6,950
Outside school hours care	235,550	241,420	239,990	237,960	258,880	253,760	267,530	292,810	315,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>773,020</b>	<b>792,260</b>	<b>797,470</b>	<b>794,390</b>	<b>849,610</b>	<b>871,110</b>	<b>910,810</b>	<b>992,520</b>	<b>1,030,970</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Note: N/A, data not available due to a change in administrative data systems.

Note: As children may use more than one service type in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the total.

**Table A5: Number of families in child care by service type and state/territory, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

New South Wales	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Long day care	119,120	123,580	126,830	125,330	N/A	146,260	153,900	166,090	170,180
Family day care and In-home care	26,520	26,190	25,800	25,060	N/A	26,270	26,740	27,780	28,130
Occasional care	3,530	3,320	3,080	2,660	N/A	2,350	2,300	2,380	2,200
Outside school hours care	41,470	42,580	41,750	40,640	N/A	49,070	55,430	62,900	68,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,660</b>	<b>178,260</b>	<b>180,600</b>	<b>177,890</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>204,140</b>	<b>215,950</b>	<b>233,170</b>	<b>240,960</b>
<b>Victoria</b>									
Long day care	67,460	70,630	74,060	74,950	N/A	88,910	96,830	107,490	110,840
Family day care and In-home care	18,640	17,730	16,560	16,140	N/A	16,390	16,510	18,160	21,020
Occasional care	2,600	2,410	2,460	2,390	N/A	2,180	1,860	1,920	1,740
Outside school hours care	42,840	44,380	43,460	44,140	N/A	45,360	47,090	50,260	52,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>119,020</b>	<b>122,210</b>	<b>124,020</b>	<b>125,210</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>138,260</b>	<b>146,530</b>	<b>159,880</b>	<b>166,880</b>
<b>Queensland</b>									
Long day care	98,430	101,650	102,560	104,830	N/A	111,610	114,370	122,540	123,750
Family day care and In-home care	16,000	15,660	14,900	14,400	N/A	15,530	15,660	16,480	16,490
Occasional care	1,360	1,200	1,100	1,040	N/A	890	780	780	660
Outside school hours care	40,040	41,360	43,190	43,440	N/A	44,470	45,600	50,120	53,360
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,620</b>	<b>144,250</b>	<b>146,250</b>	<b>148,970</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>156,720</b>	<b>159,940</b>	<b>171,230</b>	<b>174,510</b>
<b>South Australia</b>									
Long day care	21,490	22,940	24,130	24,670	N/A	27,560	28,700	31,280	31,620
Family day care and In-home care	6,550	6,210	5,970	5,440	N/A	5,140	5,080	5,010	5,030
Occasional care	240	240	200	190	N/A	120	110	130	100
Outside school hours care	20,890	21,330	21,300	21,060	N/A	20,990	21,050	21,850	23,160
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,350</b>	<b>44,620</b>	<b>45,600</b>	<b>45,660</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>47,710</b>	<b>48,580</b>	<b>51,340</b>	<b>52,620</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>									
Long day care	31,940	34,050	33,900	33,040	N/A	34,550	36,130	40,030	41,030
Family day care and In-home care	5,910	5,440	5,110	4,140	N/A	4,790	4,970	5,240	5,600
Occasional care	1,070	1,080	930	820	N/A	710	730	790	730
Outside school hours care	8,880	9,540	9,290	9,740	N/A	10,460	11,170	12,450	15,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,530</b>	<b>46,730</b>	<b>45,910</b>	<b>44,720</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>46,890</b>	<b>48,970</b>	<b>53,730</b>	<b>56,590</b>
<b>Tasmania</b>									
Long day care	6,680	7,510	7,990	8,290	N/A	8,680	8,880	9,590	9,150
Family day care and In-home care	4,190	3,790	3,510	3,300	N/A	3,440	3,550	3,710	3,610
Occasional care	230	190	180	190	N/A	180	160	120	100
Outside school hours care	4,060	4,140	4,260	4,450	N/A	4,850	4,690	4,860	4,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,280</b>	<b>13,800</b>	<b>14,050</b>	<b>14,350</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>15,040</b>	<b>15,120</b>	<b>15,950</b>	<b>15,460</b>
<b>Northern Territory</b>									
Long day care	2,920	3,000	3,110	3,020	N/A	3,440	3,490	3,840	4,040
Family day care and In-home care	740	760	710	650	N/A	590	560	520	370
Occasional care	10	<10	<10	10	N/A	10	0	0	0
Outside school hours care	1,840	1,870	2,000	1,940	N/A	2,010	2,210	2,390	2,420
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>4,980</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>5,310</b>	<b>5,450</b>	<b>5,880</b>	<b>6,020</b>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>									
Long day care	6,210	6,270	6,410	5,860	N/A	7,430	8,330	9,510	9,750
Family day care and In-home care	1,510	1,460	1,380	1,230	N/A	1,110	1,070	990	920
Occasional care	200	210	210	190	N/A	170	180	170	190
Outside school hours care	4,420	4,270	4,350	3,790	N/A	4,490	4,890	5,490	5,970
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>10,970</b>	<b>11,070</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>11,740</b>	<b>12,930</b>	<b>14,320</b>	<b>14,850</b>
<b>Australia</b>									
Long day care	353,520	368,910	378,140	379,250	408,790	427,660	449,760	489,410	499,470
Family day care and In-home care	80,000	77,190	73,890	70,320	69,790	73,210	74,110	77,830	80,890
Occasional care	9,240	8,650	8,160	7,470	7,090	6,620	6,110	6,280	5,710
Outside school hours care	164,330	169,390	169,510	169,100	184,520	181,580	191,970	210,190	225,780
<b>Total</b>	<b>549,160</b>	<b>564,690</b>	<b>571,390</b>	<b>570,660</b>	<b>608,490</b>	<b>624,640</b>	<b>652,120</b>	<b>704,030</b>	<b>726,130</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Note: N/A, data not available due to a change in administrative data systems.

Note: As families may use more than one service type in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the total.

**Table A6: Number and proportion of children using child care by age group and state/territory, September quarter 2006 and September quarter 2011**

2006	0-2 years	Per cent of population	3-5 years	Per cent of population	6-12 years	Per cent of population	0-12 years	Per cent of population
New South Wales	59,460	23.5%	118,540	47.0%	60,540	9.9%	238,540	21.3%
Victoria	44,040	23.9%	66,060	36.1%	63,860	14.2%	173,960	21.3%
Queensland	54,870	35.0%	83,730	53.6%	72,390	18.9%	210,980	30.3%
South Australia	15,290	29.4%	20,800	39.2%	30,170	22.4%	66,260	27.7%
Western Australia	19,550	26.0%	25,540	33.9%	17,320	9.1%	62,400	18.3%
Tasmania	5,370	31.3%	8,100	46.0%	6,630	14.5%	20,100	25.0%
Northern Territory	2,090	22.0%	2,700	26.6%	2,570	11.5%	7,350	17.5%
Australian Capital Territory	4,110	33.5%	5,420	46.3%	5,730	18.8%	15,260	28.1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>204,200</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>330,110</b>	<b>43.5%</b>	<b>259,010</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>793,310</b>	<b>23.4%</b>
2011	0-2 years	Per cent of population	3-5 years	Per cent of population	6-12 years	Per cent of population	0-12 years	Per cent of population
New South Wales	81,300	29.7%	151,400	54.9%	85,240	14.0%	317,940	27.5%
Victoria	62,430	30.4%	91,270	44.0%	73,990	16.3%	227,690	26.3%
Queensland	65,090	36.8%	103,100	57.1%	77,010	19.2%	245,200	32.3%
South Australia	19,030	33.3%	25,960	44.6%	28,950	21.9%	73,940	29.9%
Western Australia	23,580	26.3%	30,380	33.2%	18,420	9.2%	72,380	19.0%
Tasmania	6,620	36.1%	9,380	49.1%	6,850	15.8%	22,850	28.3%
Northern Territory	2,340	22.9%	3,230	31.2%	2,770	12.3%	8,340	19.4%
Australian Capital Territory	5,630	38.6%	7,600	54.5%	6,860	23.4%	20,090	34.7%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>265,380</b>	<b>31.4%</b>	<b>421,430</b>	<b>49.2%</b>	<b>299,870</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>986,680</b>	<b>27.5%</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data and Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing 2006 and 2011.

Note: September quarter 2006 and September quarter 2011 data have been used so as to align as closely as possible with the ABS Census.

Note: As children may use child care in more than one state/territory in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the total.



**Table A7: Average hours per week per child by service type and state/territory, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

State/Territory	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>New South Wales</b>									
Long day care	24.9	24.8	24.5	24.8	N/A	24.8	25.4	25.9	26.5
Family day care and In-home care	20.6	20.5	20.0	20.0	N/A	19.4	19.5	19.8	21.6
Occasional care	10.6	11.2	11.4	12.1	N/A	11.9	12.2	12.3	12.9
Outside school hours care	13.8	13.7	12.3	12.4	N/A	11.8	12.6	12.6	12.6
<b>Victoria</b>									
Long day care	27.6	27.4	26.9	27.0	N/A	26.5	26.8	27.4	27.8
Family day care and In-home care	19.1	19.0	18.6	18.9	N/A	20.2	22.0	25.5	30.1
Occasional care	7.4	7.7	8.3	8.3	N/A	8.6	9.4	9.3	9.7
Outside school hours care	10.6	10.6	9.5	10.4	N/A	10.1	9.9	9.9	9.8
<b>Queensland</b>									
Long day care	29.0	28.8	28.4	28.8	N/A	28.4	28.6	29.1	29.8
Family day care and In-home care	23.2	22.6	22.0	21.9	N/A	21.0	21.1	21.9	23.6
Occasional care	11.1	12.1	12.9	13.3	N/A	13.5	12.7	13.1	13.5
Outside school hours care	13.3	12.1	11.9	12.4	N/A	13.2	12.9	13.0	11.8
<b>South Australia</b>									
Long day care	24.5	24.7	24.5	24.7	N/A	24.2	24.4	24.8	25.2
Family day care and In-home care	20.6	20.5	20.7	21.0	N/A	20.9	21.1	21.2	21.8
Occasional care	8.9	9.3	8.4	10.4	N/A	11.5	12.6	10.7	10.5
Outside school hours care	11.2	10.0	9.8	9.9	N/A	10.9	10.8	9.8	10.8
<b>Western Australia</b>									
Long day care	24.3	24.4	24.4	24.8	N/A	23.9	24.3	24.7	25.5
Family day care and In-home care	19.3	19.3	19.1	19.2	N/A	18.9	19.1	19.5	22.7
Occasional care	11.8	11.4	11.1	12.2	N/A	11.6	11.1	11.8	12.5
Outside school hours care	13.0	14.5	13.0	13.4	N/A	13.6	13.5	12.4	12.3
<b>Tasmania</b>									
Long day care	19.4	19.8	20.5	21.0	N/A	21.6	21.8	22.0	22.5
Family day care and In-home care	15.9	15.7	15.8	16.0	N/A	15.8	15.8	15.6	15.9
Occasional care	9.3	9.3	10.4	10.6	N/A	10.9	10.2	11.1	12.9
Outside school hours care	8.8	8.8	8.9	9.2	N/A	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.9
<b>Northern Territory</b>									
Long day care	35.6	35.8	35.3	35.6	N/A	35.2	35.8	35.7	36.0
Family day care and In-home care	28.5	28.9	29.2	28.9	N/A	27.7	27.9	26.5	27.9
Occasional care	16.3	24.1	18.5	17.8	N/A	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Outside school hours care	17.8	17.8	17.8	18.1	N/A	16.8	16.7	16.4	16.2
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>									
Long day care	28.8	29.1	28.8	29.4	N/A	28.0	28.3	28.5	29.2
Family day care and In-home care	25.6	25.2	24.6	24.8	N/A	25.3	24.2	23.9	25.0
Occasional care	10.3	9.8	11.1	11.0	N/A	12.1	14.8	15.1	17.6
Outside school hours care	11.8	11.4	10.7	11.4	N/A	10.7	10.4	9.9	9.9
<b>Australia</b>									
Long day care	26.6	26.5	26.2	26.4	N/A	26.1	26.4	26.9	27.5
Family day care and In-home care	20.6	20.4	20.1	20.2	N/A	20.0	20.4	21.7	24.5
Occasional care	9.9	10.3	10.6	11.0	N/A	11.0	11.4	11.6	12.2
Outside school hours care	12.4	11.9	11.2	11.6	N/A	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.5

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Note: N/A, data not available due to a change in administrative data systems.

**Table A8: Number of Indigenous children and families using child care by service type and state/territory, September quarter 2009 and September quarter 2012**

	Children		Families	
	2009	2012	2009	2012
<b>New South Wales</b>				
Long day care	4,960	6,280	4,000	5,050
Family day care and In-home care	1,500	1,680	1,020	1,150
Occasional care	130	130	100	100
Outside school hours care	1,130	1,880	800	1,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,450</b>	<b>9,650</b>	<b>5,440</b>	<b>6,930</b>
<b>Victoria</b>				
Long day care	940	1,430	730	1,110
Family day care and In-home care	260	230	160	150
Occasional care	20	30	20	20
Outside school hours care	410	500	300	370
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,510</b>
<b>Queensland</b>				
Long day care	5,720	7,230	4,250	5,370
Family day care and In-home care	780	820	500	540
Occasional care	40	30	30	20
Outside school hours care	2,000	2,640	1,260	1,690
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,330</b>	<b>10,470</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>6,980</b>
<b>South Australia</b>				
Long day care	700	820	540	650
Family day care and In-home care	180	160	90	90
Occasional care	<10	<10	<10	<10
Outside school hours care	400	520	270	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>980</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>				
Long day care	1,350	1,630	1,030	1,240
Family day care and In-home care	160	200	110	130
Occasional care	20	10	10	10
Outside school hours care	290	430	210	280
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,530</b>
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Long day care	600	670	470	530
Family day care and In-home care	340	340	210	250
Occasional care	10	10	10	10
Outside school hours care	270	360	190	240
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>890</b>
<b>Northern Territory</b>				
Long day care	470	540	390	460
Family day care and In-home care	90	60	70	40
Occasional care	0	0	0	0
Outside school hours care	330	400	240	290
<b>Total</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>690</b>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>				
Long day care	110	180	90	140
Family day care and In-home care	20	10	20	10
Occasional care	10	<10	10	<10
Outside school hours care	80	90	60	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Australia</b>				
Long day care	14,790	18,730	11,460	14,510
Family day care and In-home care	3,320	3,500	2,190	2,360
Occasional care	230	210	180	160
Outside school hours care	4,910	6,820	3,300	4,590
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,580</b>	<b>28,420</b>	<b>15,720</b>	<b>19,680</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Note: As children or families may use more than one service type in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the total.

**Table A9: Number of child care services by service type and state/territory, September quarter 2004 to September quarter 2012**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>New South Wales</b>									
Long day care	1,823	1,939	2,040	2,070	N/A	2,342	2,424	2,465	2,526
Family day care and In-home care	121	123	122	114	N/A	112	113	116	128
Occasional care	45	46	46	43	N/A	40	39	37	37
Outside school hours care	1,372	1,349	1,377	1,320	N/A	2,088	2,201	2,374	2,489
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>3,457</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>3,547</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>4,582</b>	<b>4,777</b>	<b>4,993</b>	<b>5,180</b>
<b>Victoria</b>									
Long day care	846	897	973	972	N/A	1,083	1,149	1,157	1,180
Family day care and In-home care	91	89	90	93	N/A	96	108	124	143
Occasional care	23	20	21	21	N/A	21	19	19	20
Outside school hours care	1,331	1,336	1,367	1,320	N/A	2,005	1,977	2,003	2,103
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>3,205</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>3,303</b>	<b>3,446</b>
<b>Queensland</b>									
Long day care	1,066	1,110	1,161	1,217	N/A	1,303	1,368	1,355	1,371
Family day care and In-home care	110	112	105	105	N/A	107	112	114	117
Occasional care	15	15	13	13	N/A	10	10	9	8
Outside school hours care	1,072	1,131	1,171	1,145	N/A	1,537	1,567	1,673	1,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2,957</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>3,151</b>	<b>3,250</b>
<b>South Australia</b>									
Long day care	210	224	250	268	N/A	293	312	305	311
Family day care and In-home care	17	17	17	17	N/A	14	14	14	17
Occasional care	2	2	2	3	N/A	2	2	2	2
Outside school hours care	551	582	598	608	N/A	813	827	830	874
<b>Total</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,204</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>									
Long day care	402	424	441	427	N/A	460	484	487	500
Family day care and In-home care	30	30	30	30	N/A	26	24	26	30
Occasional care	12	12	11	11	N/A	10	9	9	9
Outside school hours care	290	294	323	345	N/A	478	509	563	682
<b>Total</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>1,221</b>
<b>Tasmania</b>									
Long day care	68	77	89	94	N/A	105	107	114	114
Family day care and In-home care	14	14	15	14	N/A	13	13	14	15
Occasional care	4	4	4	4	N/A	4	4	3	3
Outside school hours care	131	138	163	184	N/A	241	219	226	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>Northern Territory</b>									
Long day care	52	55	55	55	N/A	67	69	71	73
Family day care and In-home care	<10	<10	<10	<10	N/A	<10	5	5	5
Occasional care	<10	<10	<10	<10	N/A	<10	0	0	0
Outside school hours care	84	82	83	76	N/A	92	101	101	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>									
Long day care	90	92	94	86	N/A	105	114	117	117
Family day care and In-home care	<10	<10	<10	<10	N/A	<10	6	6	5
Occasional care	<10	<10	<10	<10	N/A	<10	3	3	3
Outside school hours care	133	129	124	127	N/A	156	166	180	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>309</b>
<b>Australia</b>									
Long day care	4,557	4,818	5,103	5,189	5,584	5,758	6,027	6,071	6,192
Family day care and In-home care	397	399	392	385	379	379	395	419	460
Occasional care	105	103	102	99	97	91	86	82	82
Outside school hours care	4,964	5,041	5,206	5,125	5,626	7,410	7,567	7,950	8,413
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,023</b>	<b>10,361</b>	<b>10,803</b>	<b>10,798</b>	<b>11,686</b>	<b>13,638</b>	<b>14,075</b>	<b>14,523</b>	<b>15,147</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Note: N/A, data not available due to a change in administrative data systems.

Prior to June quarter 2009, outside school hours care services that were co-located and co-managed were generally counted as a single service.

With the introduction of the Child Care Management System, before and after school hours care services are now counted as separate services. This has had the effect of increasing the total number of outside school hours care services.

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