



# Child Care & Early Learning

## in Summary

June quarter 2013

This publication provides information on children using approved child care services across Australia.

### Key findings for the June quarter 2013:

- More than one million children (1,057,900) attended approved child care during the quarter, an increase of 7.3 per cent since the June quarter 2012.
- 742,690 families had at least one child in approved child care, an increase of 6.0 per cent since the June quarter 2012.
- 15,717 approved child care services operated in Australia, an increase of 4.6 per cent since the June quarter 2012.
- The total estimated Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlement was \$1,193.1 million, up 16.6 per cent since the June quarter 2012.



# Introduction

This report presents information on the numbers of children and families using approved child care, the costs of care and the numbers and types of child care services in Australia. It includes data from the Child Care Management System (CCMS), MyChild website, Department of Human Services and Australian Bureau of Statistics.

During the June quarter 2013, 742,690 families used approved child care services for their 1,057,900 children.

- In terms of affordability, more than 90 per cent of these families are estimated to have received Child Care Rebate (CCR), with 50 per cent of their out-of-pocket costs covered by the Australian Government.
- In terms of availability, in the June quarter 2013, there were 15,717 services providing approved child care services across Australia with more than one third (5,343 or 34.0 per cent) of these located in New South Wales.

**Table 1: Child care children, families, services and estimated entitlements by state and territory, June quarter 2013**

State and territory	Number of children using approved child care <sup>1</sup>	Number of families using approved child care <sup>1</sup>	Number of approved child care services	Estimated Child Care Benefit (CCB) entitlement ('000)	Estimated Child Care Rebate (CCR) entitlement ('000)	Estimated number of families receiving CCR <sup>1</sup>
NSW	340,130	246,030	5,343	\$187,732	\$200,487	219,680
Vic.	251,930	172,670	3,579	\$169,272	\$146,188	158,450
Qld	255,230	176,150	3,335	\$157,398	\$126,427	160,550
SA	79,540	54,290	1,231	\$37,690	\$31,217	50,450
WA	80,860	58,410	1,348	\$38,771	\$46,040	53,500
Tas.	22,160	15,340	373	\$10,821	\$8,733	14,010
NT	8,530	6,170	180	\$3,417	\$6,299	5,960
ACT	22,360	15,830	328	\$5,087	\$17,568	14,970
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,057,900</b>	<b>742,690</b>	<b>15,717</b>	<b>\$610,188</b>	<b>\$582,959</b>	<b>675,620</b>

<sup>1</sup>As families and children may use services in more than one state or territory and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

# Child Care Usage

## Children

During the June quarter 2013, 1,057,900 children used Child Care Benefit approved child care in Australia, up by 7.3 per cent since the June quarter 2012. For children aged 0–12 years using approved child care, this represents 27.2 per cent of the 3,808,440 children aged 0–12 years in Australia.

During the June quarter 2013, children attended various services providing approved child care, including long day care (606,710 or 57.3 per cent), outside school hours care (334,480 or 31.6 per cent), family day care and in-home care (142,400 or 13.5 per cent), and occasional care (7,650 or 0.7 per cent).

**Table 2: Number of children using child care by service type, June quarter 2012 to June quarter 2013**

Service type	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
Long day care	587,100	615,630	623,980	621,250	606,710
Family day care and In-home care	118,700	125,230	128,930	135,770	142,400
Occasional care	6,510	6,950	7,230	7,130	7,650
Outside school hours care	304,120	315,220	303,210	327,220	334,480
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>986,280</b>	<b>1,030,970</b>	<b>1,033,150</b>	<b>1,042,280</b>	<b>1,057,900</b>
<b>Per cent of Australian population<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>27.4%</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>27.2%</b>

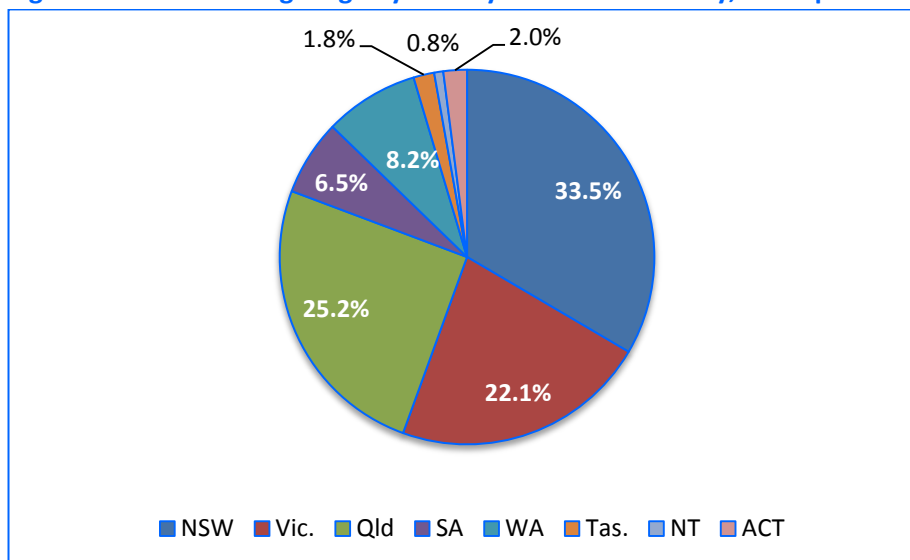
<sup>1</sup> As children may use more than one service type in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total. Totals include a very small number of children for whom other details are unknown.

<sup>2</sup> Number of children aged 0–12 years using approved child care as a proportion of all Australian children aged 0–12 years.

Source: Department of Education administrative data, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0 *Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec. 2012 and 2013.*

In the June quarter 2013, the largest proportion of children attending long day care was in New South Wales (33.5 per cent), followed by Queensland (25.2 per cent) and Victoria (22.1 per cent).

**Figure 1: Children using long day care by state and territory, June quarter 2013**



Source: Department of Education administrative data.

**Table 3: Number of children using child care by service type and state and territory, June quarter 2013**

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Long day care	203,230	134,350	152,960	39,620	49,530	10,880	4,760	12,350	<b>606,710</b>
Family day care and In-home care	43,670	45,670	28,330	9,210	9,710	5,200	480	1,270	<b>142,400</b>
Occasional care	2,610	2,710	770	130	1,050	140	0	240	<b>7,650</b>
Outside school hours care	100,210	75,670	80,760	33,640	24,730	7,310	3,420	8,910	<b>334,480</b>
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>340,130</b>	<b>251,930</b>	<b>255,230</b>	<b>79,540</b>	<b>80,860</b>	<b>22,160</b>	<b>8,530</b>	<b>22,360</b>	<b>1,057,900</b>

<sup>1</sup> As children may use more than one service type in more than one state or territory in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

While most children who used child care, used services located in major cities (803,100 children), one in four (260,080 or 24.6 per cent) children used child care services located in regional and remote areas.

**Table 4: Number of children using child care by region, June quarter 2013**

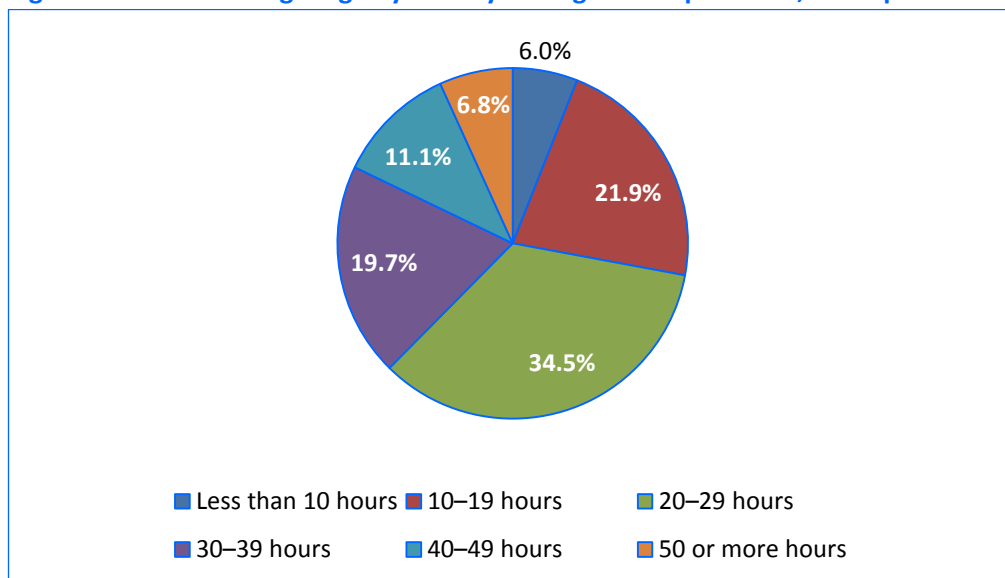
Service type	Major Cities of Australia	Regional and Remote Australia	Total
Long day care	452,470	155,880	<b>606,710</b>
Family day care and In-home care	98,710	44,200	<b>142,400</b>
Occasional care	4,680	2,980	<b>7,650</b>
Outside school hours care	268,830	66,560	<b>334,480</b>
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>803,100</b>	<b>260,080</b>	<b>1,057,900</b>

<sup>1</sup> As children may use more than one service type in more than one region in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

During the June quarter 2013, for all types of child care, the average time that a child spent in approved child care was 23.5 hours per week. This compares with children who used long day care who attended for an average of 27.2 hours per week.

**Figure 2: Children using long day care by average hours per week, June quarter 2013**



Source: Department of Education administrative data.

**Table 5: Average weekly hours in child care, June quarter 2012 to June quarter 2013**

Service type	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
Long day care	27.2	27.5	27.3	27.4	27.2
Family day care and In-home care	23.6	24.5	25.3	26.7	27.0
Occasional care	12.1	12.2	11.7	11.2	10.9
Outside school hours care	10.7	11.5	10.6	12.2	10.7
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>23.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Totals include a very small number of children for whom other details are unknown.  
Source: Department of Education administrative data.

## Families

During the June quarter 2013, there were 742,690 families using some form of approved child care for their children, an increase of 6.0 per cent since the June quarter 2012.

**Table 6: Number of families using child care, June quarter 2012 to June quarter 2013**

Service type	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
Long day care	479,830	499,470	504,240	500,180	498,010
Family day care and In-home care	77,940	80,890	82,230	84,930	88,130
Occasional care	5,370	5,710	5,910	5,930	6,400
Outside school hours care	217,720	225,780	217,880	231,970	238,600
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>700,600</b>	<b>726,130</b>	<b>727,030</b>	<b>729,780</b>	<b>742,690</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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. Totals include a very small number of families for whom other details are unknown.  
Source: Department of Education administrative data.

In the June quarter 2013, 246,030 families (33.1 per cent) had children attending approved child care in New South Wales, followed by Queensland (176,150 families or 23.7 per cent) and Victoria (172,670 families or 23.2 per cent). Across Australia, more than two-thirds (498,010 or 67.1 per cent) of all families had children in long day care and around one-third of families had children in outside school hours care (238,600 or 32.1 per cent).

**Table 7: Number of families using child care by service type and state and territory, June quarter 2013**

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Long day care	170,250	110,980	120,870	32,790	40,690	8,920	4,050	10,260	<b>498,010</b>
Family day care and In-home care	30,020	24,260	18,120	5,500	6,010	3,510	390	970	<b>88,130</b>
Occasional care	2,210	2,270	630	100	880	110	0	210	<b>6,400</b>
Outside school hours care	72,390	54,810	56,600	23,430	17,380	5,140	2,490	6,500	<b>238,600</b>
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>246,030</b>	<b>172,670</b>	<b>176,150</b>	<b>54,290</b>	<b>58,410</b>	<b>15,340</b>	<b>6,170</b>	<b>15,830</b>	<b>742,690</b>

<sup>1</sup> As families may use more than one service type in more than one state or territory in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.  
Source: Department of Education administrative data.

## Indigenous children and families

During the June quarter 2013, 27,570 Indigenous children (2.6 per cent of all children) used approved child care in Australia. The number of Indigenous children using approved child care has increased slightly since the June quarter 2012 (up by 0.3 per cent).

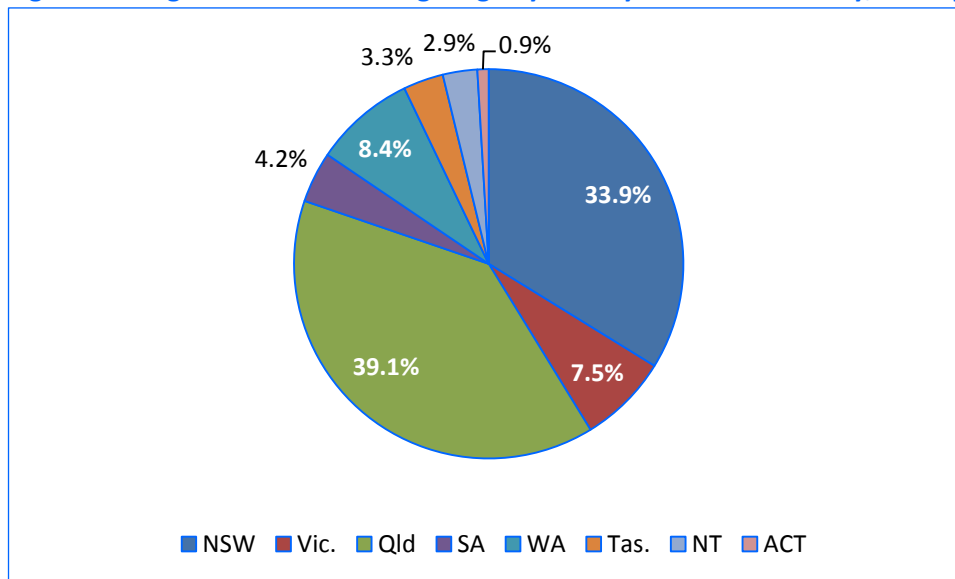
**Table 8: Number of Indigenous children using child care, June quarter 2012 to June quarter 2013**

Service type	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
Long day care	17,990	18,730	18,910	18,100	17,640
Family day care and In-home care	3,570	3,500	3,580	3,600	3,550
Occasional care	200	210	210	200	210
Outside school hours care	6,590	6,820	6,370	6,810	6,990
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>27,490</b>	<b>28,420</b>	<b>28,300</b>	<b>27,600</b>	<b>27,570</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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. Totals include a very small number of children for whom other details are unknown.  
Source: Department of Education administrative data.

The largest proportion of Indigenous children attending long day care was in Queensland (39.1 per cent) and New South Wales (33.9 per cent). Compared with all children, a smaller proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–12 years attended approved child care, in each state and territory (16.0 per cent of Indigenous children aged 0–12 years, 27.7 per cent all children aged 0–12 years, nationally).

**Figure 3: Indigenous children using long day care by state and territory, June quarter 2013**



Source: Department of Education administrative data.

**Table 9: Number of Indigenous children using child care by state and territory, June quarter 2013**

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Long day care	5,970	1,320	6,890	750	1,490	590	510	170	17,640
Family day care and In-home care	1,670	280	860	160	190	350	40	20	3,550
Occasional care	130	20	20	10	20	10	0	<10	210
Outside school hours care	1,920	510	2,600	510	520	380	430	120	6,990
<b>Total Indigenous children using approved child care<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>9,390</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>10,160</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>27,570</b>
<b>Per cent of Indigenous population<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup>As children may use more than one service type and use services in more than one state or territory in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

<sup>2</sup>Number of Indigenous children aged 0–12 years using approved child care as a proportion of all Indigenous children aged 0–12 years

Source: Department of Education administrative data and ABS Cat. No. 2002.0 *Census 2011*.

More than half of all Indigenous children who attended child care did so in regional or remote Australia (15,020 children or 54.5 per cent).

**Table 10: Number of Indigenous children using child care by region, June quarter 2013**

Service type	Major Cities of Australia	Regional and Remote Australia	Total
Long day care	8,160	9,550	17,640
Family day care and In-home care	1,230	2,340	3,550
Occasional care	100	110	210
Outside school hours care	3,530	3,470	6,990
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>12,730</b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>27,570</b>

<sup>1</sup>As children may use more than one service type and use services in more than one region and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

During the June quarter 2013, 19,000 Indigenous families used approved child care, a slight reduction (220 families or 1.1 per cent) since the June quarter 2012.

**Table 11: Number of Indigenous families using child care, June quarter 2012 to June quarter 2013**

Service type	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
Long day care	14,100	14,510	14,570	13,830	13,680
Family day care and In-home care	2,420	2,360	2,390	2,360	2,330
Occasional care	150	160	160	160	160
Outside school hours care	4,410	4,590	4,360	4,530	4,680
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>19,220</b>	<b>19,680</b>	<b>19,640</b>	<b>18,880</b>	<b>19,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>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. Totals include a very small number of families for whom other details are unknown.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

Around one third (6,790 or 35.7 per cent) of Indigenous families had children in approved child care located in Queensland; another third (6,700 or 35.3 per cent) had children in approved child care located in New South Wales.

**Table 12: Number of Indigenous families using child care by state and territory, June quarter 2013**

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Long day care	4,810	1,050	5,110	590	1,130	470	430	130	<b>13,680</b>
Family day care and In-home care	1,110	170	560	80	110	240	30	20	<b>2,330</b>
Occasional care	100	20	20	<10	20	10	0	<10	<b>160</b>
Outside school hours care	1,330	380	1,670	350	320	250	300	80	<b>4,680</b>
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>6,790</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>As families may use more than one service type and use services in more than one state or territory in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

## Availability

### Services

During the June quarter 2013, 15,717 approved child care services operated in Australia, an increase of 4.6 per cent (697 services) since the June quarter 2012.

In the June quarter 2013, there were 8,718 outside school hours care services which accounted for 55.5 per cent of all services and 6,310 long day care services which accounted for 40.1 per cent of all services.

**Table 13: Number of child care services by service type, June quarter 2012 to June quarter 2013**

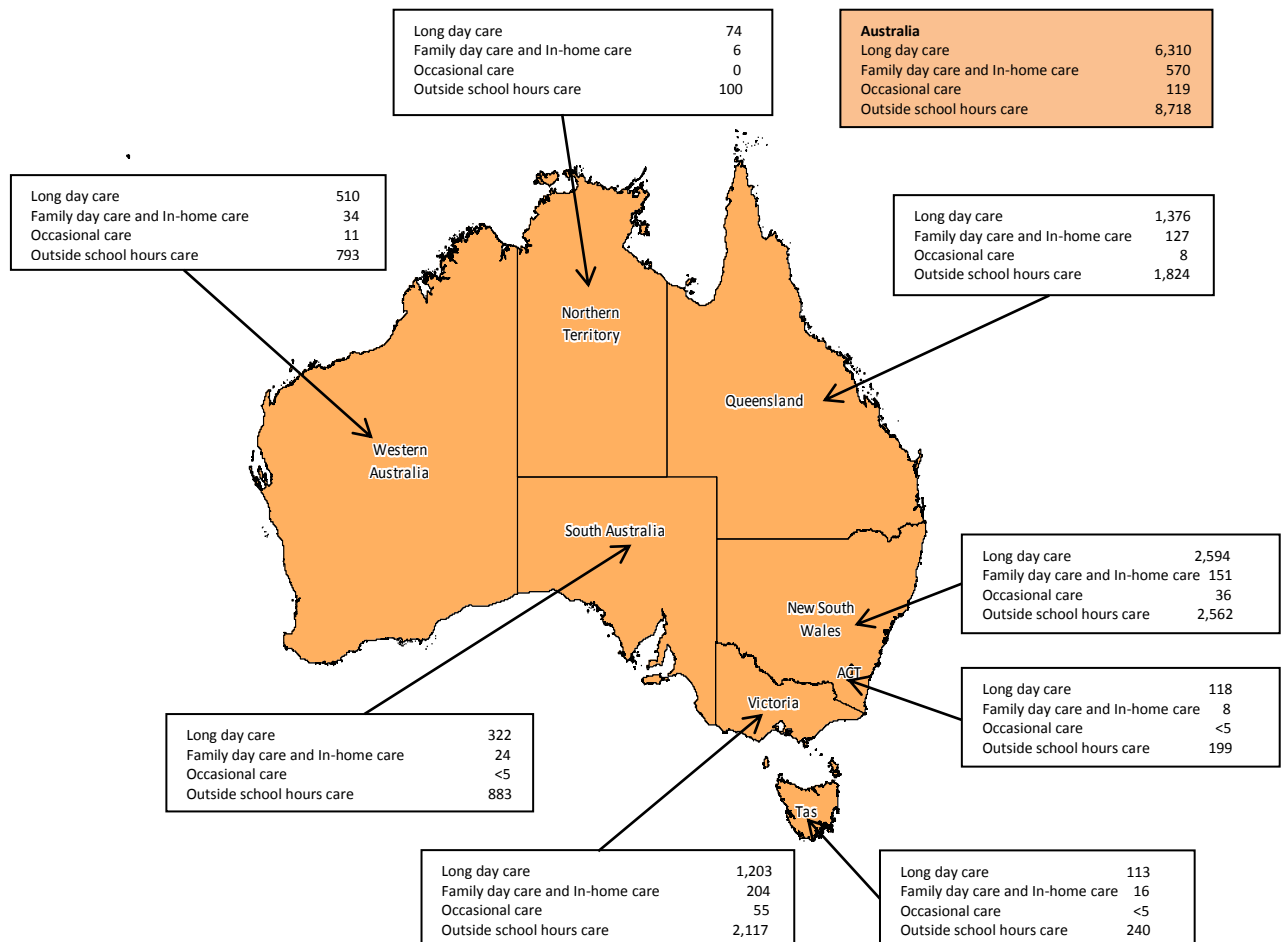
Service type	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
Long day care	6,156	6,192	6,271	6,268	6,310
Family day care and In-home care	441	460	486	517	570
Occasional care	80	82	94	118	119
Outside school hours care	8,342	8,413	8,405	8,551	8,718
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>15,020</b>	<b>15,147</b>	<b>15,256</b>	<b>15,454</b>	<b>15,717</b>

<sup>1</sup>Totals include a very small number of services for which other details are unknown.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

A mix of approved child care services are located in all states and territories. In the June quarter 2013, around one third of services were located in New South Wales (34.0 per cent), with 22.8 per cent in Victoria and 21.2 per cent in Queensland.

**Figure 4: Number of approved services by service type and state and territory, June quarter 2013**



Source: Department of Education administrative data.

## Affordability

### Costs of care

The child care out-of-pocket costs for families are determined by a combination of the fees services charge, the type of child care used, the amount of care used by families for their children and the amount of Australian Government subsidies that families are entitled to.

The average hourly child care fee for all service types in the June quarter 2013 was \$7.35, an increase of 6.4 per cent since the June quarter 2012. Fees varied across service types from a high of \$8.85 per hour for occasional care services to a low of \$6.05 per hour for outside school hours care services.

**Table 14: Average hourly fee by service type, June quarter 2012 to June quarter 2013**

Service type	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
Long day care	\$7.00	\$7.20	\$7.20	\$7.40	\$7.50
Family day care and In-home care	\$7.30	\$7.65	\$7.60	\$7.45	\$7.55
Occasional care	\$8.35	\$8.60	\$8.60	\$8.75	\$8.85
Outside school hours care	\$5.70	\$5.75	\$5.85	\$5.85	\$6.05
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$6.90</b>	<b>\$7.10</b>	<b>\$7.10</b>	<b>\$7.25</b>	<b>\$7.35</b>

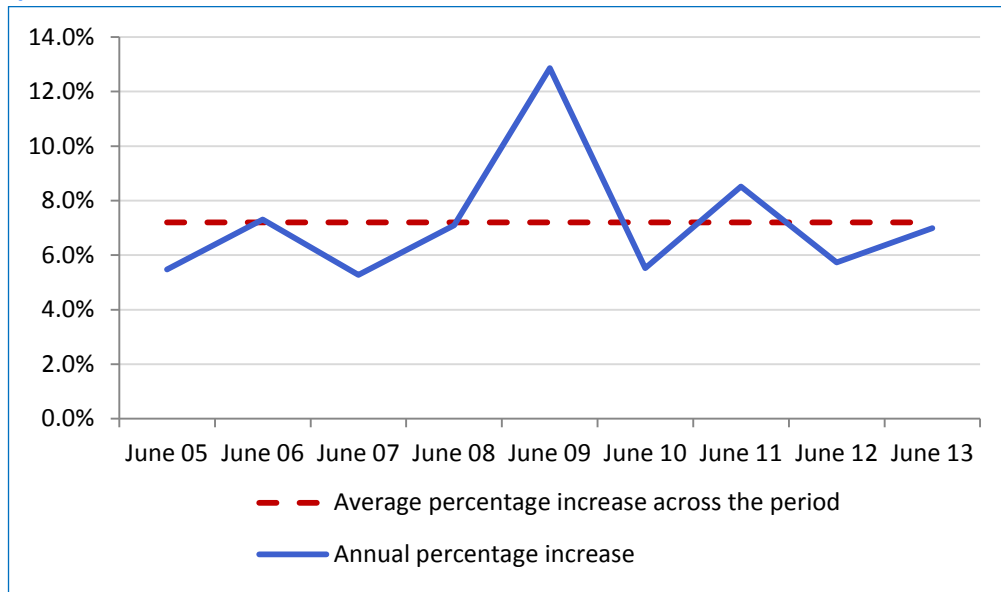
<sup>1</sup> Hourly fees for each service type are calculated by dividing the sum of all fee amounts by the sum of all hours for each service type.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.



The average hourly fee for long day care increased by 7.0 per cent from the June quarter 2012 to the June quarter 2013. This increase compares with the average annual percentage increase of 7.2 per cent for the period from the June quarter 2005 to the June quarter 2013.

**Figure 5: Average and annual percentage change to long day care hourly fees, June quarter 2005 to June quarter 2013**



Source: Department of Education administrative data.

The Australian Government subsidises the cost of child care for eligible families through the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate to help parents with the cost of approved child care. During the June quarter 2013, the total estimated expenditure on Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate was \$1,193.1 million. The majority (\$850.2 million or 71.3 per cent) of this was paid on behalf of families using long day care services.

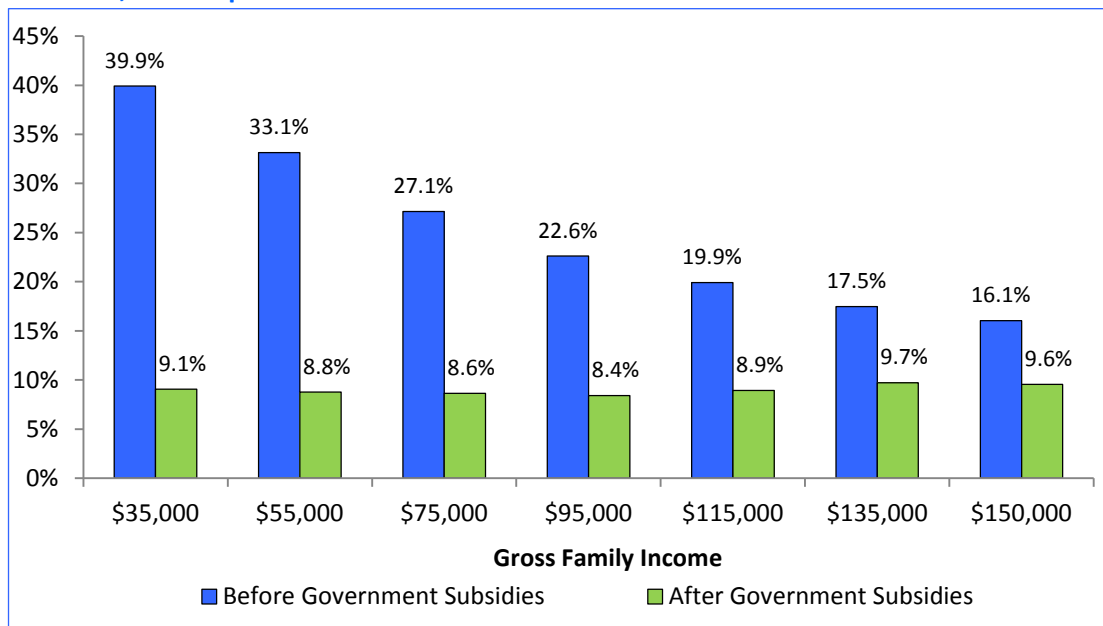
**Table 15: Total estimated Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlements by service type, June quarter 2013**

Service type	Child Care Benefit ('000)	Child Care Rebate ('000)	Total ('000)
Long day care	\$395,865	\$454,337	\$850,203
Family day care and In-home care	\$165,985	\$62,010	\$227,995
Occasional care	\$1,559	\$2,051	\$3,610
Outside school hours care	\$46,779	\$64,560	\$111,339
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$610,188</b>	<b>\$582,959</b>	<b>\$1,193,147</b>

Source: Department of Education administrative data – based on estimated entitlements.

Before Australian Government child care subsidies were taken into account, out-of-pocket costs for families varied from 39.9 per cent of weekly disposable income for families earning a gross income of \$35,000 per year, to 16.1 per cent for families earning a gross income of \$150,000 per year. After Australian Government child care subsidies, out-of-pocket costs were significantly reduced to around 9.0 per cent of disposable income across all income ranges.

**Figure 6: Out-of-pocket costs for one child in long day care before and after Australian Government subsidies, March quarter 2013**



<sup>1</sup> Out-of-pocket costs (before and after Australian Government subsidies) are shown for families with one child using long day care for 50 hours of care per week.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

# Vacancies

Table 16 details the national trend in child care vacancies from the June quarter 2011 to the June quarter 2013 by service type.

It appears that vacancies in long day care services peak in the March quarter of each year (approximately 66,000 in March quarter 2010 and March quarter 2011, approximately 69,000 in March quarter 2012 and approximately 81,000 in March quarter 2013) and that the number of vacancies then declines throughout the year.

**Table 16: Child care vacancies by service type, June quarter 2011 to June quarter 2013**

Service type	June 11	Sept. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
<b>Long day care</b>									
Total number of services	6,086	6,071	6,123	6,133	6,156	6,192	6,271	6,268	6,310
Per cent of services reporting	76%	78%	79%	77%	77%	84%	82%	83%	84%
Proportion with vacancies	88%	86%	86%	90%	87%	85%	86%	89%	89%
Average number of vacancies	61,620	53,950	51,930	68,750	60,540	61,660	58,190	80,630	78,251
Service type	June 11	Sept. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
<b>Family day care</b>									
Total number of services	333	352	360	370	376	392	415	447	499
Per cent of services reporting	72%	70%	68%	66%	63%	65%	59%	54%	50%
Proportion with vacancies	89%	89%	86%	84%	84%	83%	80%	81%	83%
Average number of vacancies	6,200	6,020	5,450	6,490	5,980	6,040	6,230	6,980	6,890
Service type	June 11	Sept. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
<b>Occasional care</b>									
Total number of services	85	82	82	80	80	82	94	118	119
Per cent of services reporting <sup>1</sup>	66%	70%	62%	65%	59%	62%	56%	51%	55%
Proportion with vacancies	55%	54%	59%	63%	60%	57%	53%	55%	61%
Average number of vacancies	320	310	280	300	240	220	220	320	376
Service type	June 11	Sept. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
<b>Before and after school hours care</b>									
Total number of services	5,604	5,697	5,732	5,956	6,020	6,036	6,057	6,219	6,292
Per cent of services reporting	64%	62%	65%	63%	65%	66%	64%	63%	62%
Proportion with vacancies	87%	88%	87%	86%	85%	86%	87%	87%	87%
Average number of vacancies	66,100	67,240	73,970	72,360	73,910	80,660	82,860	84,550	88,014
Service type	June 11	Sept. 11	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13
<b>Vacation care</b>									
Total number of services	2,114	2,253	2,253	2,248	2,323	2,377	2,348	2,332	2,426
Per cent of services reporting	59%	54%	57%	53%	58%	64%	58%	57%	57%
Proportion with vacancies	61%	70%	67%	69%	67%	69%	69%	71%	69%
Average number of vacancies	14,670	20,630	20,080	19,740	21,410	27,370	21,480	23,860	22,646

<sup>1</sup> A number of occasional care services were affected by a software reporting problem resulting in under reporting for the June quarter 2011. The values included in the table are for the services that were able to successfully provide data to the Department of Education.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

# Technical Notes

## General counting rules

Use of child care services is counted for each individual child using approved child care services. An instance of child care usage is defined as at least one child care attendance per child care service for the quarter irrespective of duration or frequency. For example, a single hour at an occasional care centre or 40 hours per week throughout the quarter at a long day care centre, are both counted as an instance of child care usage.

Children and families are recorded for each of the service types that they use during the quarter. Children and families using more than one service type during the quarter or financial year are counted only once within each applicable service type category and only once within the 'Total' category for the relevant time period. Note that as children and families may use more than one service type in any particular time frame the sum of the component parts may not equal the 'Total' category.

Changes in service type numbers need to be understood in the context of counting rules. Prior to the implementation of the Child Care Management System (CCMS) all services with an 'active' status were included regardless of attendance. This resulted in a small number of services being included in the data that did not actually have any children in attendance. Under CCMS a service is counted as 'active' only if it had at least one child attending at some time during the quarter, thus aligning the counting rules for children, families and services.

## Data sources

Data included in this report comes from the following sources:

- From the September quarter 2011 the majority of data is extracted from the Child Care Data and Reporting System (CCDARS). CCDARS is a Department of Education based data storage system for data collected from approved child care services via the Child Care Management System.
- Supplementary data is sourced from the MyChild website and the Department of Human Services.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data is included in this report for comparison purposes.

**Revisions:** Due to changes in the administrative system, data may be revised to ensure the most accurate, up-to-date figures are published.

## Vacancy information

All Child Care Benefit approved services are required to regularly report their anticipated vacancies according to a standard definition, to the Department of Education. For most services, a vacancy is defined as a permanent full day vacancy that the service is willing to fill.

The information contained in this report (table 16) relates to specific reference weeks. As is standard practice, a reference week is used to represent the quarter and reduce errors due to potential inconsistencies in reporting. For the June quarter 2013, vacancies for long day care, before and after school hours care, occasional care and family day care are reported for the week 6 to 12 May 2013, while for vacation care it varies across the states and territories due to the different timing of school holidays.

# Definitions

**Approved care:** Care provided by long day care, family day care and in-home care, outside school hours care and occasional care services approved by the Australian Government to receive Child Care Benefit on behalf of families.

**Average number of vacancies:** As services report vacancies for each day of the week, the number of vacancies for each service is averaged out across the weekdays, that is, it is the sum of vacancies on each weekday divided by five. The total number of vacancies in an area is the sum of the average vacancies per service.

**Child Care Benefit (CCB):** A payment made by the Australian Government to families to assist with the cost of child care.

**Child Care Management System (CCMS):** This is the electronic system used for the administration of CCB. Under CCMS, approved child care services submit attendance information to the Department of Education over the internet. Data in this report are primarily sourced from the CCMS.

**Child Care Rebate (CCR):** A payment made by the Australian Government to assist eligible working families with the out-of-pocket cost of child care. CCR is calculated based on the gap between the fees charged by the child care service and the CCB paid in respect of fee relief. Families who satisfy the work/training/study test requirements may be entitled to receive CCR for 50 per cent of all out-of-pocket costs up to an annual limit.

**Family day care:** Family Day Care educators provide flexible care and developmental activities in their own homes for other people's children on behalf of an approved Family Day Care service.

**In-home care:** This is a flexible form of child care where an approved educator provides care in the child's home.

**Long day care:** This is a centre-based form of child care service. Long day care services provide quality all day or part-time care for children of working families and the general community.

**Occasional care:** This is a care type mainly for non-school aged children. These services cater mainly for the needs of families who require short-term care for their children.

**Outside school hours care:** Services provide care for school aged children before and/or after school during the school term. Some services also provide care on 'pupil free' days. Vacation care is also included in this category. Vacation care services provide care for school children during the school holidays. Vacancies are reported separately for before and/or after school hours care and vacation care.

**Reference week:** For long day care, family day care, before and/or after school hours care and occasional care services, the reference week for vacancy information is selected as one of the last available weeks that is not affected by school or other holiday periods and a week that provided a consistent (with other weeks in the quarter) level of services that had reported across the quarter. The reference week includes weekdays only as most services do not operate on weekends. The reference week for vacation care is based on each state and territory's school holiday periods.

**Region:** Regions of Australia are classified according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011. This classification divides each state and territory into several regions on the basis of their relative access to services.

**Reporting services:** The services that reported their vacancy information for the reference week. This includes a small number of services that reported vacancy information and indicated they were not operational for the week.

**Service:** Child care services are approved by the Australian Government to receive CCB on behalf of families. Most long day care, family day care, before and after school hours care, vacation care services and some in-home care and occasional care services are approved child care services. Private operators, local councils, community organisations, employers or non-profit organisations may run these services. The total number of

services refers to the number of services that were active during the June quarter 2013, that is, they had at least one record of child care attendance in the quarter.

**Vacancy:** Anticipated availability that child care services are willing to fill for each week they are operational. This is an ongoing full day vacancy for long day care and family day care, full day vacancy for vacation care and occasional care services and an ongoing full session vacancy for before and/or after school hours care. Data relating to the small number of reporting services with all places not meeting the relevant vacancies definition have not been included in this report.

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