

EXPLANATORY NOTES – Child Care Preschool

Please read each question carefully and provide your best response. The explanatory notes provide definitions and clarifications for questions with this symbol ➡

SECTION A

Notes for Questions

A2 Number of places this service is licensed to provide at any one time

The number of licensed places in a child care service is equivalent to the maximum number of children allowed by regulation to attend at any one time, regardless of service type.

A3 Maximum number of children to whom care is offered AT ANY ONE TIME

The number of places offered by a service is not necessarily the same as the number of licensed places. The management of your service may have chosen to have the maximum number of places offered equal the number of licensed places. If this is the case, or if your management has not stipulated a different maximum number, record the same answer as you recorded for number of licensed places at A2. If your management has stipulated a different maximum number, record that number.

If the maximum number of children does not vary by day of the week, record one answer for each child age range. However, if the maximum number of children does vary by day of the week, record a separate answer for each day.

A4 For each day of the reference week on which child care was provided, please indicate the earliest time of day and latest time of day that child care was available to children

The 'earliest time of the day' refers to the opening time for this service and the 'latest time of the day' refers to the closing time for this service. A service that has multiple opening and closing times within a day should indicate this by completing opening and closing times in grids A and B.

A5 Approval(s), exemption(s), or other form(s) of formal permission enabling a position to be occupied by a worker without holding the required early childhood education and care qualification(s)

Include the number of positions that have an arrangement where a service can employ a person with a lesser qualification than is required under state or territory regulations. An approval/exemption/other form of formal permission is given to a service to provide immunity from state or territory qualification regulatory requirements when there is a shortage of appropriate staff to work at that service. An exemption applies to a position within a service, not an individual's qualification levels.

Exclude those with 'grandfathered' qualifications. A 'grandfathered' qualification is where certain employment and educational experience is deemed to be equivalent to a certain level of qualification. For example, an individual, or group of individuals, may have an early childhood diploma and 10 year's experience, but the government department or regulatory agency has recognised the individual's, or group of individuals, qualifications and experience as equivalent of a four year early childhood university degree.

A6 Number of contact staff who have left the service in the past 12 months

'Contact staff' include Primary Contact workers and Other Contact workers.

Primary contact – A 'primary contact worker' mainly has direct contact with children. This may include but is not limited to teachers, teachers' assistants/aides, specialist teachers and therapists.

Other contact – An 'other contact worker' has some duties involving direct contact with children, but deals mainly with staffing or management issues such as supervising staff and handling queries from parents. This may include, but is not limited to, principals, deputy principals, centre managers and coordinators.

SECTION B

General notes

Please provide estimates of the age of children to the **nearest whole year** (e.g. a child aged 1 year and 7 months would be aged '1 to less than 2').

Questions B1 to B4 refer to children who attended your service during the **reference week** printed on the front of the survey form. The ages of the children should be calculated as at the reference week, for example:

- A child who turns 3 during the reference week would be in the "3 to less than 4 years old" category
- A child who was born in January 2003 would be in the "10 to less than 11 years old" category

Notes for Questions

B2 Number of children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin

Include children who are identified by their parent(s)/guardian(s) as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. Please report ages of children in whole years as described above.

B4 Number of children who need additional assistance that is related to an underlying long-term health condition or disability

The areas are defined as following:

Learning and applying knowledge – intentionally using senses to experience certain stimuli (e.g. watching, listening, touching, smelling and tasting); ability to imitate actions or behaviours; learning to read and write; ability to solve problems, make decisions or think; and ability to focus and maintain attention to specific stimuli or tasks.

Communication – understanding and/or responding to spoken messages or non-verbal messages such as symbols, signs or drawings; speaking and/or singing; making self understood in their most effective method of communication or language if applicable.

Mobility – ability to roll, crawl, walk, climb and move around within and outside of buildings; being able to stay in the same body position (e.g. sitting and standing) to play or carry out a task; performing coordinated actions of handling objects (such as picking something up, grasping a toy or throwing).

Self care – caring for oneself by performing activities appropriate to age, such as washing and drying oneself, dressing, eating, drinking and toileting.

Interpersonal interactions and relationships – carrying out the tasks required for appropriate, basic and/or complex interactions with other people (including family members, friends, relatives, adults and strangers); creating and maintaining relationships in formal settings (such as child centre); behaving within acceptable limits; responding to the feelings of others and coping with own emotions.

Other areas – including general tasks (such as undertaking and carrying out single or multiple tasks or being able to follow and adapt to changes in routine, or managing behaviours or emotions in completing tasks); domestic life; community and social life (such as ability to engage in groups or clubs for children that undertake activities such as play, games, sport and/or other hobbies).

SECTION C

General Notes

Preschool Program

A preschool program is a structured, play based learning program, usually provided by a qualified teacher on a sessional basis. It is primarily aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full-time schooling, irrespective of the type of institution that provides the program or whether the program is government funded or privately provided.

Programs may be delivered in a variety of service settings including separate preschools, early learning centres or kindergartens, long day care centres, in association with a primary school etc.

The terms most commonly used to describe preschool programs in various states and territories are summarised in the table below.

	Focus of Section C		
	Year before full-time schooling	First year of full-time schooling	Second year of full-time schooling
NSW	Preschool Age 4 (by 31 July)	Kindergarten Age 5 (by 31 July)	Year 1
VIC	Kindergarten Age 4 (by 30 April)	Preparatory Age 5 (by 30 April)	Year 1
QLD	Kindergarten Age 4 (by 30 June)	Preparatory Age 5 (by 30 June)	Year 1
WA	Kindergarten Age 4 (by 30 June)	Pre-Primary Age 5 (by 30 June)	Year 1
SA	Preschool Continuous entry after 4 th birthday	Reception Continuous entry after 5th birthday	Year 1
TAS	Kindergarten Age 4 (by 1 January)	Preparatory Age 5 (by 1 January)	Year 1
ACT	Preschool Age 4 (by 30 April)	Kindergarten Age 5 (by 30 April)	Year 1
NT	Preschool Age 4 (by 30 June)	Transition Age 5 (by 30 June)	Year 1

Include preschool programs that are delivered to a mixed or composite class.

Exclude classes that are purely comprised of children in the first or second year of full-time school.

Notes for Questions

C1 Number of children taken to a preschool program delivered by a different service.

Refers to children who normally attend this service, who were taken by this service to a preschool program delivered by a different service (during the reference week).

Please exclude children who attend a preschool independently with their families outside of booked hours.

C2 Delivery of a preschool program

Refers to face-to-face delivery by a primary contact worker of a preschool program that is a structured, play-based, educational program.

C4 University qualifications in a relevant early childhood education and care field

Relevant university qualifications include teaching (early childhood related), teaching (primary) or other teaching qualifications.

'Teacher' does not include education assistants.

SECTION D

General notes

Please complete this section for each individual worker (staff members and educators) at your Child Care Service and include all paid and unpaid workers.

Include all paid and unpaid workers (include workers engaged through an Inclusion Support Subsidy or with Flexible Support Funding) who undertake duties that mainly involve direct contact with children, management or administration tasks. Also include principals, deputy principals, executives, directors or administration workers who are working at the service and/or are directly involved in the day to day management of the service. Any worker providing support services such as cooking, cleaning or gardening is included.

Exclude workers absent for the entire reference week (for example, workers on extended sick leave, annual or long service leave). Also exclude principals, deputy principals, executives, directors or administration workers who are not based at this service location and have no involvement in its day to day management.

Please make every effort to complete this section as thoroughly as possible.

D1 Worker name

This information is only to assist with form completion. Names will not be kept with the data, will not be provided to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and will be destroyed by the Social Research Centre (the organisation contracted to collect and process Census data) once the collection is completed.

D2c Indigenous status

If this information is not held in administrative data, it is strongly recommended that workers are asked directly about their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

D3 Paid or unpaid workers

Paid workers include those who receive wages or salary. They can include contract or relief workers.

Unpaid workers include those who are not paid, but who may be receiving in-kind benefits in recognition or exchange for their work. Unpaid workers may include volunteers, unpaid work trainees, and students on work experience.

In-kind benefits, such as free child care or the reimbursement of work related expenses in full or part, are not regarded as payment of salary and people who receive these are considered to be unpaid workers.

D4 Main type of work performed

For each worker, please select a category that most closely reflects the main type of work performed during the reference week:

Primary contact – A 'primary contact worker' mainly has direct contact with children. This may include but is not limited to teachers, teachers' assistants/aides, specialist teachers and therapists.

Other contact – An 'other contact worker' has some duties involving direct contact with children, but deals mainly with staffing or management issues such as supervising staff and handling queries from parents. This may include, but is not limited to, principals, deputy principals, centre managers and coordinators.

Management/Administration only – A staff member who mainly performed management or administration work that contributed to the running of the service and had no direct contact with children. Work may include clerical or receptionist duties, filing, keeping financial records, staffing and management issues.

Other work - Any worker who provides support services such as cooking, cleaning or gardening. This may include drivers, cooks, cleaners and maintenance staff.

D5 Main role in the service

Please select the category that reflects the main work role undertaken by each worker during the reference week:

Principal/Director/coordinator/educational leader – is a person with overall responsibility for managing the service.

Group leader/teacher – is a qualified early childhood teacher or educator responsible for a group of young children.

Assistant/aide – is an early childhood worker who helps a more senior and more qualified early childhood teacher or educator.

Other contact worker – includes people who provide additional or supplementary services for children, such as a dance teacher, music therapist, disability support worker, librarian or speech therapist.

Non contact worker – is a worker who has no direct contact with children and primarily contributes to the running of the service or provides support services, including a management committee member.

D7 Hours spent in face-to-face delivery of the preschool program

Record the hours spent by each worker in the face-to-face delivery of the preschool for each day of the reference week.

Preparation time / other hours worked that are not related to face-to-face delivery of the program should be included in D10 below.

D8 Employment status of each worker

Employment status refers to the ongoing working relationship that each worker has with this service.

For categories 1 – 5 – a worker is an employee of the organisation that pays their wages or salary. For example, a worker employed by a State or Territory Department of Education would select category 2.

For category 6 – an owner manager/self employed worker is a person who operates their own business entity which may or may not be a separate legal entity (i.e. may be incorporated/unincorporated) and who may or may not hire employees.

D9 Employment arrangements for each worker

Permanent full time/part time employees – permanent employees who are entitled to either paid sick leave, or paid holiday leave, or both, and who are not employed on a fixed term contract or casual basis. Employees are classified as full time if they worked 35 hours or more in this service during the reference week, and part time if they worked less than 35 hours in this service during the reference week.

Fixed term contract employees – are employees who have a written agreement to work a minimum number of days over a specified period of time. They do not receive paid sick or annual leave entitlements.

Casual employees – are employees who do not have a written agreement on the minimum number of days or hours that will be worked. They are usually paid a higher rate of pay; to compensate for lack of permanency and leave entitlements. Casuals may be full time or part time, according to the hours they have agreed to work.

Not an employee – covers work experience students, unpaid trainees and volunteers.

D10 Total actual hours worked

Actual hours worked refers to time spent at work in this service during the reference week.

Include: hours actually worked, including paid and/or unpaid overtime; and/or additional hours to those rostered; and time corresponding to short rest periods.

Exclude: time spent working for another service; hours paid for but not worked, such as paid annual leave, public holidays or paid sick leave; time taken in lieu or flex time; meal breaks; and time spent on travel to/from work.

D11 Years of experience in the early childhood education and care sector

The length of experience of a worker in the early childhood education and care sector should be measured by totalling the number of years the worker has been employed to work with children in a child care service, regardless of whether this was full time or part time work. The total number should be rounded down to the nearest whole year and recorded as '0' if less than 1 year.

Total length of experience does not have to reflect continuous years of service. If there have been absences from work for more than 3 months, this should be subtracted from total length of experience. Please exclude time spent as a private babysitter.

D12 Years of experience with this service

The years of experience a worker has with your service should be measured by totalling the number of years the worker has been employed to work with your service, regardless of whether this was full time or part time. Subtract absences from work of more than 3 months, from the total. The total number should be rounded down to the nearest whole year and recorded as '0' if less than 1 year.

D16 Qualification in an early childhood education and care related field.

Includes workers who are actively working towards an ACECQA approved certificate III level early childhood education and care qualification or above.