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EXPLANATORY NOTES - Preschool/kindergarten

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

At the end of this census form we will be asking you to estimate how long it took you to complete, excluding any breaks taken, so please keep this in mind as you begin.

SECTION A

Preschool/kindergarten Program

A preschool/kindergarten 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 formal 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 preschool/kindergartens or kindergartens, long day care centres, in association with a primary school, etc.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Focus of National Workforce Census*** | | | | | |
| **Year before formal**  **schooling** | | **First year of formal**  **schooling** | | **Second year of formal schooling** | |
| **NSW** | **Preschool/kindergarten**  *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/kindergarten**  *Continuous entry after 4th 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/kindergarten**  *Age 4 (by 30 April)* | | Kindergarten  *Age 5 (by 30 April)* | | Year 1 |
| **NT** | **Preschool/kindergarten**  *Continuous entry after 4th birthday* | | Transition  *Age 5 (by 30 June)* | | Year 1 |

**Include** preschool/kindergarten 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 formal school which do not include children in the year before formal schooling.

**Notes for Questions**

**Delivery of a preschool/kindergarten program**

**A1**



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

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

**A5**



**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 and 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 years experience, but the government department or regulatory agency has recognised the individual’s, or group of individuals’, qualifications’ and experience as equivalent to a four year early childhood university degree.

**SECTION B**

Please complete this section for each individual staff member (worker) at your preschool/kindergarten.

**Include** all paid and unpaid staff members (include staff members 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 staff members who are working at the preschool/kindergarten service and/or are directly involved in the day-to-day management of the service. Any staff member providing support services such as cooking, cleaning or gardening is included.

**Exclude** staff members absent for the entire reference week (for example staff members on extended sick leave, annual or long service leave). Also exclude principals, deputy principals, executives, directors or administration staff members who are not based at this preschool/kindergarten location and have no involvement in its day-to-day management. Parent helpers are excluded.

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

**Staff member name**

**B1**



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.

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**Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin**

**B2c**



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

**Paid or unpaid staff members**

**B3**



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

**Unpaid** staff members include those who are not paid, but who may be receiving in-kind benefits in recognition or exchange for their work. Unpaid staff 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 staff members.

**Main type of work performed**

**B4**



For each staff member, 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 performs management or administration work that contributs to the running of the preschool/kindergarten service and has 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.

**Main role in the service**

**B5**



Please select the category that reflects the main work role undertaken by each staff member in the reference week:

***Principal/Director/coordinator/teacher in charge*** – is a person with overall responsibility for managing the preschool/kindergarten.

***Group leader/teacher*** – is a qualified early childhood teacher or carer 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 carer.

***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.

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**Hours spent in face-to-face delivery of the preschool/kindergarten program**

Record the hours spent by each staff member in the face-to-face delivery of the preschool/kindergarten program during the reference week. Preparation time / other hours worked that are not related to face-to-face delivery of the program should be included in B7 below.

**Total actual hours worked**

Actual hours worked refers to time spent at work in this preschool/kindergarten 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 flexi time; meal breaks; and time spent on travel to/from work.

**Registration with a state/territory specific teachers registration board**

***Registered*** staff members refers to those who have met the qualification requirements and are required to be registered according to the regulation or legislation of their state and territory; those workers who are registered and are *not required* to be registered according to the regulation or legislation of their state and territory, and those workers who are registered in a non early childhood area (e.g. primary school or above).

***Provisional/Partial registration*** refers to staff members who have provisional or partial registration status under the regulation or legislation requirements of their state and territory, or state and territory registration board (e.g. a worker who requires further school-based experience to qualify as registered may be given partial registration).

**Australian Government Statistical Clearing House Approval Number 02096-01**