



Child Care & Early Learning in Summary December quarter 2013

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

Key findings for the December quarter 2013:

- 1,120,880 children attended approved child care, up 8.5 per cent compared with the December quarter 2012.
- 776,790 families had at least one child in approved child care, an increase of 6.8 per cent since the December quarter 2012.
- 16,038 approved child care services operated in Australia, an increase of 5.1 per cent since the December quarter 2012.
- The total estimated Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlement was \$1,368.8 million, up 19.1 per cent since the December 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 December quarter 2013, 776,790 families used approved child care services for their 1,120,880 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 December quarter 2013, there were 16,038 services providing approved child care services across Australia with more than one third (5,437 or 33.9 per cent) of these located in New South Wales.

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

State and territory	Number of children using approved child care ¹	Number of families using approved child care ¹	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 ¹
NSW	359,620	256,440	5,437	\$210,303	\$233,589	231,810
Vic.	271,530	183,180	3,689	\$201,314	\$172,604	169,420
Qld	270,090	184,460	3,418	\$174,205	\$141,879	168,640
SA	83,360	56,060	1,250	\$43,402	\$35,402	52,130
WA	85,010	61,090	1,362	\$41,967	\$54,183	56,510
Tas.	22,970	15,770	373	\$11,709	\$9,422	14,430
NT	8,890	6,370	180	\$3,653	\$7,365	6,190
ACT	23,150	16,270	329	\$5,753	\$22,020	15,860
Australia	1,120,880	776,790	16,038	\$692,304	\$676,465	712,380

¹As 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 December quarter 2013, 1,120,880 children used Child Care Benefit approved child care in Australia, up by 8.5 per cent since the December quarter 2012. For children aged 0–12 years using approved child care, this represents 29.0 per cent of the 3,808,440 children aged 0–12 years in Australia.

During the December quarter 2013, children attended various services providing approved child care, including long day care (646,750 or 57.7 per cent), outside school hours care (335,110 or 29.9 per cent), family day care and in-home care (165,440 or 14.8 per cent), and occasional care (8,130 or 0.7 per cent).

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

Service type	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Long day care	623,980	621,250	606,710	637,590	646,750
Family day care and In-home care	128,930	135,770	142,400	155,430	165,440
Occasional care	7,230	7,130	7,650	8,260	8,130
Outside school hours care	303,210	327,220	334,480	345,160	335,110
Total¹	1,033,150	1,042,280	1,057,900	1,111,100	1,120,880
<i>Per cent of Australian population²</i>	<i>27.5%</i>	<i>27.1%</i>	<i>27.2%</i>	<i>28.9%</i>	<i>29.0%</i>

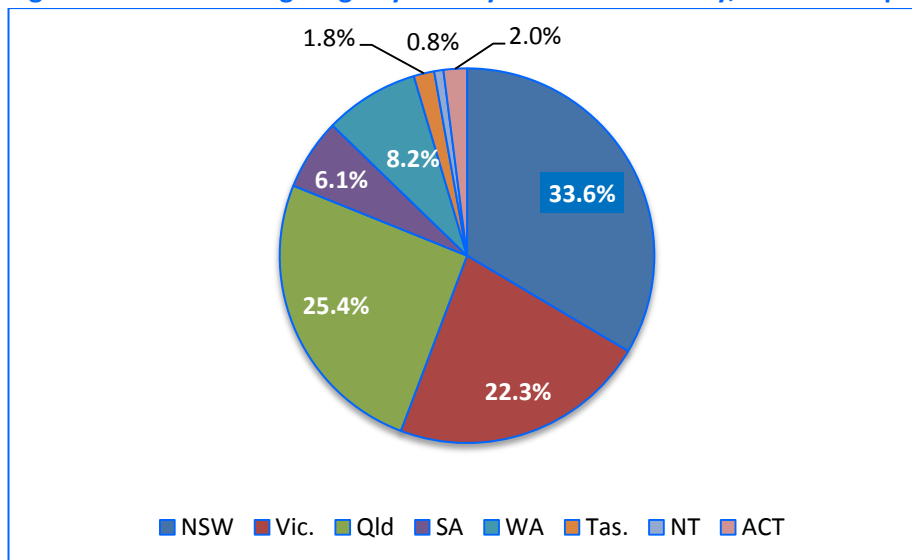
¹ As children may use more than one service type in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

² 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. 2013*.

In the December quarter 2013, the largest proportion of children attending long day care was in New South Wales (33.6 per cent), followed by Queensland (25.4 per cent) and Victoria (22.3 per cent).

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



Source: Department of Education administrative data.

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

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia ¹
Long day care	217,040	143,950	164,130	39,770	52,930	11,490	5,140	13,070	646,750
Family day care and In-home care	51,580	55,810	31,660	10,580	10,350	5,430	530	1,570	165,440
Occasional care	2,740	2,950	830	130	1,110	150	0	240	8,130
Outside school hours care	98,340	75,730	81,350	36,040	24,400	7,380	3,370	8,700	335,110
Total¹	359,620	271,530	270,090	83,360	85,010	22,970	8,890	23,150	1,120,880

¹ 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 (855,780 children), around one in four (269,230 or 24.0 per cent) children used child care services located in regional and remote areas.

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

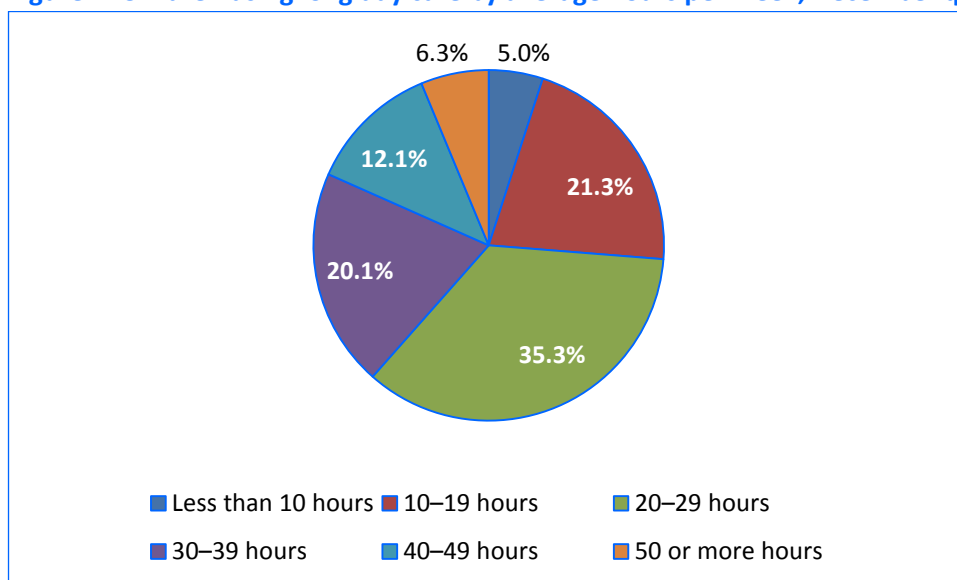
Service type	Major cities of Australia	Regional and Remote Australia	Total ¹
Long day care	482,630	164,970	646,750
Family day care and In-home care	121,460	44,560	165,440
Occasional care	4,970	3,160	8,130
Outside school hours care	269,510	66,070	335,110
Total¹	855,780	269,230	1,120,880

¹ 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 December quarter 2013, for all types of child care, the average time that a child spent in approved child care was 24.3 hours per week. This compares with children who used long day care who attended for an average of 27.5 hours per week.

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



Source: Department of Education administrative data.

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

Service type	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Long day care	27.4	27.4	27.2	27.7	27.5
Family day care and In-home care	25.3	26.7	27.0	28.2	29.3
Occasional care	11.7	11.2	10.9	11.2	11.2
Outside school hours care	10.6	12.2	10.8	11.3	10.7
Total	23.7	24.1	23.5	24.2	24.3

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

Families

During the December quarter 2013, there were 776,790 families using some form of approved child care for their children, an increase of 6.8 per cent since the December quarter 2012.

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

Service type	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Long day care	504,240	500,180	498,010	519,130	524,070
Family day care and In-home care	82,230	84,930	88,130	94,880	98,770
Occasional care	5,910	5,930	6,400	6,830	6,690
Outside school hours care	217,880	231,970	238,600	246,510	239,780
Total¹	727,030	729,780	742,690	773,070	776,790

¹ 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.
Source: Department of Education administrative data.

In the December quarter 2013, 256,440 families (33.0 per cent) had children attending approved child care in New South Wales, followed by Queensland (184,460 families or 23.7 per cent) and Victoria (183,180 families or 23.6 per cent). Across Australia, more than two-thirds (524,070 or 67.5 per cent) of all families had children in long day care and around one-third of families had children in outside school hours care (239,780 or 30.9 per cent).

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

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia ¹
Long day care	179,080	117,560	127,960	32,770	43,040	9,300	4,290	10,700	524,070
Family day care and In-home care	33,820	28,920	19,730	6,020	6,420	3,650	420	1,120	98,770
Occasional care	2,270	2,410	670	110	910	110	0	200	6,690
Outside school hours care	71,380	55,100	57,370	24,820	17,190	5,210	2,440	6,410	239,780
Total¹	256,440	183,180	184,460	56,060	61,090	15,770	6,370	16,270	776,790

¹ 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 December quarter 2013, 27,910 Indigenous children (2.5 per cent of all children) used approved child care in Australia. The number of Indigenous children using approved child care has decreased slightly since the December quarter 2012 (down by 1.4 per cent).

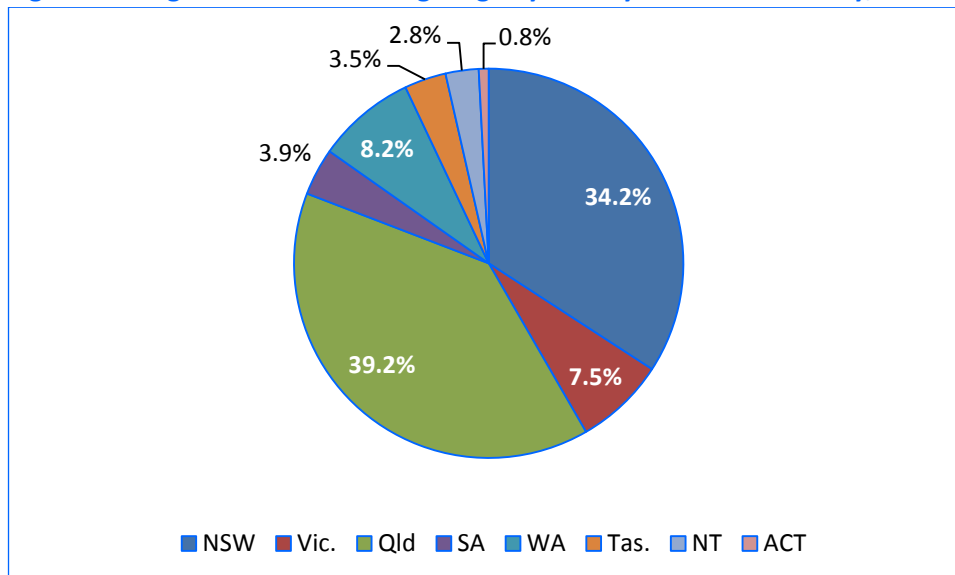
Table 8: Number of Indigenous children using child care, December quarter 2012 to December quarter 2013

Service type	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Long day care	18,910	18,100	17,640	18,230	17,990
Family day care and In-home care	3,580	3,600	3,550	3,660	3,730
Occasional care	210	200	210	210	200
Outside school hours care	6,370	6,810	6,990	7,090	6,770
Total¹	28,300	27,600	27,570	28,350	27,910

¹As 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.
Source: Department of Education administrative data.

The largest proportion of Indigenous children attending long day care was in Queensland (39.2 per cent) and New South Wales (34.2 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 (13.0 per cent of Indigenous children aged 0–12 years, 29.0 per cent all children aged 0–12 years, nationally).

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



Source: Department of Education administrative data.

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

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia ¹
Long day care	6,160	1,350	7,060	710	1,480	620	500	150	17,990
Family day care and In-home care	1,660	310	980	180	190	350	40	20	3,730
Occasional care	110	30	20	<10	20	10	0	<10	200
Outside school hours care	1,830	520	2,570	560	460	360	380	110	6,770
Total Indigenous children using approved child care¹	9,460	2,160	10,420	1,400	2,080	1,260	900	280	27,910
<i>Per cent of Indigenous population²</i>	<i>14.2%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>	<i>16.2%</i>	<i>12.0%</i>	<i>7.7%</i>	<i>16.5%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>16.0%</i>	<i>13.0%</i>

¹As 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.

²Number 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. 3238.0 *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 2001 to 2026*.

More than half of all Indigenous children who attended child care did so in regional or remote Australia (14,860 children or 53.2 per cent).

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

Service type	Major cities of Australia	Regional and Remote Australia	Total ¹
Long day care	8,430	9,600	17,990
Family day care and In-home care	1,450	2,290	3,730
Occasional care	90	110	200
Outside school hours care	3,510	3,260	6,770
Total¹	13,180	14,860	27,910

¹As 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 December quarter 2013, 18,840 Indigenous families used approved child care, a reduction (800 families or 4.1 per cent) since the December quarter 2012.

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

Service type	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Long day care	14,570	13,830	13,680	13,990	13,690
Family day care and In-home care	2,390	2,360	2,330	2,390	2,360
Occasional care	160	160	160	170	150
Outside school hours care	4,360	4,530	4,680	4,750	4,540
Total¹	19,640	18,880	19,000	19,300	18,840

¹As 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.

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

Around one third (6,790 or 36.1 per cent) of Indigenous families had children in approved child care located in Queensland; another third (6,650 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, December quarter 2013

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia ¹
Long day care	4,850	1,050	5,130	550	1,110	480	410	120	13,690
Family day care and In-home care	1,090	180	600	90	120	240	30	20	2,360
Occasional care	90	20	10	<10	20	10	0	<10	150
Outside school hours care	1,270	380	1,660	370	290	240	260	70	4,540
Total¹	6,650	1,480	6,790	900	1,400	830	630	190	18,840

¹As 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 December quarter 2013, 16,038 approved child care services operated in Australia, an increase of 5.1 per cent (782 services) since the December quarter 2012.

In the December quarter 2013, there were 8,773 outside school hours care services which accounted for 54.7 per cent of all services and 6,471 long day care services which accounted for 40.3 per cent of all services.

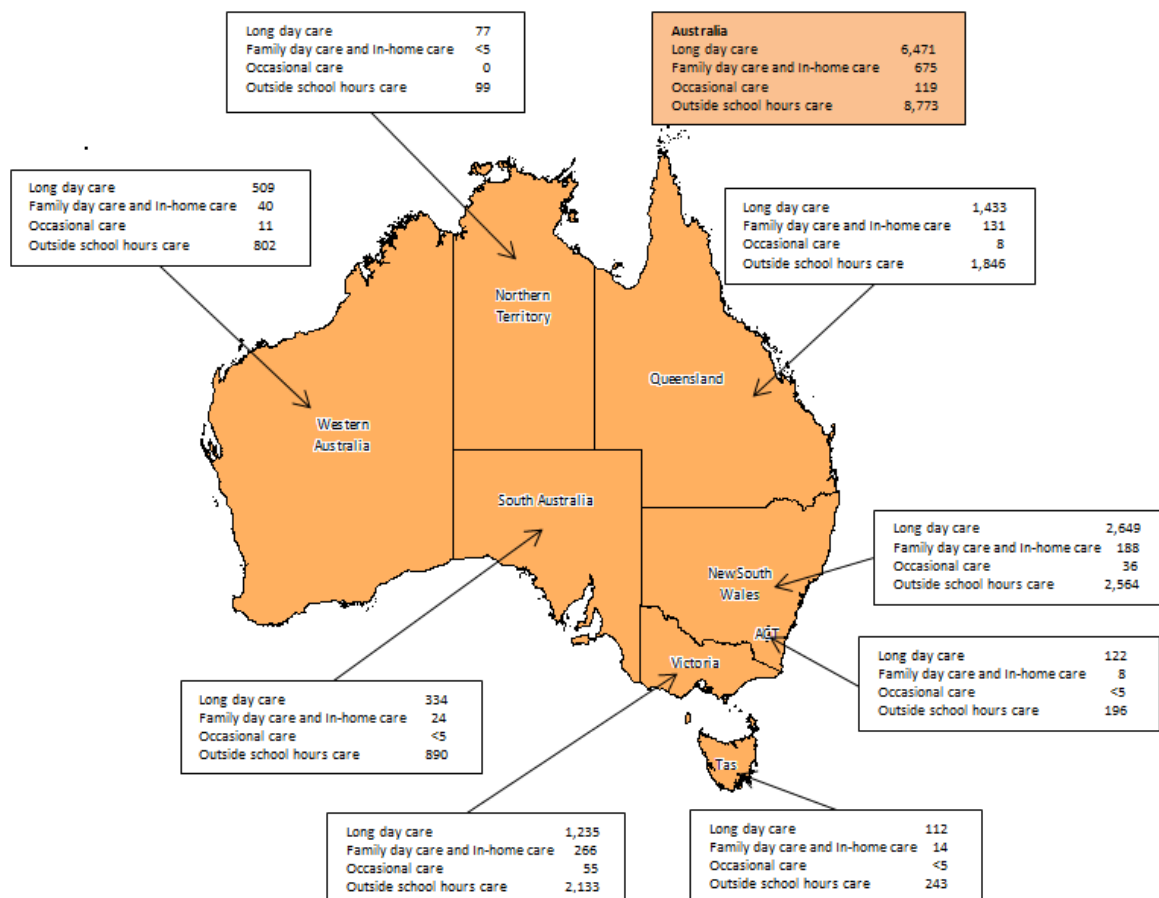
Table 13: Number of child care services by service type, December quarter 2012 to December quarter 2013

Service type	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Long day care	6,271	6,268	6,310	6,360	6,471
Family day care and In-home care	486	517	570	632	675
Occasional care	94	118	119	119	119
Outside school hours care	8,405	8,551	8,718	8,796	8,773
Total	15,256	15,454	15,717	15,907	16,038

Source: Department of Education administrative data.

A mix of approved child care services are located in all states and territories. In the December quarter 2013, around one third of services were located in New South Wales (33.9 per cent), with 23.0 per cent in Victoria and 21.3 per cent in Queensland.

Figure 4: Number of approved services by service type and state and territory, December 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 December quarter 2013 was \$7.55, an increase of 5.9 per cent since the December quarter 2012. Fees varied across service types from a high of \$9.05 per hour for occasional care services to a low of \$6.15 per hour for outside school hours care services.

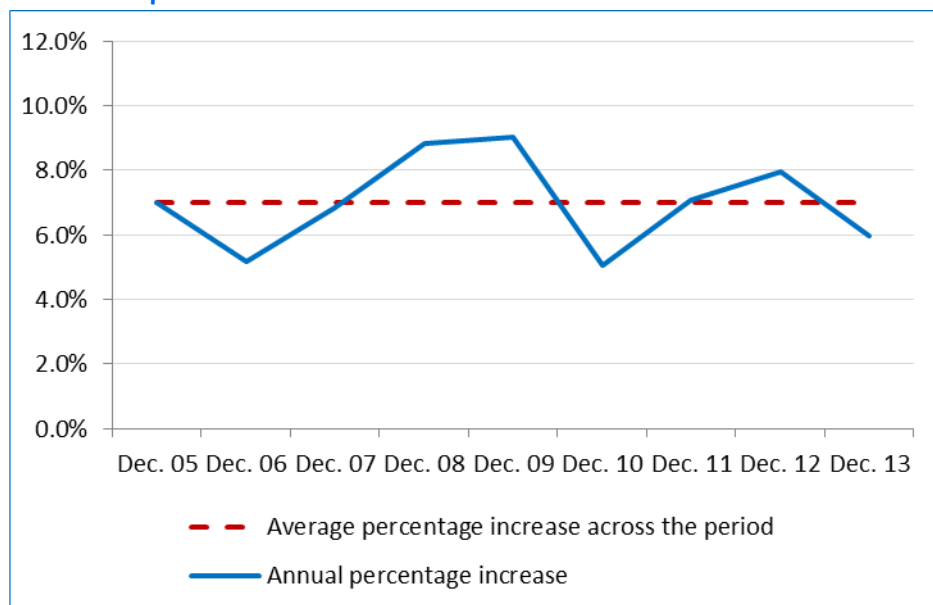
Table 14: Average hourly fee by service type, December quarter 2012 to December quarter 2013

Service type	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Long day care	\$7.20	\$7.40	\$7.50	\$7.65	\$7.60
Family day care and In-home care	\$7.60	\$7.45	\$7.55	\$7.75	\$7.90
Occasional care	\$8.60	\$8.75	\$8.85	\$9.05	\$9.05
Outside school hours care	\$5.85	\$5.85	\$6.05	\$6.10	\$6.15
Total¹	\$7.10	\$7.25	\$7.35	\$7.50	\$7.55

¹ 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 6.0 per cent from the December quarter 2012 to the December quarter 2013. This increase compares with the average annual percentage increase of 7.0 per cent for the period from the December quarter 2005 to the December quarter 2013.

Figure 5: Average and annual percentage change to long day care hourly fees, December quarter 2005 to December 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 December quarter 2013, the total estimated expenditure on Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate was \$1,368.8 million. The majority (\$963.4 million or 70.4 per cent) of this was paid on behalf of families using long day care services.

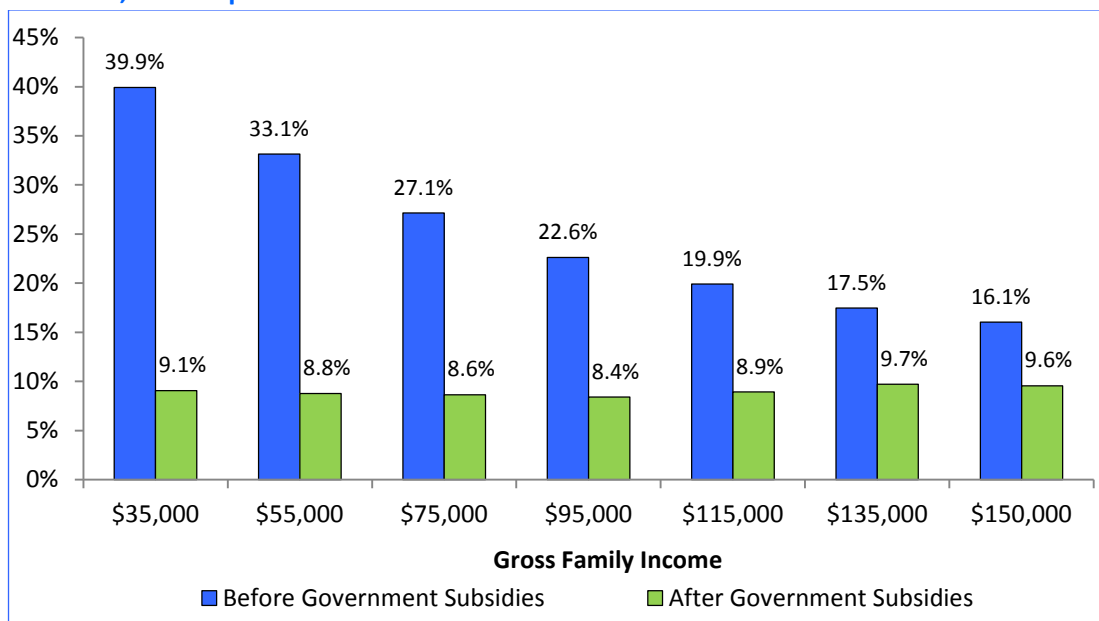
Table 15: Total estimated Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlements by service type, December quarter 2013

Service type	Child Care Benefit ('000)	Child Care Rebate ('000)	Total ('000)
Long day care	\$427,846	\$535,551	\$963,396
Family day care and In-home care	\$218,780	\$76,640	\$295,420
Occasional care	\$1,655	\$2,318	\$3,973
Outside school hours care	\$44,023	\$61,956	\$105,980
Total	\$692,304	\$676,465	\$1,368,769

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 costs¹ for one child in long day care before and after Australian Government subsidies, March quarter 2013



¹ 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 December quarter 2011 to the December quarter 2013 by service type.

It appears that vacancies in long day care services peak in the March quarter of each year (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, December quarter 2011 to December quarter 2013

Service type	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Long day care									
Total number of services	6,123	6,133	6,156	6,192	6,271	6,268	6,310	6,360	6,471
Per cent of services reporting	79%	77%	77%	84%	82%	83%	84%	91%	90%
Proportion with vacancies	86%	90%	87%	85%	86%	89%	89%	86%	86%
Average number of vacancies	51,930	68,750	60,540	61,660	58,190	80,630	78,250	68,490	66,410
Service type	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Family day care									
Total number of services	360	370	376	392	415	447	499	560	605
Per cent of services reporting	68%	66%	63%	65%	59%	54%	50%	47%	46%
Proportion with vacancies	86%	84%	84%	83%	80%	81%	83%	80%	85%
Average number of vacancies	5,450	6,490	5,980	6,040	6,230	6,980	6,890	7,130	7,500
Service type	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Occasional care									
Total number of services	82	80	80	82	94	118	119	119	119
Per cent of services reporting	62%	65%	59%	62%	56%	51%	55%	63%	66%
Proportion with vacancies	59%	63%	60%	57%	53%	55%	61%	52%	53%
Average number of vacancies	280	300	240	220	220	320	380	310	300
Service type	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Before and after school hours care									
Total number of services	5,732	5,956	6,020	6,036	6,057	6,219	6,292	6,314	6,306
Per cent of services reporting	65%	63%	65%	66%	64%	63%	62%	66%	66%
Proportion with vacancies	87%	86%	85%	86%	87%	87%	87%	88%	89%
Average number of vacancies	73,970	72,360	73,910	80,660	82,860	84,550	88,010	96,160	100,410
Service type	Dec. 11	Mar. 12	June 12	Sept. 12	Dec. 12	Mar. 13	June 13	Sept. 13	Dec. 13
Vacation care									
Total number of services	2,253	2,248	2,323	2,377	2,348	2,332	2,426	2,482	2,467
Per cent of services reporting	57%	53%	58%	64%	58%	57%	57%	60%	56%
Proportion with vacancies	67%	69%	67%	69%	69%	71%	69%	72%	71%
Average number of vacancies	20,080	19,740	21,410	27,370	21,480	23,860	22,650	29,480	26,200

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 December quarter 2013, vacancies for long day care, before and after school hours care, occasional care and family day care are reported for the week 28 October to 3 November 2013, and for vacation care for the week 30 September to 6 October 2013.

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 December 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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