



Early Childhood and Child Care in Summary

September quarter 2014



This publication provides information on children in approved child care services across Australia for the September quarter 2014.

Key findings for the September quarter 2014 include:

- 1,201,110 children attended approved child care, up 8.1 per cent compared with the September quarter 2013.
- 819,970 families had at least one child in approved child care, an increase of 6.1 per cent since the September quarter 2013.
- 16,717 approved child care services operated in Australia, an increase of 5.1 per cent since the September quarter 2013.
- The total estimated Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlement was \$1,629.6 million, up 19.0 per cent since the September quarter 2013.

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 the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

During the September quarter 2014, 819,970 families used approved child care services for their 1,201,110 children.

- In terms of affordability, 92.1 per cent of these families are estimated to have received Child Care Rebate (CCR), with up to 50 per cent of their out-of-pocket costs covered by the Australian Government.
- In terms of availability, in the September quarter 2014, there were 16,717 services providing approved child care services across Australia.

Table 1: Child care children, families, services and estimated entitlements by state and territory, September quarter 2014

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 ¹ ('000)	Estimated Child Care Rebate (CCR) entitlement ¹ ('000)	Estimated number of families receiving CCR ¹
NSW	394,950	274,920	5,694	\$268,375	\$282,996	250,010
Vic.	301,000	198,520	3,865	\$256,734	\$206,320	184,040
Qld	278,230	189,310	3,473	\$190,560	\$159,564	174,080
SA	84,840	57,330	1,292	\$46,056	\$40,470	53,450
WA	90,880	64,570	1,481	\$47,385	\$61,761	59,870
Tas.	23,100	15,890	379	\$12,181	\$10,638	14,660
NT	9,350	6,640	186	\$3,948	\$8,367	6,430
ACT	25,630	17,750	347	\$8,486	\$25,782	17,250
Australia	1,201,110	819,970	16,717	\$833,725	\$795,899	755,270

¹ 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 Social Services administrative data.

Child Care Usage

Children

During the September quarter 2014, 1,201,110 children used approved child care in Australia, up by 8.1 per cent since the September quarter 2013. For children aged 0–12 years using approved child care, this represents 30.6 per cent of the 3,856,350 children aged 0–12 years in Australia.

During the September quarter 2014, children attended various services providing approved child care, including Long Day Care (658,400 or 54.8 per cent), Outside School Hours Care (369,630 or 30.8 per cent), Family Day Care and In-Home Care (203,790 or 17.0 per cent), and Occasional Care (7,750 or 0.6 per cent).

Table 2: Number of children using child care by service type, September quarter 2013 to September quarter 2014

Service type	Sep. 13	Dec. 13	Mar. 14	Jun. 14	Sep. 14
Long Day Care	637,590	646,750	641,740	631,400	658,400
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	155,430	165,440	179,200	192,510	203,790
Occasional Care	8,260	8,130	6,920	7,430	7,750
Outside School Hours Care	345,160	335,110	354,020	367,940	369,630
Total¹	1,111,100	1,120,880	1,127,730	1,161,150	1,201,110
<i>Per cent of Australian population²</i>	<i>28.9%</i>	<i>29.0%</i>	<i>29.2%</i>	<i>29.6%</i>	<i>30.6%</i>

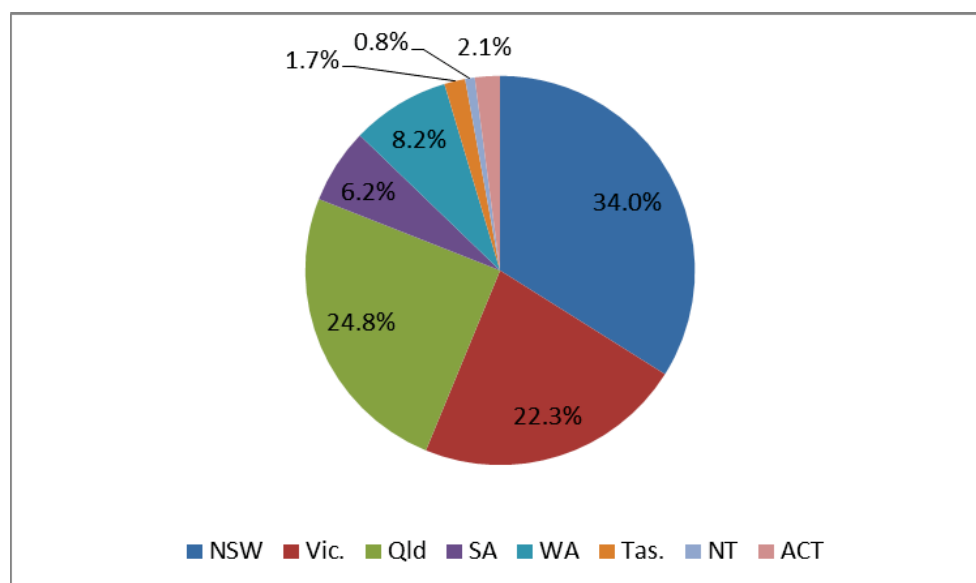
¹ As children may use more than one service type in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

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 Social Services administrative data, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun. 2014.

In the September quarter 2014, the largest proportion of children attending Long Day Care was in New South Wales (34.0 per cent), followed by Queensland (24.8 per cent) and Victoria (22.3 per cent).

Figure 1: Children using Long Day Care by state and territory, September quarter 2014



Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

Table 3: Number of children using child care by service type and state and territory, September quarter 2014

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia ¹
Long Day Care	223,870	146,970	163,220	41,090	53,930	11,460	5,260	13,730	658,400
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	68,690	74,050	34,450	10,770	11,980	5,350	540	2,390	203,790
Occasional Care	2,620	2,800	760	140	1,080	140	0	210	7,750
Outside School Hours Care	111,510	85,250	87,680	35,860	28,380	7,680	3,640	9,880	369,630
Total¹	394,950	301,000	278,230	84,840	90,880	23,100	9,350	25,630	1,201,110

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 Social Services administrative data.

While most children who used approved child care, used services located in major cities (932,050 children), around one in four (275,790 or 23.0 per cent) children used services located in regional and remote areas.

Table 4: Number of children using child care by service type and region, September quarter 2014

Service type	Major cities of Australia	Regional ¹ and Remote Australia ²	Total ³
Long Day Care	493,650	166,890	658,400
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	160,660	43,950	203,790
Occasional Care	4,640	3,110	7,750
Outside School Hours Care	299,060	71,620	369,630
Total³	932,050	275,790	1,201,110

¹ Includes Inner and Outer Regional

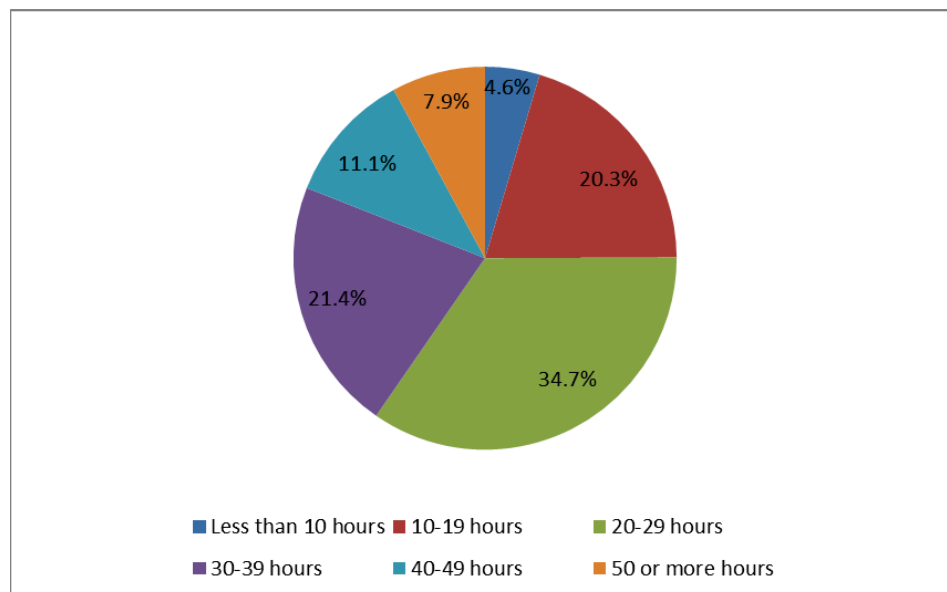
² Includes Remote and Very Remote

³ 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 Social Services administrative data.

During the September quarter 2014, for all types of child care, the average time that a child spent in approved child care was 25.3 hours per week. This compares with children who used Long Day Care who attended for an average of 28.0 hours per week.

Figure 2: Children using Long Day Care by average hours per week, September quarter 2014



Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

Table 5: Average weekly hours in child care by service type, September quarter 2013 to September quarter 2014

Service type	Sep. 13	Dec. 13	Mar. 14	Jun. 14	Sep. 14
Long Day Care	27.7	27.5	27.8	27.6	28.0
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	28.2	29.3	31.3	31.1	31.6
Occasional Care	11.2	11.2	11.8	11.4	11.8
Outside School Hours Care	11.3	10.7	12.1	10.8	11.7
Total	24.2	24.3	25.0	24.5	25.3

Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

Families

During the September quarter 2014, there were 819,970 families using some form of approved child care for their children, an increase of 6.1 per cent since the September quarter 2013. The number of families using Family Day Care and In-Home Care has increased by 22.5 per cent since the September quarter 2013.

Table 6: Number of families using child care by service type, September quarter 2013 to September quarter 2014

Service type	Sep. 13	Dec. 13	Mar. 14	Jun. 14	Sep. 14
Long Day Care	519,130	524,070	517,770	518,170	535,930
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	94,880	98,770	104,130	110,690	116,190
Occasional Care	6,830	6,690	5,840	6,240	6,390
Outside School Hours Care	246,510	239,780	250,370	261,440	263,200
Total¹	773,070	776,790	776,330	797,860	819,970

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 Social Services administrative data.

In the September quarter 2014, 274,920 families (33.5 per cent) had children attending approved child care in New South Wales, followed by 198,520 families (24.2 per cent) in Victoria and 189,310 families (23.1 per cent) in Queensland.

Across Australia, nearly two-thirds (535,930 or 65.4 per cent) of all families had children in Long Day Care and around one-third of families had children in Outside School Hours Care (263,200 or 32.1 per cent).

Table 7: Number of families using child care by service type and state and territory, September quarter 2014

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia ¹
Long Day Care	185,260	120,590	128,050	33,940	44,010	9,290	4,420	11,320	535,930
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	41,380	37,180	21,310	6,240	7,250	3,660	380	1,510	116,190
Occasional Care	2,160	2,300	630	120	890	120	0	180	6,390
Outside School Hours Care	80,280	61,530	61,410	24,920	19,970	5,440	2,650	7,190	263,200
Total¹	274,920	198,520	189,310	57,330	64,570	15,890	6,640	17,750	819,970

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 Social Services administrative data.

Indigenous children and families

During the September quarter 2014, 27,910 Indigenous children (2.3 per cent of all children) used approved child care in Australia. The number of Indigenous children using approved child care has remained around the same since the September quarter 2013.

Table 8: Number of Indigenous children using child care by service type, September quarter 2013 to September quarter 2014

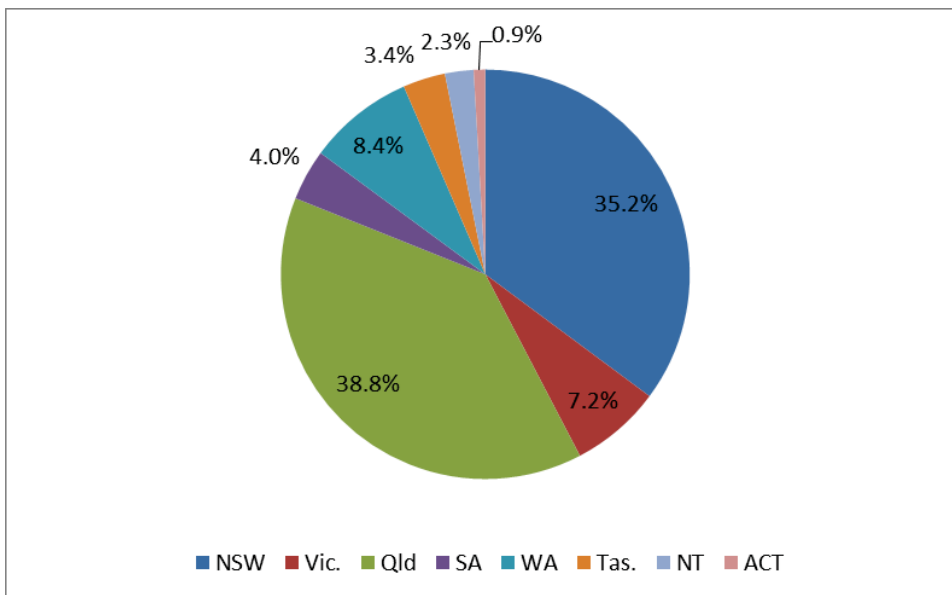
Service type	Sep. 13	Dec. 13	Mar. 14	Jun. 14	Sep. 14
Long Day Care	18,230	17,990	17,570	17,030	17,240
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	3,660	3,730	3,810	3,880	4,030
Occasional Care	210	200	180	180	180
Outside School Hours Care	7,090	6,770	7,130	7,380	7,340
Total¹	28,350	27,910	27,490	27,580	27,910

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.

Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

The largest proportion of Indigenous children attending Long Day Care was in Queensland (38.8 per cent) and New South Wales (35.2 per cent).

Figure 3: Indigenous children using Long Day Care by state and territory, September quarter 2014



Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

Compared with all children, a smaller proportion of Indigenous children aged 0–12 years attended approved child care, in each state and territory (12.9 per cent of Indigenous children aged 0–12 years, and 30.6 per cent all children aged 0–12 years, nationally).

Table 9: Number of Indigenous children using child care by service type and state and territory, September quarter 2014

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia ¹
Long Day Care	6,070	1,240	6,690	700	1,450	580	390	160	17,240
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	1,620	530	1,130	190	230	340	20	20	4,030
Occasional Care	100	30	20	0	20	10	0	<10	180
Outside School Hours Care	2,080	630	2,690	570	550	350	360	110	7,340
Total Indigenous children using approved child care¹	9,590	2,370	10,270	1,400	2,160	1,200	770	290	27,910
<i>Per cent of Indigenous population²</i>	<i>14.3%</i>	<i>15.2%</i>	<i>15.8%</i>	<i>11.8%</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>15.5%</i>	<i>3.9%</i>	<i>16.3%</i>	<i>12.9%</i>

¹ 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.

² 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 Social Services administrative data and ABS Cat. No. 3238.0 Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 2001 to 2026 (30 April 2014)

More than half of all Indigenous children who attended child care did so in regional or remote Australia (14,370 children or 51.5 per cent).

Table 10: Number of Indigenous children using child care by service type and region, September quarter 2014

Service type	Major cities of Australia	Regional and Remote Australia	Total ¹
Long Day Care	8,160	9,170	17,240
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	1,990	2,060	4,030
Occasional Care	80	100	180
Outside School Hours Care	3,870	3,480	7,340
Total¹	13,750	14,370	27,910

¹ 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 Social Services administrative data.

During the September quarter 2014, 18,280 Indigenous families used approved child care, a reduction of 1,020 families or 5.3 per cent since the September quarter 2013.

Table 11: Number of Indigenous families using child care by service type, September quarter 2013 to September quarter 2014

Service type	Sep. 13	Dec. 13	Mar. 14	Jun. 14	Sep. 14
Long Day Care	13,990	13,690	13,190	12,960	12,980
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	2,390	2,360	2,330	2,340	2,380
Occasional Care	170	150	130	140	140
Outside School Hours Care	4,750	4,540	4,730	4,900	4,890
Total¹	19,300	18,840	18,260	18,260	18,280

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 Social Services administrative data.

Around one third (6,560 or 35.9 per cent) of Indigenous families had children in approved child care located in Queensland; another third (6,570 or 35.9 per cent) had children in approved child care located in New South Wales.

Table 12: Number of Indigenous families using child care by service type and state and territory, September quarter 2014

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia ¹
Long Day Care	4,770	930	4,850	540	1,050	440	320	120	12,980
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	1,000	260	650	90	130	230	20	20	2,380
Occasional Care	80	20	10	0	20	10	0	<10	140
Outside School Hours Care	1,410	440	1,740	370	360	240	260	80	4,890
Total¹	6,570	1,480	6,560	880	1,400	770	530	190	18,280

¹ 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 Social Services administrative data.

Availability

Services

During the September quarter 2014, 16,717 approved child care services operated in Australia, an increase of 5.1 per cent (810 services) since the September quarter 2013. There were 9,172 Outside School Hours Care services which accounted for 54.9 per cent of all services and 6,601 Long Day Care services which accounted for 39.5 per cent of all services.

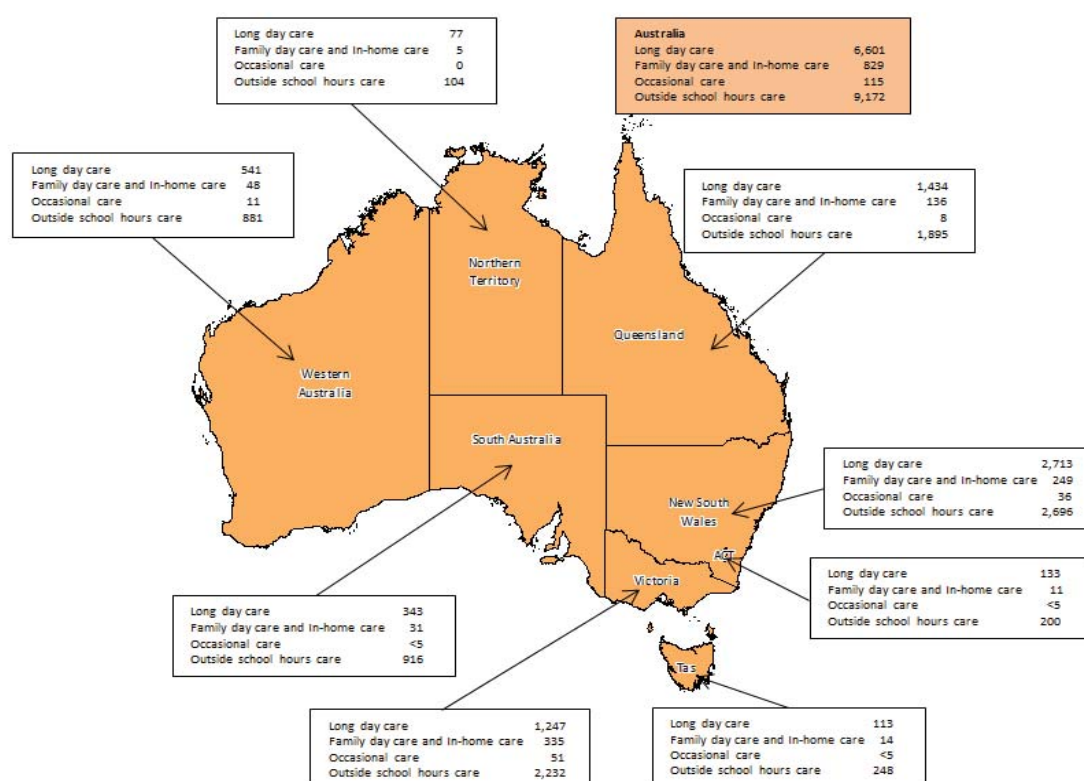
Table 13: Number of child care services by service type, September quarter 2013 to September quarter 2014

Service type	Sep. 13	Dec. 13	Mar. 14	Jun. 14	Sep. 14
Long Day Care	6,360	6,471	6,450	6,606	6,601
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	632	675	714	783	829
Occasional Care	119	119	119	117	115
Outside School Hours Care	8,796	8,773	8,924	9,177	9,172
Total	15,907	16,038	16,207	16,683	16,717

Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

In the September quarter 2014, around one third of services were located in New South Wales (34.1 per cent), with 23.1 per cent in Victoria and 20.8 per cent in Queensland.

Figure 4: Number of approved services by service type and state and territory, September quarter 2014



Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

Affordability

Costs of care before Australian Government fee assistance

The average hourly child care fee for all service types in the September quarter 2014 was \$7.85, an increase of 4.8 per cent since the September quarter 2013. Fees varied across service types from a high of \$9.35 per hour for Occasional Care services to a low of \$6.30 per hour for Outside School Hours Care services.

Table 14: Average hourly fee by service type, September quarter 2013 to September quarter 2014

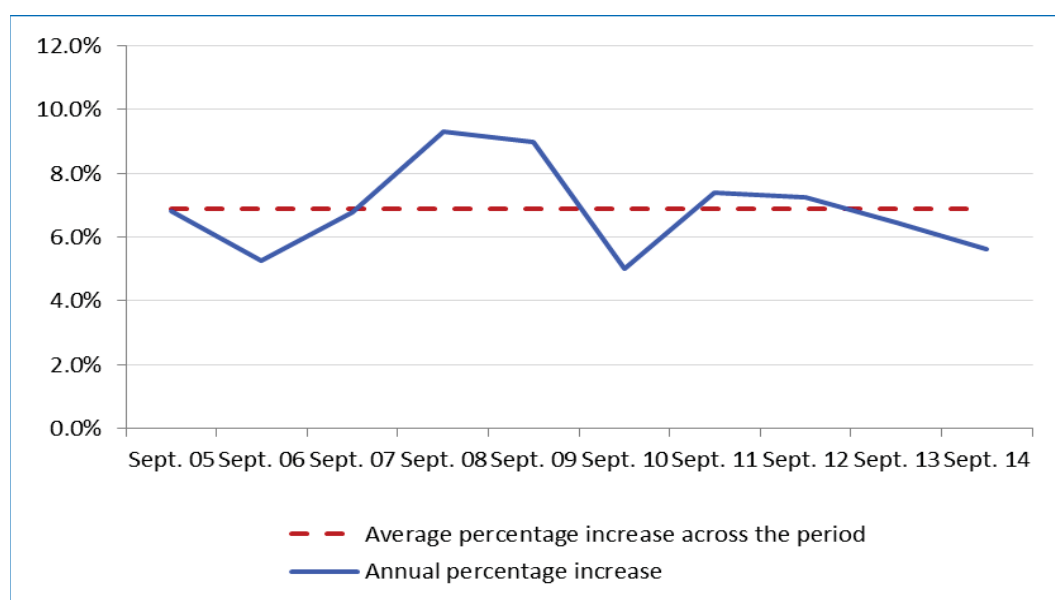
Service type	Sep. 13	Dec. 13	Mar. 14	Jun. 14	Sep. 14
Long Day Care	\$7.65	\$7.60	\$7.80	\$7.95	\$8.05
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	\$7.75	\$7.90	\$7.95	\$7.95	\$7.90
Occasional Care	\$9.05	\$9.05	\$9.15	\$9.25	\$9.35
Outside School Hours Care	\$6.10	\$6.15	\$6.15	\$6.35	\$6.30
Total¹	\$7.50	\$7.55	\$7.65	\$7.75	\$7.85

¹ Hourly fee for each service type is calculated by dividing the sum of all fee amounts by the sum of all hours for each service type.

Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

The average hourly fee for Long Day Care increased by 5.6 per cent from the September quarter 2013 to the September quarter 2014. This increase compares with the average annual percentage increase of 6.9 per cent for the period from the September quarter 2005 to the September quarter 2014.

Figure 5: Average and annual percentage change to Long Day Care hourly fees, September quarter 2005 to September quarter 2014



Source: Department of Social Services 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 September quarter 2014, the total estimated expenditure on Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate was \$1,629.6 million. The majority (\$1,079.2 million or 66.2 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, September quarter 2014

Service type	Child Care Benefit ('000)	Child Care Rebate ('000)	Total ('000)
Long Day Care	\$463,704	\$615,482	\$1,079,186
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	\$312,279	\$100,552	\$412,832
Occasional Care	\$1,769	\$2,424	\$4,193
Outside School Hours Care	\$55,973	\$77,440	\$133,413
Total	\$833,725	\$795,899	\$1,629,624

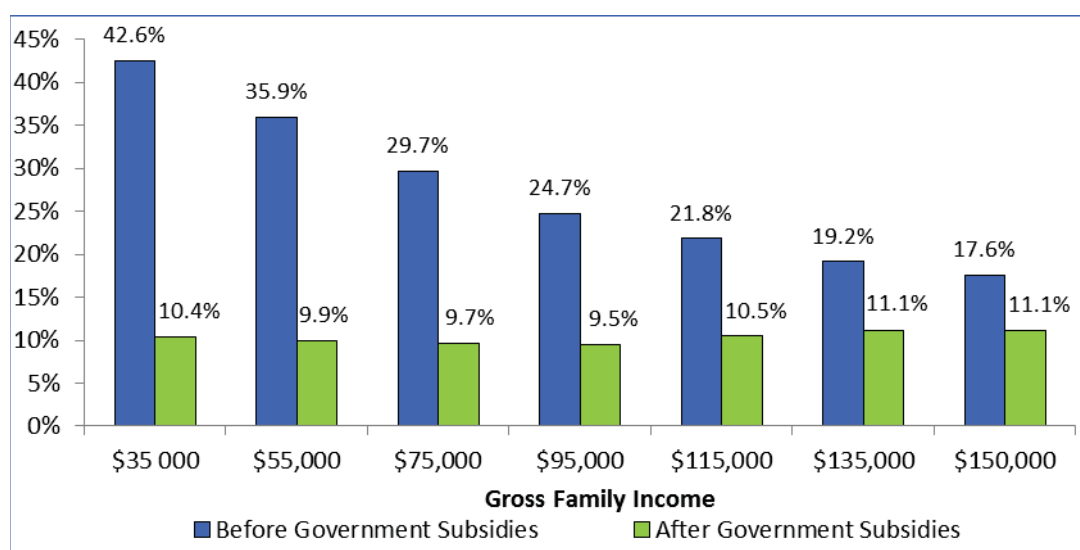
Source: Department of Social Services administrative data – based on estimated entitlements.

Costs of care after Australian Government fee assistance

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.

Before Australian Government child care subsidies were taken into account, out-of-pocket costs for families varied from 42.6 per cent of weekly disposable income for families earning a gross income of \$35,000 per year, to 17.6 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 10.0 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 2014



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 Social Services administrative data.

Vacancies

Table 16 details the national trend in child care vacancies from the September quarter 2012 to the September quarter 2014 by service type.

It appears that vacancies in Long Day Care services peak in the March quarter of each year (nearly 81,000 in March quarter 2013 and over 92,000 in March quarter 2014) and that the number of vacancies then declines throughout the year.

Table 16: Child care vacancies by service type, September quarter 2012 to September quarter 2014¹

Service type	Sep-12	Dec-12	Mar-13	Jun-13	Sep-13	Dec-13	Mar-14	Jun-14*	Sep-14
Long Day Care									
Total number of services	6,192	6,271	6,268	6,310	6,360	6,471	6,443	6,606	6,601
Per cent services reporting	84%	82%	83%	84%	91%	90%	93%	90%	91%
Proportion with vacancies	85%	86%	89%	89%	86%	86%	90%	88%	87%
Average vacancies	61,660	58,190	80,630	78,250	68,490	66,410	92,340	83,740	75,230
Family Day Care									
Total number of services	392	415	447	499	560	605	642	714	761
Per cent services reporting	65%	59%	54%	50%	47%	46%	40%	38%	36%
Proportion with vacancies	83%	80%	81%	83%	80%	85%	85%	87%	87%
Average vacancies	6,040	6,230	6,980	6,890	7,130	7,500	8,610	8,690	8,070
Occasional Care									
Total number of services	82	94	118	119	119	119	119	117	115
Per cent services reporting	62%	56%	51%	55%	63%	66%	61%	59%	60%
Proportion with vacancies	57%	53%	55%	61%	52%	53%	55%	54%	51%
Average vacancies	220	220	320	380	310	300	330	320	280
Before and After School Hours Care									
Total number of services	6,036	6,057	6,219	6,292	6,314	6,306	6,514	6,633	6,589
Per cent services reporting	66%	64%	63%	62%	66%	66%	65%	63%	63%
Proportion with vacancies	86%	87%	87%	87%	88%	89%	89%	90%	91%
Average vacancies	80,660	82,860	84,550	88,010	96,160	100,410	101,880	103,570	107,900
Vacation Care									
Total number of services	2,377	2,348	2,332	2,426	2,482	2,467	2,403	2,544	2,583
Per cent services reporting	64%	58%	57%	57%	60%	56%	60%	58%	59%
Proportion with vacancies	69%	69%	71%	69%	72%	71%	73%	69%	73%
Average vacancies	27,370	21,480	23,860	22,650	29,480	26,200	29,130	28,280	33,370

¹ 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.

Source: Department of Social Services administrative data.

* June quarter 2014 vacancy data has been updated to reflect a reference week that better represents long term vacancy patterns

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 timeframe 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:

- The majority of data is extracted from the Child Care Data and Reporting System (CCDARS). CCDARS is a Department of Social Services 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 approved services are required to regularly report their anticipated vacancies according to a standard definition, to the Department of Social Services. 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 September quarter 2014, vacancies for Long Day Care, Before and After School Hours Care, Occasional Care and Family Day Care are reported for the week 1 September to 7 September 2014. Vacancies for Vacation Care are reported for the week 7 July to 13 July 2014.

As the June quarter 2014 vacancy data has been revised, the reference week used to calculate the vacancies for Long Day Care, Family Day Care, Occasional Care and Before and After School Hours Care is 26 May to 1 June 2014. Vacancies for Vacation Care are reported for the week 14 April to 20 April 2014 for New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, 7 April to 13 April 2014 for Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory, and 28 April to 4 May 2014 for Tasmania. Vacation Care results are calculated using a 4 day reference week for New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory due to a public holiday coinciding with 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 Social Services 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: In-Home Care educators provide flexible care and developmental activities in the child's own home on behalf of an approved In-Home Care service.

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. The total number of services refers to the number of services that were active during the September quarter 2014, 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.

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