



Media Release

MAL BROUGH MP

**Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Indigenous Affairs**

Thursday, 19th April 2007

Child care vacancies up to 139,000 across Australia

“Latest figures confirm large numbers of child care vacancies across Australia,” Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough, said today.

“The information, from the Child Care Access Hotline shows there are currently between 113,000 and 139,000 vacancies each weekday across all forms of child care across Australia.

“In particular the areas of much media focus have been Sydney and Melbourne. This data confirms that there is no locality in metropolitan Sydney or Melbourne that was without approved day care vacancies during the reporting period.

The Minister released the information today, including details of a small number of potential hotspots where availability for Long Day Care (LDC) was tight in some postcode areas.

“Since the reporting period, some of those areas are now reporting vacancies. In Katherine in the NT for example, a new centre has opened and an existing centre has expanded alleviating shortages there and there are hundreds of centres either under construction or awaiting approval.

“This is the first substantive data on Long Day Care availability and is based on information supplied to the Childcare Access Hotline, with information reported directly by child care services.

“The Hotline provides parents with information about local services, types of child care and Government funded assistance. It was expanded in July 2006 to provide vacancy information for parents.

“The data does not detail demand and it may well be the case that in some potential hotspots, particularly in regional and rural areas, there is not sufficient demand for a long day care centre to be viable. In these areas, the Government works closely with the community and other providers, such as family day care, in-home care or in venue care, to assist parents with their child care needs.

“This is initial data, but as previously announced, the Child Care Management System is being established and will provide detailed data on availability when the system is progressively rolled out from next year.

“This will not only better inform parents about availability, but also inform the child care market to assist it to plan investment in areas where there may be need.

“The Howard Government provides significant support to parents with \$10 billion over four years in subsidies and rebates for child care. This includes low-cost child care, at 10 cents an hour, to help low income earners who qualify under Jobs Education and Training to re-enter the workforce, to ensure cost of child care is not a barrier to training or work.

“The table below provides a state-by-state breakdown of child care availability across all sectors as at the end of March 2007.”

Available places by State, week ending 1 April 2007

State/Territory/National	Available Places Monday 26 March	Available Places Tuesday 27 March	Available Places Wednesday 28 March	Available Places Thursday 29 March	Available Places Friday 30 March
ACT	2906	2474	2450	2519	3146
NSW	39507	30787	29613	30005	37957
NT	1285	1179	1155	1110	1271
QLD	37354	30404	29652	30212	34737
SA	12529	11160	11106	11060	12584
TAS	2791	2616	2667	2539	2840
VIC	31960	27936	28095	27180	30669
WA	11501	9239	8909	9019	9604
AUSTRALIA	139833	115795	113647	113644	132808

The Childcare Access Hotline number is 1800 670 305.

Attachments: National map of LDC potential hotspots and state-by-state maps.

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