

Report on Government Services 2021

PART B, SECTION 3: RELEASED ON 2 FEBRUARY 2021

3 Early childhood education and care

This section is presented in a new online format. Dynamic data visualisations replace the static chapter format used in previous editions. Machine readable data are also available for download. A guide is available on [accessing information in the new format](#).

Impact of COVID-19 on data for the Early childhood education and care services section

COVID-19 may affect data in this report in a number of ways. This includes in respect of actual performance (that is, the impact of COVID-19 on service delivery in 2020 which is reflected in the data results), and the collection and processing of data (that is, the ability of data providers to undertake data collection and process results for inclusion in the report).

For the Early childhood education and care services section, there are no significant changes to the data as a result of COVID-19. The most recent data collected were prior to COVID restrictions with the exception of data on NQF quality and compliance, serious incidents and expenditure on ECEC services.

This section reports on the performance of early childhood education and care (ECEC) services, which comprise child care and preschool services.

The **Indicator Results** tab uses data from the data tables to provide information on the performance for each indicator in the **Indicator Framework**. The same data are also available in CSV format.

Context

Objectives for ECEC services

ECEC services aim to meet the education, care and development needs of children, and meet the needs of families including enabling increased workforce participation, by providing universal access to early childhood education services for eligible children and accessible child care services that:

- are high quality, affordable, flexible and can be implemented across a range of settings
- are delivered in a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment
- target improved access for, and participation by, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

Governments aim for ECEC services to meet these objectives in an equitable and efficient manner.

Service overview

The ECEC sector provides a range of services for children based on their age and education, care and development needs. ECEC services provide the following broad service types:

- *Child care services* — provide education and care services to children aged 0–12 years including the following service types: centre based day care; family day care; outside school hours care (OSHC); and other care (see sub-section 3.2 for definitions).
- *Preschool services* — are services that deliver a preschool program. A ‘preschool program’ is a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a qualified teacher, aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full time schooling (table 3.1).

Table 3.1 Preschool programs in Australia, 2019-20

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Preschool program</i>		<i>Transition to primary school Foundation year (Year prior to year 1)</i>	
	<i>Program name</i>	<i>Age of entry — preschool program in year before full time schooling (YBFS)</i>	<i>School year</i>	<i>Age of entry</i>
NSW	Preschool	Generally aged 4 and 5	Kindergarten	5 by 31 July
Vic	Kindergarten	4 by 30 April	Preparatory (Prep)	5 by 30 April
Qld	Kindergarten	4 by 30 June	Preparatory (Prep)	5 by 30 June
WA	Kindergarten	4 by 30 June	Pre Primary	5 by 30 June
SA	Preschool	4 by 1 May	Reception	5 by 1 May
Tas	Kindergarten	4 by 1 January	Preparatory	5 by 1 January
ACT	Preschool	4 by 30 April	Kindergarten	5 by 30 April
NT	Preschool	4 by 30 June	Transition	5 by 30 June

Source: State and Territory governments (unpublished).

An ECEC service may offer more than one service type, such as centre based day care and OSHC (both child care services). The most common type of integrated service is a preschool program delivered within centre based day care. The range of service types offered differs across states and territories and between service providers.

ECEC services can also provide other non-education services such as maternal and child health services and family support services. The services provided differ according to community need, with more extensive services often being provided in disadvantaged communities.

Roles and responsibilities

The Australian, State and Territory governments have different but complementary roles in ECEC. In 2019-20, the Australian Government's main roles and responsibilities included:

- paying the Child Care Subsidy (CCS)¹ which is generally paid directly to child care providers. The types of child care for which families receive subsidised care are in table 3.2
- providing funding to State and Territory governments to support the achievement of universal access to early childhood education, through the *National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education* (NP UAECE)
- providing operational and capital funding to some providers.

Table 3.2 Summary of ECEC service funding by Australian, State and Territory governments, 2019-20

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^a	ACT ^b	NT ^c	Aus Gov
Funded child care services, for service types:									
Centre based day care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
OSHC	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Family day care				✓				✓	✓
In home care									✓
Funded preschool services/programs, in:									
Local government/community preschools	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
For-profit centre based day care	✓	✓	✓					✓	

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i> <small>^a</small>	<i>ACT</i> <small>^b</small>	<i>NT</i> <small>^c</small>	<i>Aus Gov</i>
Not-for-profit centre based day care	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Government school	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Non-government school	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

✓ Government provides funding to at least one of these services

Government does not provide funding to any of these services

^a In Tasmania, some child care services may receive funding under an annual, small capital grants (minor infrastructure) program. These services are not included in this table unless they also receive recurrent funding. ^b In the ACT, child care services and preschool services outside the government sector may receive support through capital grants, rental subsidies, and funding through budget initiatives. These services are not included in this table unless they also receive recurrent funding. ^c The NT Government also provide funding to 3-year-old kindergarten services.

Source: Australian, State and Territory governments (unpublished).

State and Territory governments' roles and responsibilities vary across jurisdictions but mainly include:

- funding and/or providing preschool services and, in some cases, providing funding to child care services (including some that also receive Australian Government funding)
- providing funding to support the implementation of the NP UAECE
- regulating approved services under the National Quality Framework (NQF) and licensing and/or registering child care services not approved under the NQF
- implementing strategies to improve the quality of ECEC programs
- providing curriculum, information, support, advice, and training and development to ECEC providers.

Local governments also plan, fund and deliver ECEC, but due to data limitations, the only local government data included in this section are those involving Australian, State and Territory government funding and/or licensing.

1. The CCS replaced the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate from 2 July 2018. The Child Care Subsidy System (CCSS) has been introduced to manage the payment and administration of the CCS and is the source of these data. There are some changes to reporting under the CCSS. In particular, the introduction of new categories Centre based day care (a consolidation of long day care and occasional care previously reported separately) and Outside school hours care (a consolidation of outside school hours care and vacation care previously reported separately) and no longer separately identifying Budget based funded services.

Funding

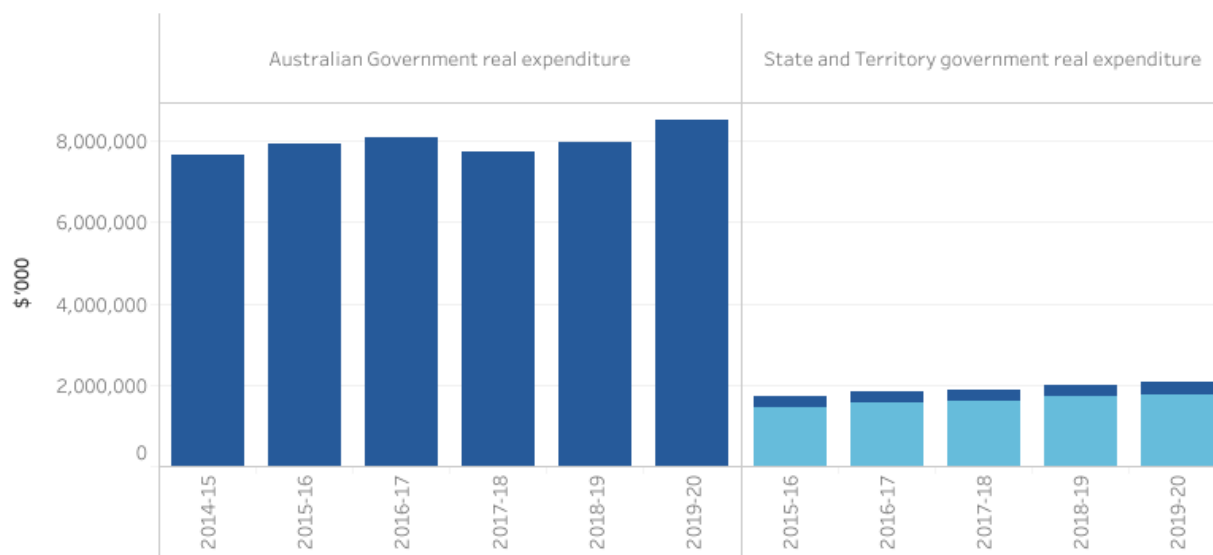
Total Australian, State and Territory real government recurrent and capital expenditure on ECEC services was \$10.6 billion in 2019-20, up from 2018-19 and 2017-18 (table 3A.4). Australian Government expenditure accounted for \$8.5 billion (80.5 per cent) and State and Territory government expenditure \$2.1 billion, with preschool services accounting for 85.4 per cent of the State and Territory government expenditure (figure 3.1).

Australian Government expenditure of \$433.2 million allocated to State and Territory governments in 2019-20 through the NP UAECE (table 3A.7), is included under State and Territory government expenditure.

Select year(s):
Multiple values

■ Child care services
■ Preschool services

Figure 3.1 Australian, State and Territory government real recurrent and capital expenditure on ECEC services (2019-20 dollars) (a)



Source: tables 3A.5 & 3A.6

(a) Australian government preschool services expenditure is nil for all years.

Data tables are referenced above by a '3A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download from the supporting material below (both in Excel and CSV format).

Size and scope

Services delivering ECEC

In 2020², there were 13 370 Australian Government CCS approved child care services in Australia (table 3.3). Some child care services do not receive Australian Government funding and are funded by State and Territory governments only or do not receive any government funding.

Table 3.3 Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS) approved child care services, 2020
by jurisdiction, by service type

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Centre based day care	%	67.3	55.3	65.4	57.7	53.1	49.4	61.3	64.6	61.8
Family day care	%	3.1	4.3	4.0	2.8	1.4	3.4	2.5	1.7	3.4
Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)	%	29.4	40.2	30.0	39.2	45.2	46.8	35.9	33.7	34.5
In home care	%	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	0.3
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Child Care Subsidy (CCS) approved child care services	no.	4,856	3,134	2,575	1,231	846	263	284	181	13,370
State and Territory government (only) funded child care service	no.	na	-	29	3	127	14	..	1	174

Source: tables 3A.8 & 3A.9

np Not published. na Not applicable. .. Not applicable. - Nil or rounded to zero.

Data tables are referenced above by a '3A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download from the supporting material below (both in Excel and CSV format).



In 2019 there were 11 990 ECEC services in Australia delivering preschool programs (table 3.4). Of these services, 7727 (64.4 per cent) were delivered from centre based day care and the remainder were delivered from stand-alone preschool services or preschool services attached to a school.

Table 3.4 Proportion of ECEC services with a preschool program (per cent), 2019
by jurisdiction, by service delivery setting and management type

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	
Within a preschool service	Government	%	4.0	8.3	7.2	42.2	44.0	46.1	32.9	57.6	15.9
	Non-Government	%	16.9	32.6	20.8	16.3	3.2	16.6	0.8	3.8	19.7
	Community	%	16.3	29.6	18.1	-	0.5	-	-	-	15.5
	Non-Government school	%	0.6	2.8	2.5	16.3	2.7	16.6	0.8	3.8	4.1
	Private	%	-	0.3	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
Total		%	20.9	41.0	28.0	58.5	47.2	62.7	33.7	61.4	35.6
Within centre based day care	Government	%	5.1	3.9	0.7	1.5	7.1	3.0	1.2	1.0	3.5
	Non-Government	%	74.0	55.1	71.3	40.0	45.7	34.3	65.1	37.6	61.0
	Total	%	79.1	59.0	72.0	41.5	52.8	37.3	66.3	38.6	64.4
Within a preschool service		no.	815	1,130	618	914	364	208	85	129	4,263
Within centre based day care		no.	3,084	1,627	1,589	648	407	124	167	81	7,727
All ECEC services with a preschool program		no.	3,899	2,757	2,207	1,562	771	332	252	210	####

Source: table 3A.10
- Nil or rounded to zero.

Data tables are referenced above by a '3A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download from the supporting material below (both in Excel and CSV format).



Children using ECEC

In 2020³, 1 317 072 (31.7 per cent of) children aged 0–12 years attended Australian Government CCS approved child care services, an increase of 1.0 per cent from 2019 (table 3A.14).

In 2019, 539 374 children were enrolled in a preschool program, which includes children attending a 3 year old preschool program (table 3A.18)⁴. Of these children, 290 168 were enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling (YBFS) (table 3A.17). The total enrolment figure provides an estimate of service activity, whilst the state specific YBFS enrolment figure provides an estimate of the cohort for whom the year of preschool is in the year before they are anticipated to attend full time school.

2. Data for 2020 related to Australian Government CCS approved child care services are for the March quarter.
3. Data for 2020 related to Australian Government CCS approved child care services are for the March quarter.
4. Data reported for 3 year olds enrolled in a preschool program may be incomplete due to different reporting arrangements in each jurisdiction.

Indicator Framework

The performance indicator framework provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness, and distinguishes the outputs and outcomes of ECEC services.

The performance indicator framework shows which data are complete and comparable in this Report. For data that are not considered directly comparable, text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary. [Section 1](#) discusses data comparability and completeness from a Report-wide perspective. In addition to the service area's Profile information, the Report's statistical context ([Section 2](#)) contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this section.

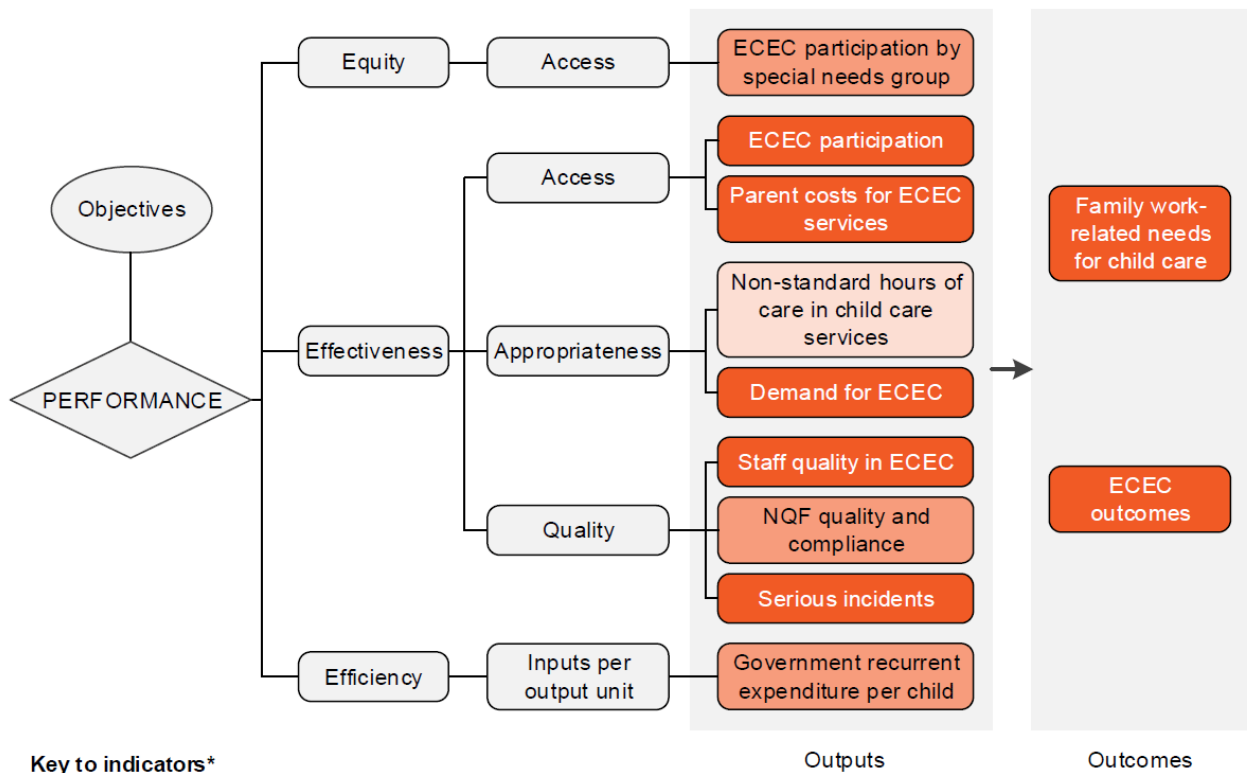
Improvements to performance reporting for ECEC services are ongoing and include identifying data sources to fill gaps in reporting for performance indicators and measures, and improving the comparability and completeness of data.

Outputs

Outputs are the services delivered (while outcomes are the impact of these services on the status of an individual or group) (see section 1). Output information is also critical for equitable, efficient and effective management of government services.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the impact of services on the status of an individual or group (see section 1).



Key to indicators*

- Text Most recent data for all measures are comparable and complete
- Text Most recent data for at least one measure are comparable and complete
- Text Most recent data for all measures are either not comparable and/or not complete
- Text No data reported and/or no measures yet developed

* A description of the comparability and completeness of each measure is provided in indicator interpretation boxes within the section

Indicator Results

An overview of the ECEC services performance indicator results is presented. Different delivery contexts, locations and types of clients can affect the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of ECEC services.

Information to assist the interpretation of these data can be found in the ECEC services supporting interpretative material and data tables. Data tables are identified by a '3A' prefix (for example, table 3A.1).

All data are available for download as an excel spreadsheet and as a CSV dataset — refer to [Download supporting material](#). Specific data used in figures can be downloaded by clicking in the figure area, navigating to the bottom of the visualisation to the grey toolbar, clicking on the 'Download' icon and selecting 'Data' from the menu. Selecting 'PDF' or 'Powerpoint' from the 'Download' menu will download a static view of the performance indicator results.

ECEC participation by special needs groups is an indicator of governments' objective to provide ECEC services in an equitable manner, and that there is access for, and participation of, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, vulnerable and disadvantaged children. It is defined by two measures.

Measure 1: Children using child care, by special needs group — the proportion of children aged 0–5, 6–12 and 0–12 years enrolled in Australian Government CCS approved child care services who are from special needs groups, compared with the representation of these groups in the community.

Measure 2: Preschool program participation, by special needs groups — the proportion of children aged 4–5 years enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS and the proportion of children aged 3–5 years enrolled in a preschool program, who are from special needs groups, compared with the representation of these groups in the community.

Special needs groups include children from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from low-income families (measure 1 only), children from low socioeconomic areas (measure 2 only), children with disability, and children from regional and remote areas.

Guidance: A high or increasing ECEC participation is desirable. If the representation of special needs groups among ECEC service users is broadly similar to their representation in the community, this suggests equitable access.

- (Measure 1) Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions.
- (Measure 1) Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.
- (Measure 2) Data are not comparable across jurisdictions for NESB children and children with disability (comparable for all other special needs groups).
- (Measure 2) Data are incomplete for the current reporting period for NESB. All required 2019 NESB data are not available for WA and the NT.

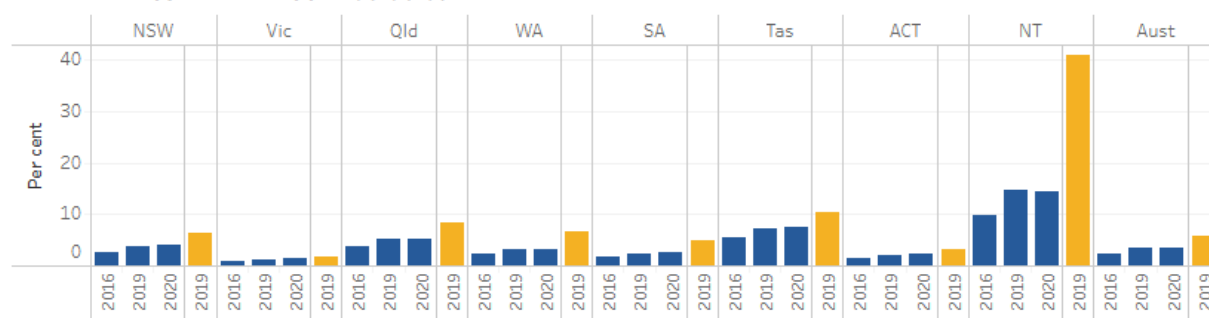
Select year(s)
(applies to figure 3.2a):
(Multiple values) ▼

Select age group
(applies to figure 3.2a):
 0-5 years old
 6-12 years old
 0-12 years old

Select special needs group
(applies to figure 3.2a):
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children ▼

■ In child care services
■ In the community; at 30 June

Figure 3.2a Measure 1: Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0-12 years old attending CCS approved child care services compared with their representation in the community by jurisdiction, by year (a), (b), (c)



Source: table 3A.11

(a) For Children from remote areas: Victorian data are zero for Representation in the community and Representation in child care services. There are no remote areas in the ACT. (b) The most recent year of data for children from NESB and children with disability is 2016. (c) See data tables 3A.11 for information on non-publication of data on special needs groups for individual jurisdictions.

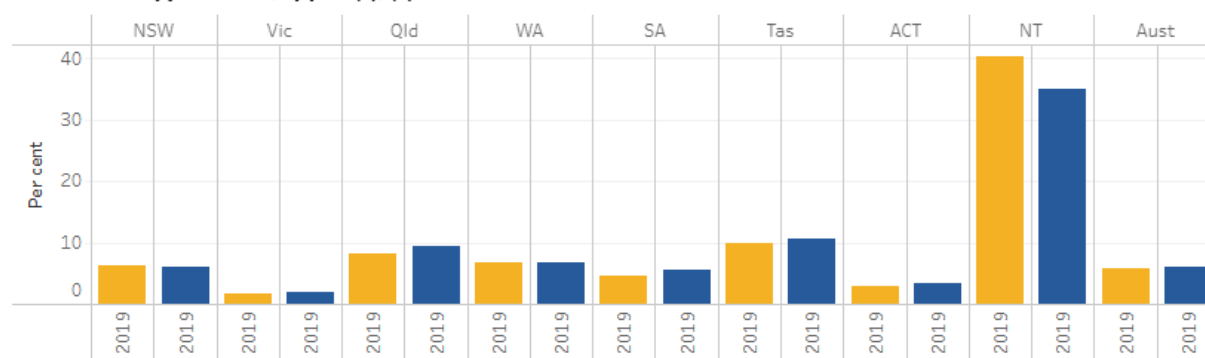
Nationally, the representation of children aged 0–5, 6–12 and 0–12 years from special needs groups in child care services was lower than their representation in the community, except for children from NESB and low-income families.

Select year(s)
(applies to figure 3.2b):
2019

Select special needs group
(applies to figure 3.2b):
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

■ Representation in the community; at 30 June
■ Proportion of all children in preschool programs

Figure 3.2b Measure 2: Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who are from special needs groups compared with children aged 4–5 years in the community by jurisdiction, by year (a), (b)



Source: table 3A.13

(a) For Children from remote areas, there are no remote areas in the ACT. (b) See data table 3A.13 for information on non-publication of data on special needs groups for individual jurisdictions.

Nationally, the representation of children enrolled in a preschool program aged in the YBFS who are from special needs groups is slightly higher than their representation in the community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from regional areas, and similar for children from remote areas. The representation of children who are from low socio-economic areas, children from NESB and children with disability is lower than their representation in the community.

For children aged 3–5 years, representation of special needs groups is lower than their representation in the community, other than children from regional areas (whose representation is higher) (table 3A.12).

ECEC participation is an indicator of governments' objective to ensure that ECEC services are accessible. It is defined by two measures.

Measure 1: Children using child care — the proportion of children who are enrolled in Australian Government CCS approved child care services by age group (0–5, 6–12 and 0–12 years).

Measure 2: Preschool program participation — the proportion of children who are enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS. To be considered as enrolled, the child must have attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period, or be absent due to illness or extended holiday leave and expected to return. State and Territory data are based on the location of the child's residence.

Guidance: A higher or increasing proportion of children participating in ECEC services is desirable.

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time (from 2016 onwards for the second measure).
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s) (applies to figure 3.3a):

(Multiple values) ▼

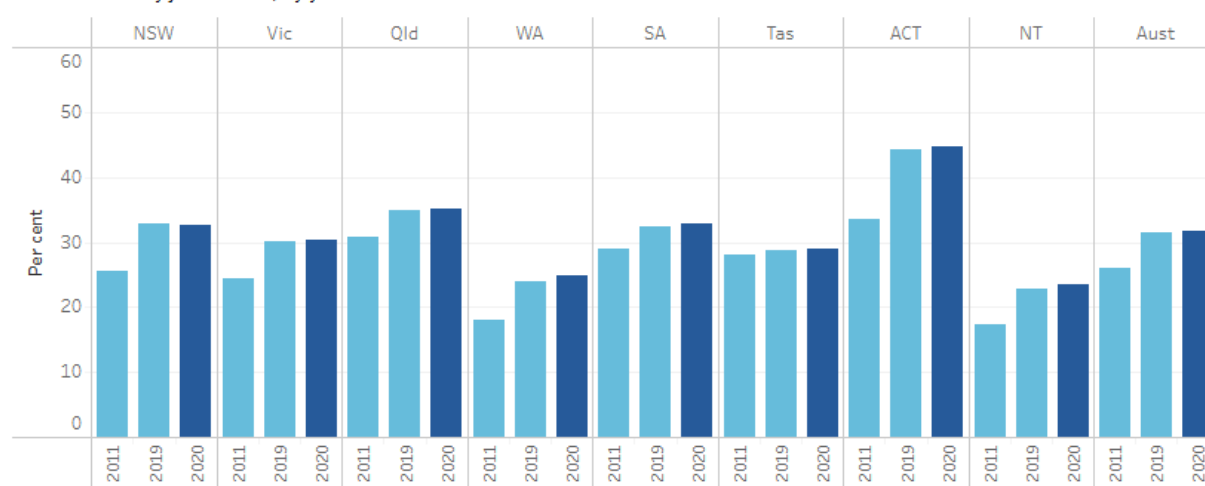
Select age group (applies to figure 3.3a):

0-5 years old

6-12 years old

0-12 years old

Figure 3.3a Measure 1: Proportion of Children attending Australian Government CCS approved child care services, 0-12 years old by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 3A.14

Nationally in 2020, 31.7 per cent of children aged 0–12 years attended Australian Government CCS approved child care, slightly higher than 2019 and up from 25.9 per cent in 2011. The majority (64.7 per cent) of attendees are aged 0–5 years, over half (59.6 per cent) receive centre based day care and over one-third (37.1 per cent) receive an OSHC service (tables 3A.14–15).

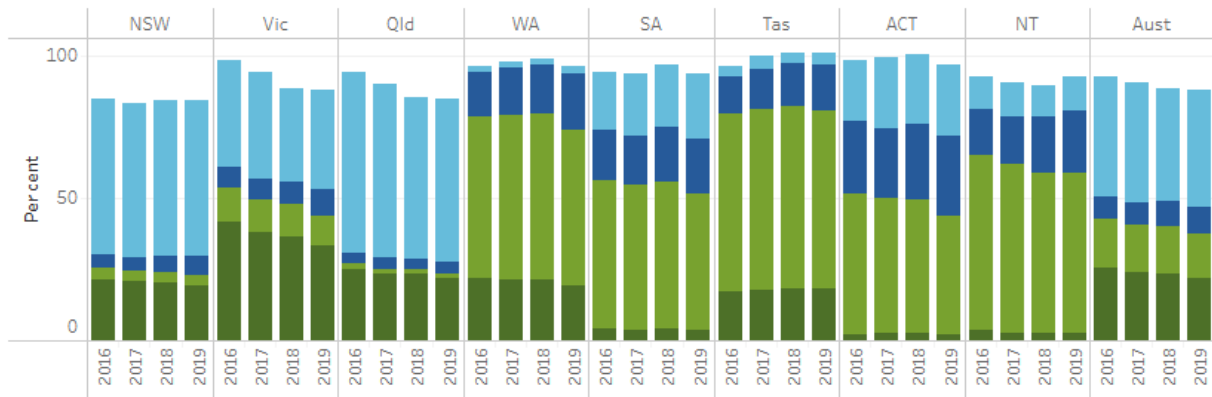
The average hours of attendance in Australian Government CCS approved child care in 2020 varied considerably across jurisdictions for all service types (table 3A.16). Nationally, average attendance per child was 30.0 hours per week for centre based day care and 23.4 hours per week for family day care, but considerably less for OSHC (10.3 per cent) (table 3A.16).

Select year(s)
(applies to figure 3.3b):
(All) ▼

Sector:

- Preschool program within Centre Based Day Care
- Multiple services
- Preschool program within a preschool service — Government preschool services
- Preschool program within a preschool service Non-Government preschool services

Figure 3.3b Measure 2: Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the state-specific YBFS by sector, by jurisdiction (a)



Source: table 3A.17

(a) Multiple services: children enrolled in multiple preschool services or children enrolled in a preschool service and centre based day care service.

Nationally in 2019, 87.7 per cent of children were enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS, down from 88.5 per cent in 2018.

Compared to all children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children had a higher enrolment rate in the YBFS (91.8 per cent) (tables 3A.17 and 3A.20). The majority of all children and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children that were enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS were enrolled for at least 15 hours per week (96.4 per cent and 96.3 per cent respectively) (tables 3A.19 and 3A.21).

Parent costs for ECEC services is an indicator of governments' objective to ensure that ECEC services are affordable. It is defined by three measures.

Measure 1: Child care service costs — the median weekly cost for 50 hours of Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS) approved centre based day care and family day care. Costs are before the reduction due to the CCS or Child Care Rebate.

Measure 2: Child care costs as a proportion of weekly disposable income — the proportion of weekly disposable income that families spend on centre based day care and family day care before and after the payment of child care subsidies, for families with two income earners with a 60:40 income split and gross annual income of \$35 000, \$55 000, \$75 000, \$95 000, \$115 000, \$135 000, \$155 000, \$175 000, \$195 000 and \$215 000. This proportion is reported for families with one child attending centre based day care or family day care for 30 hours.

Measure 3: Preschool program costs — the median hourly cost of a preschool program (after subsidies), per child enrolled aged 4 and 5 years.

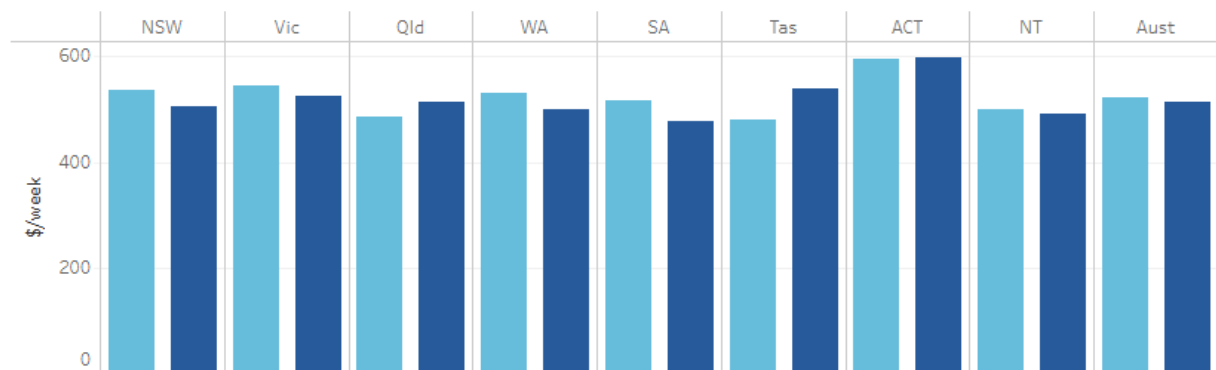
Guidance: Provided the service quality is held constant, lower median service costs are desirable.

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year (applies to figure 3.4):

■ Centre based day care
■ Family day care

Figure 3.4 Measure 1: Median weekly cost of 50 hours of Australian Government CCS approved child care services; by selected service types (\$/week), 2020 (2019-20 dollars) by jurisdiction, by selected service type



Source: table 3A.22

The median weekly cost for 50 hours of care in 2020 was higher for centre based day care (\$523) than for family day care (\$515). Median weekly costs differ across remoteness areas. In 2020, the median weekly cost of centre based day care in major cities and inner regional areas (\$525) was higher than in outer regional and remote areas (\$479) (table 3A.22).

Select family income category (applies to table 3.5a):

\$75 000

Table 3.5a Measure 2: Out-of-pocket costs of child care for families with one child in 30 hours child care; as a proportion of weekly disposable income, gross family income \$75 000, 2020
by jurisdiction, by selected service type

			NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Before child subsidies	Centre based day care	%	24.0	24.2	21.6	23.8	22.9	21.4	26.4	21.2	23.4
	Family day care	%	24.2	23.8	23.4	23.3	22.3	24.1	25.5	23.1	23.8
After child subsidies	Centre based day care	%	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.6	4.5	3.6	4.0
	Family day care	%	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.0

Source: table 3A.23

Nationally in 2020, child care subsidies reduced the out-of-pocket costs for 30 hours of day care for all family income categories. However, the subsidies had a greater impact (as a proportion of family income) for lower income families, reducing the variation in the child care costs across income categories (table 3A.23).

Across jurisdictions in 2020, the out-of-pocket costs after subsidies for families with one child in 30 hours of child care, as a proportion of weekly disposable income (after subsidies), were similar for centre based day care and family day care. Out-of-pocket costs for both centre based day care and family day care were generally higher for middle and higher income levels as a proportion of gross family income than lower income levels (table 3A.23).

Select year(s) (applies to table 3.5b):

(Multiple values)

Select sector

(applies to table 3.5b):

- Preschool program within a preschool service
- Preschool program within Centre Based Day Care
- All with a preschool program

Table 3.5b Measure 3: Median hourly cost of a preschool program (after subsidies) per child enrolled aged 4 and 5 years; by sector, All with a preschool program
by jurisdiction, by year

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
\$/hr	2019	3.33	2.80	2.81	-	-	-	2.42	-	2.55
	2018	3.30	2.73	2.78	-	-	-	2.11	-	2.53
	2017	3.76	2.88	3.85	-	-	-	2.42	-	3.00

Source: table 3A.24
- Nil or rounded to zero.

Nationally, the median cost per hour for a preschool program (after subsidies) per child was \$2.55 in 2019, similar to 2018 and a decrease from \$3.00 in 2017. Median hourly costs differ across remoteness areas. In 2019, the median hourly cost of preschool programs (after subsidies) in major cities was \$2.88, compared to \$1.96 in regional areas (table 3A.25).

Non-standard hours of care in child care services is an indicator of governments' objective to ensure that government funded child care services are accessible and flexible.

Measure: The proportion of Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS) approved child care services that provide non-standard hours of care, by service type.

Guidance: A high or increasing proportion of services providing non-standard hours of care can suggest greater flexibility of services to meet the needs of families.

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions but not over time. Data collected from the Child Care Subsidy System (CCSS) are not comparable with earlier years data under the Child Care Management System (CCMS).

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year:

2020

Table 3.6 Proportion of Australian Government CCS approved child care services that are available during non-standard hours, 2020 by jurisdiction, by service type

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Centre based day care	17.4	50.4	75.3	50.7	57.1	25.4	5.2	17.0	40.9
Family day care	44.4	37.8	59.4	42.4	100.0	100.0	16.7	-	47.8
In home care	66.7	50.0	53.8	40.0	33.3	-	100.0	..	53.7
OSHC	32.7	21.5	77.0	48.1	40.6	6.7	2.4	23.4	39.1
Total services	22.1	40.5	74.9	49.5	51.8	21.7	4.9	18.7	40.7

Source: table 3A.26

.. Not applicable. - Nil or rounded to zero.

In March 2020, 40.7 per cent of all CCS approved child care services provided non-standard hours of care. CCS approved services mainly provided non-standard hours of care before 7am on weekdays. Nationally in 2020, 53.7 per cent of in-home care services provided non-standard hours of care, followed by family day care with 47.8 per cent, centre based day care with 40.9 per cent and OSHC with 39.1 per cent. Data for 2019 are not available due to data quality issues arising from the implementation of the CCSS in 2018.

Demand for ECEC is an indicator of governments' objective to ensure that ECEC services are accessible.

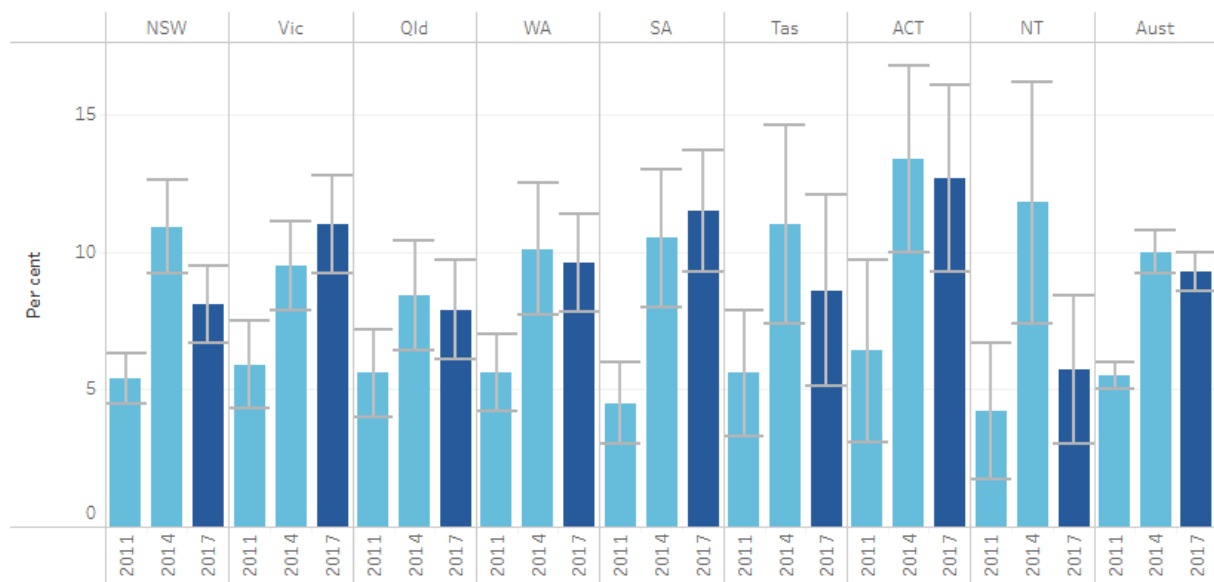
Measure: The proportion of children aged 0–12 years for whom additional formal child care or preschool services were currently required.

Guidance: An increasing proportion of children with expressed need for additional ECEC may suggest that additional services are required.

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

Figure 3.5 Proportion of children 0-12 years old For whom additional formal child care or preschool was required by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 3A.27

In 2017, 9.3 per cent of 0–12 year olds required additional formal child care or preschool. This comprised 5.6 per cent who had used formal child care or preschool in the past week, 1.4 per cent who had used only informal child care, and 2.3 per cent who had not used any child care or preschool (table 3A.27). However, of those that reported requiring additional services, less than one-third had applied for them.

When looking at the reasons why additional care was required, 3.7 per cent required additional formal child care due mainly to a work related reason (table 3A.27). Results for 2017 are similar to 2014.

A higher proportion of children aged 0–5 years require additional child care (15.8 per cent) compared to all children aged 0–12 years (9.3 per cent) (tables 3A.27-28). Results for 2017 are similar to 2014.

Staff quality in ECEC is an indicator of governments' objective to ensure that ECEC services are high quality. It is defined by two measures.

Measure 1: The proportion of paid primary contact staff employed by Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS) approved child care services with a relevant formal qualification (at or above Certificate level III), or three or more years of relevant experience.

Measure 2: The proportion of teachers accessible to preschool programs (across all services, not just CCS approved services) who are at least three year university trained and early childhood qualified.

Guidance: Some studies and research have shown a link between education levels of ECEC staff and children's learning outcomes, suggesting that a high or increasing proportion is desirable.

■ Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time for paid primary contact staff employed by Australian Government CCS approved child care services.

■ Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period. All required 2016 data (for the first measure) and 2014 data (for the second measure) are available for all jurisdictions. As these data are prior to the CCS implementation in 2018, data on child care services relate to Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved child care services. The most recent data (for the second measure) are for 2014 and are available in previous Reports.

Select year(s):

(All) ▼

Table 3.7 Measure 1: Paid primary contact staff employed by Australian Government CCB approved child care services, With a relevant formal qualification (at or above Certificate level III); or three or more years of relevant experience by jurisdiction, by year

		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
2016	%	81.6	86.5	77.9	79.8	82.8	86.0	73.3	71.1	81.5
2013	%	83.3	86.9	82.5	77.0	82.2	86.6	62.7	68.2	82.6
2010	%	81.8	85.1	81.1	78.1	78.3	83.7	63.1	63.0	81.1

Source: table 3A.29

In 2016, 81.5 per cent of the 129 884 paid primary contact staff employed by Australian Government CCB approved child care services had a relevant formal qualification (at or above Certificate level III), or three or more years of experience. Of all paid primary contact staff, 31.5 per cent held Certificate III or IV, 31.9 per cent held a diploma or advanced diploma, and 12.8 per cent held a bachelor degree or above (table 3A.29).

NQF quality and compliance is an indicator of governments' objectives to ensure that ECEC services are high quality and are delivered in a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment. It is defined by two measures.

The majority of ECEC services are approved and regulated under the National Quality Framework (NQF), including child care services (centre based day care, family day care, vacation care and OSHC) and preschool services. As at 30 June 2019, there were 15 919 NQF approved ECEC services nationally — up from 15 763 the year before (table 3A.31). Some ECEC services are licensed and/or registered to operate by State and Territory governments, but are not approved under the NQF, including occasional care and mobile preschools (State and Territory governments, unpublished).

Measure 1: Achievement of the National Quality Standard (NQS) — the proportion of NQF approved services with a quality rating, whose overall NQS rating is: 'Meeting NQS', 'Exceeding NQS' or 'Excellent'.

Measure 2: Confirmed breaches — the number of confirmed breaches by NQF approved services, per 100 NQF approved services.

Guidance: A high proportion of services that achieve the NQS suggests a high quality of service provision. All else being equal, a low or decreasing rate of confirmed breaches can suggest a higher quality service.

- (Measure 1) Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- (Measure 2) Data are not comparable across jurisdictions due to differences in administrative and reporting procedures, but are comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time.
- (Both measures) Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s) (applies to figure 3.6):

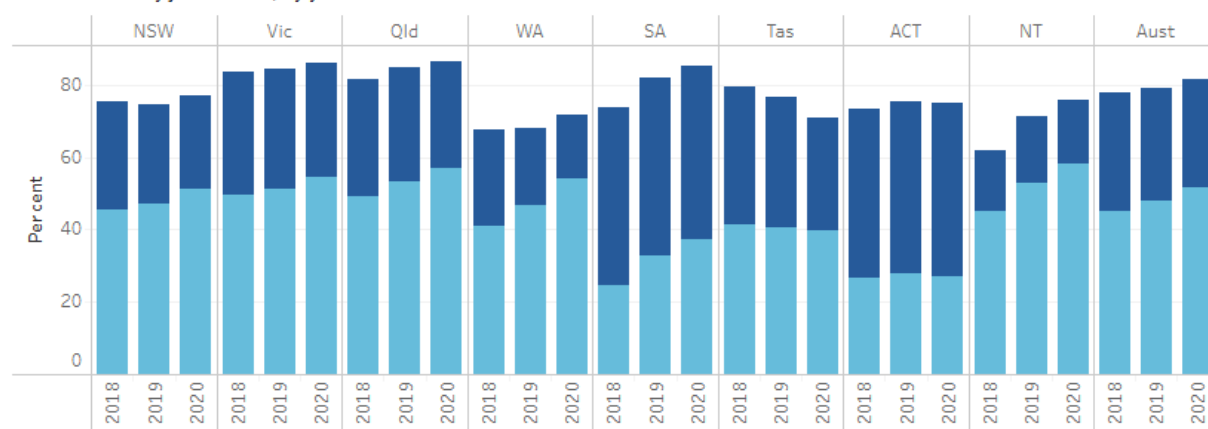
(Multiple values)

■ Exceeding NQS (including Excellent)

■ Meeting NQS

Figure 3.6 Measure 1: Proportion of NQF approved services with a quality rating, whose quality rating is Meeting or Exceeding NQS (including Excellent)

by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 3A.31

At 30 June 2020, 93.4 per cent of NQF approved services had received a quality rating, with 19.8 per cent of services assessed or reassessed in the previous 12 months (table 3A.30). Overall, a higher proportion of centre-based care services (93.6 per cent) have received a quality rating than family day care services (87.2 per cent) (table 3A.30).

Of the NQF approved services that had been rated, 81.3 per cent achieved the NQS (51.8 per cent met, 29.3 per cent exceeded, and 0.3 per cent were excellent) — up from 79.2 per cent at 30 June 2019.

The proportion of NQF approved services with a rating level that achieved the NQS was highest for quality areas 5 (relationships with children — 95.9 per cent), 6 (Collaborative partnerships with families and communities — 94.9 per cent) and 4 (staffing arrangements — 94.8 per cent). The quality area with the lowest proportion of services that achieved the NQS was quality area 1 (educational program and practice — 86.6 per cent) (table 3A.32).

Select jurisdiction (applies to table 3.8):

Aust

Table 3.8 Measure 2: Confirmed breaches Per 100 NQF approved services, Aust
by NQF approved services, by year (a)

		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Centre based day care	rate		155.3	158.8	182.3
Vacation care	rate		7.5	8.2	6.6
OSHC	rate		81.5	90.3	91.5
Other care	rate		2.3	3.8	0.5
Preschool	rate		42.8	55.4	46.0
Family day care	rate		295.9	292.3	690.5
All service types	rate	97.9	125.7	132.4	156.1

Source: table 3A.33

.. Not applicable. - Nil or rounded to zero.

(a) Data by service type are not available for 2016-17.

Nationally in 2019-20, there were 156.1 confirmed breaches per 100 NQF approved services, up from 132.4 in 2018-19. The highest rates were for family day care (690.5 breaches per 100 services) and centre based day care (182.3 breaches per 100 services).

Data on actions taken by regulatory authorities in response to confirmed breaches were not available for this Report arising from a change in IT systems by the Australian Childhood Education and Care Quality Authority.

Serious incidents is an indicator of governments' objective to ensure that ECEC services are delivered in a safe environment.

Measure: The number of serious incidents that have occurred at National Quality Framework (NQF) approved services, per 100 NQF approved services.

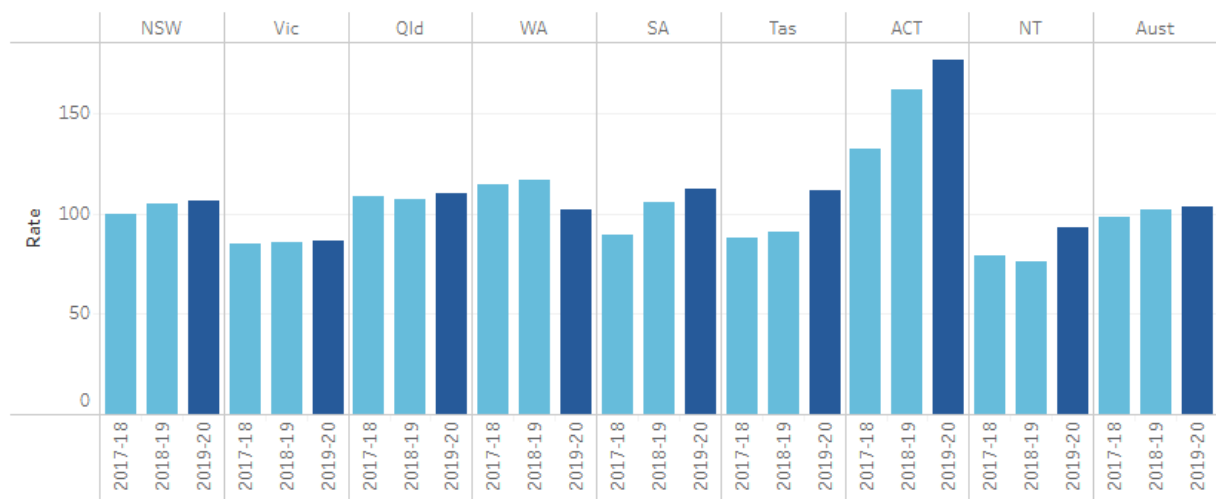
Guidance: A low or decreasing rate of serious incidents may suggest safer ECEC services.

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

Select service type:
 All service types
 Centre based day care
 Family day care
 OSHC
 Other care
 Preschool
 Vacation care

Figure 3.7 Serious incidents per 100 NQF approved services, All service types by jurisdiction, by year (a)



Source: table 3A.34

(a) There were no serious incidents in Other care with the exception of WA in 2018-19, no serious incidents in Preschool in Tasmania and no serious incidents in Vacation care in Tasmania in 2019-20 and the NT.

Nationally in 2019-20, there were 103.3 serious incidents per 100 NQF approved services, up from 101.7 in 2018-19. The majority related to incidents involving the serious injury or trauma to, or illness of, a child (78.6 per cent of all serious incidents) followed by incidents where the attendance of emergency services was sought (or ought reasonably to have been sought) (12.9 per cent) (table 3A.34).

Government recurrent expenditure per child is an indicator of governments' objective for ECEC services to be efficient. It is defined by three measures.

Measure 1: Total government recurrent expenditure on ECEC per child in ECEC — the combined Australian Government and State and Territory government recurrent expenditure on ECEC per child in ECEC (children in child care and preschool services).

Measure 2: Total government recurrent expenditure on ECEC per child in the community — the combined Australian Government and State and Territory government recurrent expenditure on ECEC per child aged 0–12 years in the community.

Measure 3: Australian Government recurrent expenditure per child attending CCS approved child care — the Australian Government recurrent expenditure per child aged 0–12 years attending Australian Government CCS approved child care services.

Guidance: While high or increasing unit costs can reflect deteriorating efficiency, they can also reflect increases in the quality or quantity of service provided. Similarly, low or declining expenditure per child can reflect improving efficiency or lower quality or quantity.

■ (Measures 1 and 2) Data are not comparable across jurisdictions, but are comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time (for measure 1, from 2016-17 onwards, but are not directly comparable with prior years due to changes in coverage and methodologies affecting the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (NECECC)).

■ (Measure 3) Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.

■ (All measures) Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s) (applies to figure 3.8):

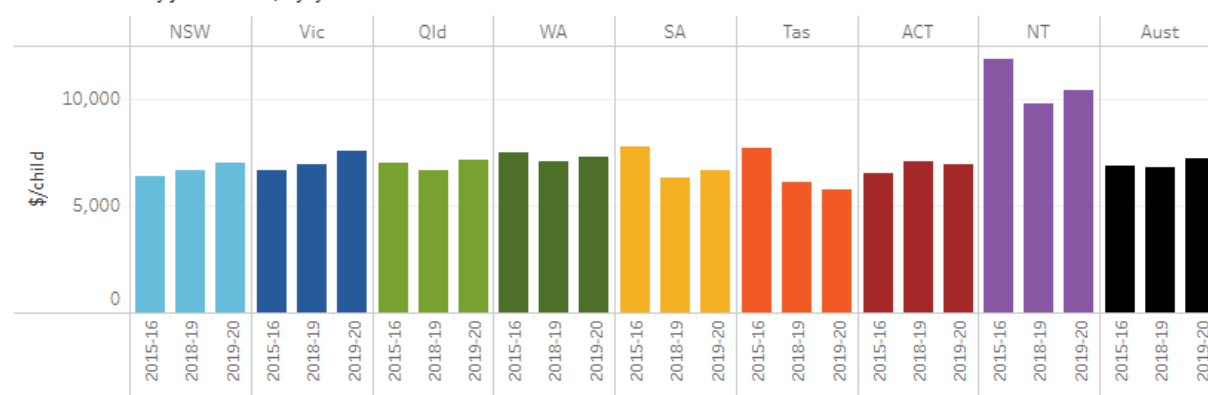
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Figure 3.8 and Table 3.9a data has been revised since an earlier version of the Report. See errata below.

Jurisdiction:

■ NSW ■ Vic ■ Qld ■ WA ■ SA ■ Tas ■ ACT ■ NT ■ Aust

Figure 3.8 Measure 1: Australian; State and Territory recurrent government expenditure on ECEC services per child (2019-20 dollars)
by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table 3A.35

In 2019-20, combined Australian Government and State and Territory government real recurrent expenditure on ECEC per child in ECEC was \$7180, an increase of 5.7 per cent since 2018-19.

Select year(s) (applies to tables 3.9a and 3.9b):

(Multiple values) ▼

Table 3.9a Measure 2: Expenditure on ECEC services per child aged 0-12 years old (\$/child) (2019-20 dollars)
by jurisdiction, by year

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
2019-20	2,486	2,575	2,674	2,251	2,468	2,013	3,390	3,009	2,533
2018-19	2,385	2,384	2,480	2,165	2,344	2,134	3,449	2,759	2,395
2010-11	1,522	1,548	1,739	1,539	2,080	2,029	2,214	3,177	1,657

Source: table 3A.36

In 2019-20, combined Australian Government and State and Territory government real recurrent expenditure on ECEC per child in the community aged 0-12 years was \$2533, the highest figure in the 10 years of reported data. Australian Government recurrent expenditure accounts for around 80 per cent of this expenditure, with State and Territory Government expenditure accounting for around 20 per cent (table 3A.36).

Table 3.9b Measure 3: Australian Government recurrent expenditure on child care services per child aged 0-12 years old attending CCS approved child care services (\$/child) (2019-20 dollars)
by jurisdiction, by year

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
2019-20	6,510	6,862	6,655	5,966	5,159	5,160	6,072	6,612	6,470
2018-19	6,253	6,457	6,185	5,587	4,838	4,916	6,274	6,049	6,125
2010-11	5,088	5,287	5,149	5,202	5,246	5,586	4,960	11,885	5,246

Source: table 3A.37

Australian Government real recurrent expenditure per child attending CCS approved child care services was \$6470 in 2019-20, up from 2018-19 (\$6125) (table 3A.37).

Family work-related needs for child care is an indicator of governments' objective for ECEC services to meet the needs of families, including enabling increased workforce participation.

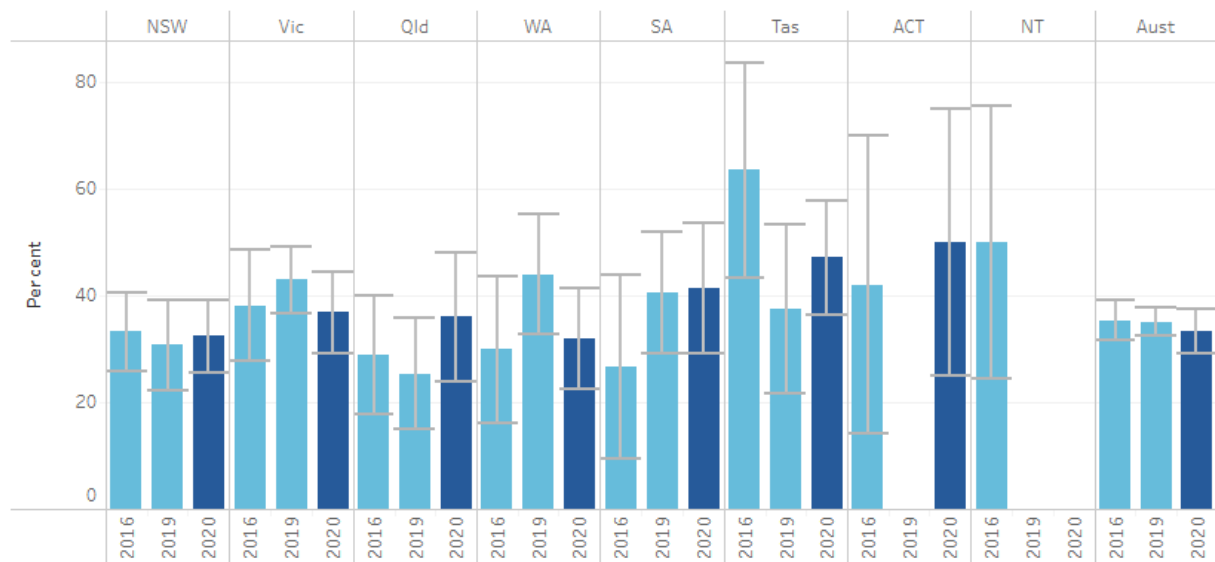
Measure: The proportion of people aged 15 years and over not in the labour force due to caring for children, who report the main reason for not being in the labour force as child care service-related.

Guidance: A relatively small or decreasing proportion of people not in the labour force due to caring for children who report the main reason for not being in the labour force as child care service-related may indicate that services are meeting the needs of families.

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.

Select year(s):

Figure 3.9 Proportion of persons not in labour force mainly for childcare service related reasons, aged 15+ years old by jurisdiction, by year (a)



Source: table 3A.38

(a) ACT data in 2019 and NT data in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 have relative standard errors of greater than 50 per cent and are not published. Data are included in Australian totals.

Nationally in 2020, 296 100 people aged 15 years and over reported that they were not in the labour force due to caring for children - an increase from the previous year (table 3A.38). Of these people, 33.4 per cent reported not being in the labour force for a child care service-related reason, the lowest over the five years for which data are available. The most common child care service-related reason provided for not being in the labour force was the cost of child care (31.0 per cent). The most common non-child care service related reason was a preference to look after children (26.6 per cent) or children were 'too young or too old' for child care services (19.0 per cent) (table 3A.38).

ECEC outcomes is an indicator of governments' objective to provide ECEC services that meet the education, care, and development needs of children.

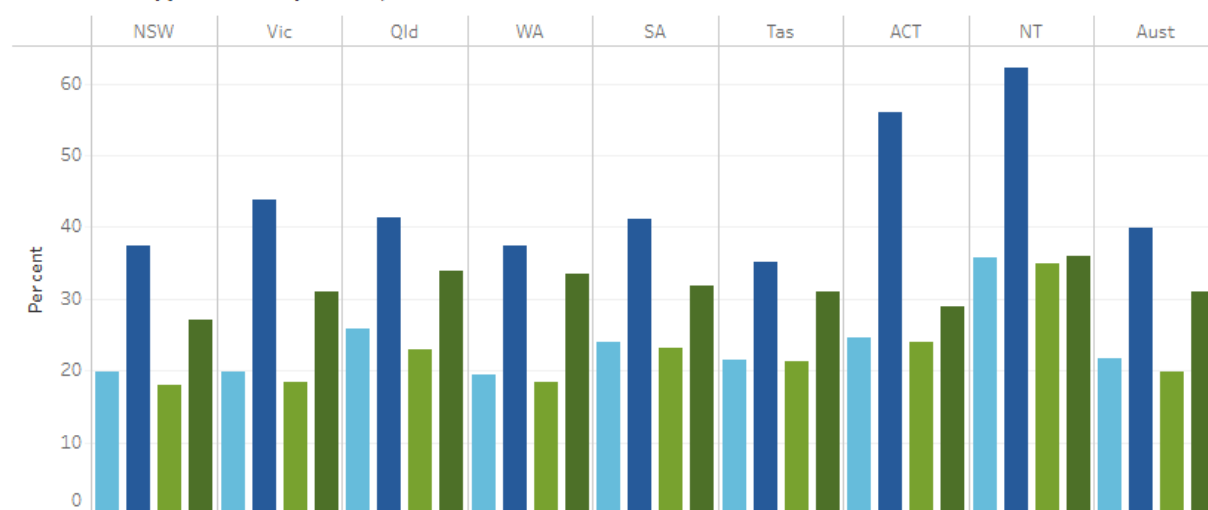
Measure: The proportion of children with ECEC experience who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). The AEDC collects data from teachers on the early childhood development of children when they are in their first year of full time schooling. Children are considered developmentally vulnerable in a domain if they score below the 10th percentile. The domains are: language and cognitive skills; physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; and communications skills and general knowledge.

Guidance: A low proportion of children who received ECEC reported as developmentally vulnerable is desirable and a lower proportion of children who received some ECEC reported as developmentally vulnerable compared to children who did not receive any ECEC could indicate that receiving ECEC leads to better development outcomes.

- Data are comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time.
- Data are complete (subject to caveats) for the current reporting period.



Figure 3.10 Children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains, the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), 2018 by jurisdiction, by ECEC experience



Source: table 3A.39

In 2018, 21.7 per cent of children in their first year of full time schooling were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains — slightly lower than 2012 and 2015 (both 22.0 per cent). Children who received some ECEC were less likely to be developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains (19.8 per cent in 2018, similar to previous years), compared to children who did not receive any ECEC (39.8 per cent in 2018, up from 2015 and 2012) (table 3A.39).

[Refer to the interpretative material for detailed indicator interpretation, definitions and caveats. www.pc.gov.au/rogs](http://www.pc.gov.au/rogs)

Data tables are referenced above by a '3A' prefix and all data (footnotes and data sources) are available for download from the supporting material below (both in Excel and CSV format).

Indigenous Data

Performance indicator data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this section are available in the data tables listed below. Contextual data and further supporting information can be found in the interpretative material and data tables.

ECEC services data disaggregated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Table number	Table title
Table 3A.11	Proportion of children attending Australian Government CCS approved child care services who are from special needs groups, compared with their representation in the community
Table 3A.12	Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program aged 3 to 5 years old who are from special needs groups, compared with their representation in the community
Table 3A.13	Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the YBFS who are from special needs groups compared with the representation of children aged 4 to 5 years old in the community
Table 3A.20	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program aged in the state-specific YBFS, by remoteness
Table 3A.21	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a preschool program aged in the state-specific YBFS, by weekly hours

Download supporting material

[3 ECEC services interpretative material \(PDF - 1035 Kb\)](#)

[3 ECEC services interpretative material \(Word - 58 Kb\)](#)

[3 ECEC services data tables \(XLSX - 434 Kb\)](#)

[3 ECEC services dataset \(CSV - 565 Kb\)](#)

See the interpretative material and corresponding table number in the data tables for detailed definitions, caveats, footnotes and data source(s).

Note: An errata was released for section 3 ECEC services above.

Errata

Total ECEC services expenditure data has been revised for WA and Australian totals for 2019-20. The revised expenditure comprises:

- 'Total recurrent expenditure', 'Net capital expenditure' and 'Total expenditure' reported in tables 3A.4 and 3A.6
- 'Real recurrent expenditure on ECEC services and per child in ECEC' reported in figure 3.8 and table 3A.35
- 'Real recurrent expenditure on ECEC services per child aged 0-12 years' reported in tables 3.9a and 3A.36.