



# Early Childhood and Child Care in Summary

June quarter 2017

This publication provides information on children in approved child care services across Australia for the June quarter 2017.

Key findings for the June quarter 2017 include:

- 1,268,140 children attended approved child care, up 1.4 per cent since the June quarter 2016.
- 874,020 families had at least one child in approved child care, an increase of 2.6 per cent since the June quarter 2016.
- 18,461 approved child care services operated in Australia, an increase of 2.6 per cent since the June quarter 2016.
- The total estimated Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlement was \$1,602.5 million, down 2.5 per cent since the June quarter 2016.

## 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 June quarter 2017, 874,020 families used approved child care services for their 1,268,140 children.

- In terms of affordability, 90.4 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 June quarter 2017, there were 18,461 services providing approved child care services across Australia.

**Table 1: Child care children, families, services and estimated entitlements by state and territory, June quarter 2017**

State and territory	Number of children using approved child care <sup>1</sup>	Number of families using approved child care <sup>1</sup>	Number of approved child care services	Estimated Child Care Benefit (CCB) entitlement <sup>1</sup> ('000)	Estimated Child Care Rebate (CCR) entitlement <sup>1</sup> ('000)	Estimated number of families receiving CCR <sup>1</sup>
NSW	425,100	296,560	6,376	\$263,607	\$292,522	263,330
Vic.	316,140	214,770	4,213	\$235,577	\$209,082	193,530
Qld	286,840	195,350	3,721	\$178,300	\$171,190	179,100
SA	83,650	57,270	1,372	\$36,709	\$43,558	53,360
WA	97,490	69,450	1,784	\$45,664	\$63,250	63,610
Tas.	22,240	15,580	393	\$10,188	\$11,493	14,400
NT	9,920	7,000	214	\$3,658	\$7,448	6,480
ACT	29,090	20,060	388	\$7,418	\$22,814	18,350
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,268,140</b>	<b>874,020</b>	<b>18,461</b>	<b>\$781,120</b>	<b>\$821,357</b>	<b>790,480</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 Education and Training administrative data.

## Child Care Usage

### Children

During the June quarter 2017, 1,268,140 children used approved child care in Australia, up by 1.4 per cent since the June quarter 2016. For children aged 0–12 years using approved child care, this represents 31.5 per cent of the 4,011,890 children aged 0–12 years in Australia.

During the June quarter 2017, children attended various services providing approved child care, including Long Day Care (682,060 or 53.8 per cent), Outside School Hours Care (436,260 or 34.4 per cent), Family Day Care and In-Home Care (183,750 or 14.5 per cent), and Occasional Care (5,850 or 0.5 per cent).

**Table 2: Number of children using child care by service type, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

Service type	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Long Day Care	660,370	694,500	706,570	699,510	682,060
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	210,570	211,700	205,920	206,520	183,750
Occasional Care	6,270	6,530	6,530	5,660	5,850
Outside School Hours Care	413,010	417,650	401,380	433,480	436,260
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,250,270</b>	<b>1,288,480</b>	<b>1,280,770</b>	<b>1,281,260</b>	<b>1,268,140</b>
<i>Per cent of Australian population<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>30.9%</i>	<i>31.9%</i>	<i>31.4%</i>	<i>31.4%</i>	<i>31.5%</i>

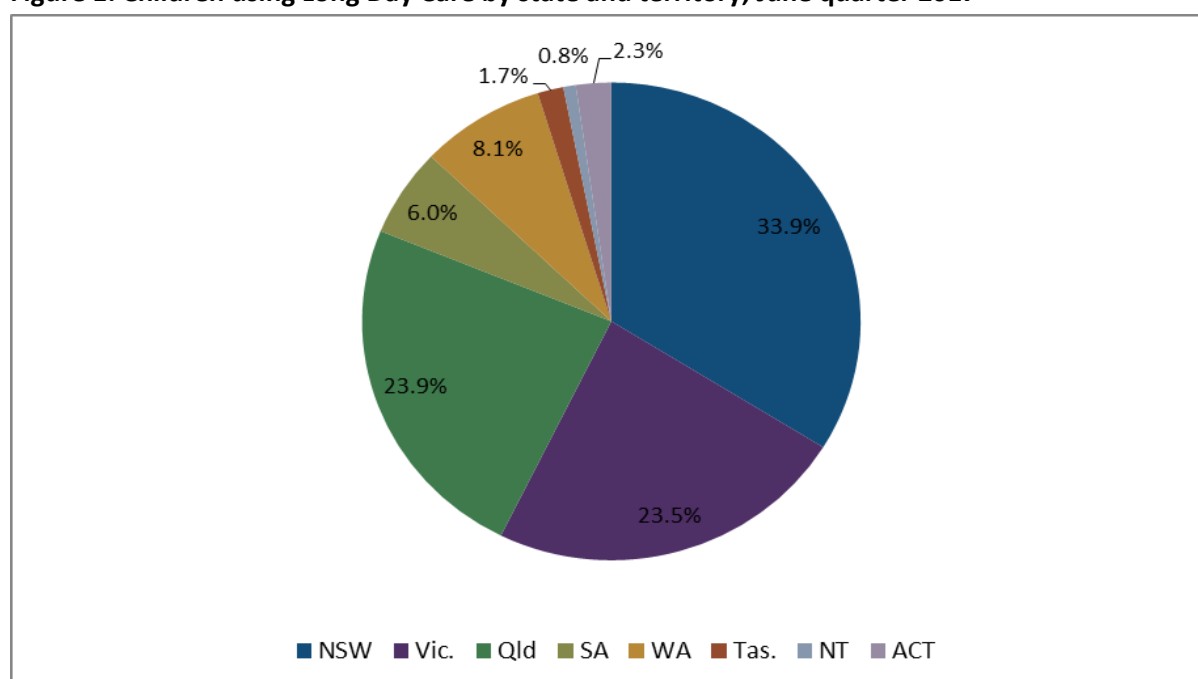
1 As children may use more than one service type in any particular quarter and due to rounding, the sum of the component parts may not equal the Total.

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 and Training administrative data, ABS Cat. No. 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Mar. 2017.

In the June quarter 2017, the largest proportion of children attending Long Day Care was in New South Wales (33.9 per cent), followed by Queensland (23.9 per cent) and Victoria (23.5 per cent).

**Figure 1: Children using Long Day Care by state and territory, June quarter 2017**



Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

**Table 3: Number of children using child care by service type and state and territory, June quarter 2017**

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia <sup>1</sup>
Long Day Care	231,180	160,390	163,010	40,750	55,320	11,500	5,490	15,650	682,060
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	67,250	63,030	28,630	6,620	12,270	4,190	420	1,650	183,750
Occasional Care	2,020	2,240	390	100	850	120	0	130	5,850
Outside School Hours Care	136,530	99,450	102,940	38,550	34,480	7,890	4,230	12,510	436,260
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>425,100</b>	<b>316,140</b>	<b>286,840</b>	<b>83,650</b>	<b>97,490</b>	<b>22,240</b>	<b>9,920</b>	<b>29,090</b>	<b>1,268,140</b>

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 and Training administrative data.

While most children who used approved child care, used services located in major cities (996,060 children), around one in five (278,450 or 22.0 per cent) children used services located in regional and remote areas.

**Table 4: Number of children using child care by service type and region, June quarter 2017**

Service type	Major cities of Australia	Regional <sup>1</sup> and Remote Australia <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>3</sup>
Long Day Care	515,960	167,980	682,060
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	146,020	38,820	183,750
Occasional Care	3,430	2,430	5,850
Outside School Hours Care	358,000	79,170	436,260
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>996,060</b>	<b>278,450</b>	<b>1,268,140</b>

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 Education and Training administrative data.

During the June quarter 2017, for all types of child care, the average time that a child spent in approved child care was 24.1 hours per week. This compares with children who used Long Day Care who attended for an average of 28.4 hours per week.

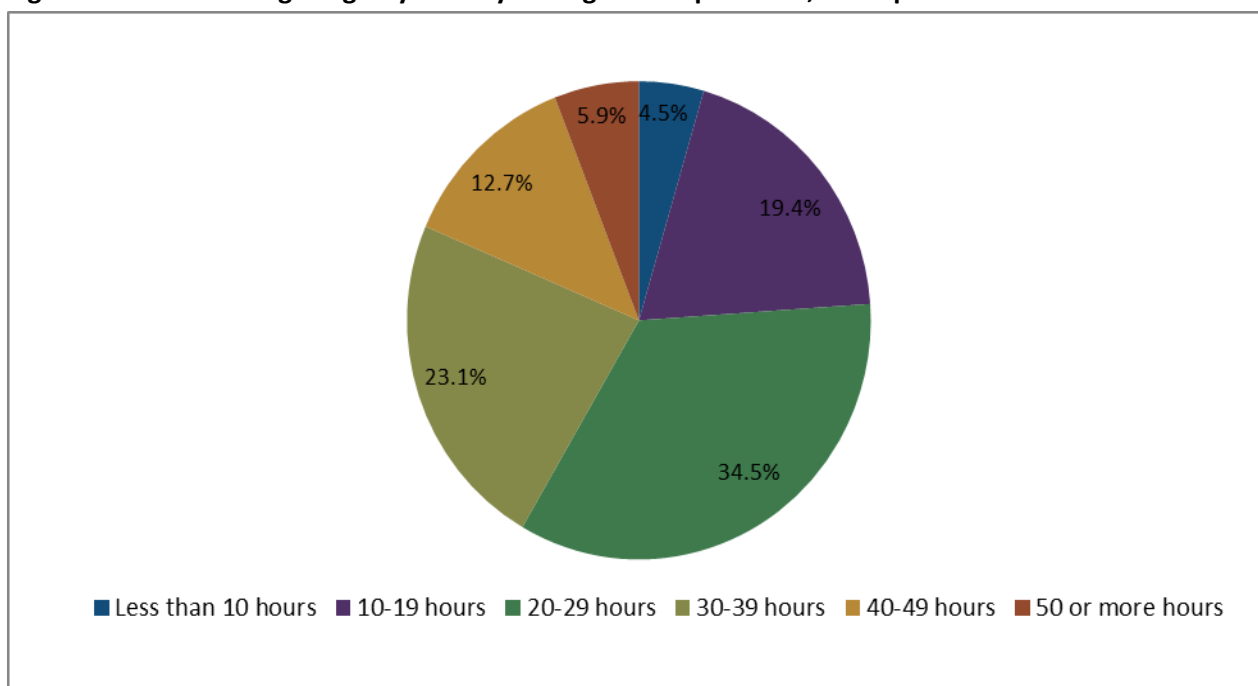
**Table 5: Average weekly hours in child care by service type, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

Service type	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Long Day Care	28.1	28.7	28.5	28.6	28.4
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	30.9	31.3	30.5	30.9	29.5
Occasional Care	11.8	12.3	12.0	12.4	12.1
Outside School Hours Care	10.7	11.7	10.9	12.0	10.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>24.1</b>

Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

For children using Long Day Care, 34.5 per cent used 20-29 hours per week in the June quarter 2017.

**Figure 2: Children using Long Day Care by average hours per week, June quarter 2017**



Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

## Families

During the June quarter 2017, there were 874,020 families using some form of approved child care for their children, an increase of 2.6 per cent since the June quarter 2016. The number of families using Family Day Care and In-Home Care has decreased by 6.3 per cent since the June quarter 2016.

**Table 6: Number of families using child care by service type, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

Service type	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Long Day Care	543,360	565,900	573,280	564,880	560,260
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	119,860	120,680	117,740	117,650	112,310
Occasional Care	5,300	5,440	5,420	4,770	4,940
Outside School Hours Care	293,370	296,970	286,430	305,380	310,090
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>852,160</b>	<b>873,790</b>	<b>871,150</b>	<b>869,750</b>	<b>874,020</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 and Training administrative data.

In the June quarter 2017, 296,560 families (33.9 per cent) had children attending approved child care in New South Wales, followed by 214,770 families (24.6 per cent) in Victoria and 193,350 families (22.4 per cent) in Queensland.

Across Australia, nearly two-thirds (560,260 or 64.1 per cent) of all families had children in Long Day Care and around one-third of families had children in Outside School Hours Care (310,090 or 35.5 per cent).

**Table 7: Number of families using child care by service type and state and territory, June quarter 2017**

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia <sup>1</sup>
Long Day Care	192,760	133,080	128,720	34,070	45,710	9,420	4,650	12,930	560,260
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	42,820	34,510	18,560	4,360	7,830	2,970	320	1,130	112,310
Occasional Care	1,700	1,900	320	80	720	100	0	120	4,940
Outside School Hours Care	97,880	71,760	72,130	26,870	24,130	5,580	3,060	8,920	310,090
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>296,560</b>	<b>214,770</b>	<b>193,350</b>	<b>57,270</b>	<b>69,450</b>	<b>15,850</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>20,060</b>	<b>874,020</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 and Training administrative data.

## Indigenous children and families

During the June quarter 2017, 32,500 Indigenous children (2.6 per cent of all children) used approved child care in Australia. The number of Indigenous children using approved child care has increased by 6.7 per cent since the June quarter 2016.

**Table 8: Number of Indigenous children using child care by service type, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

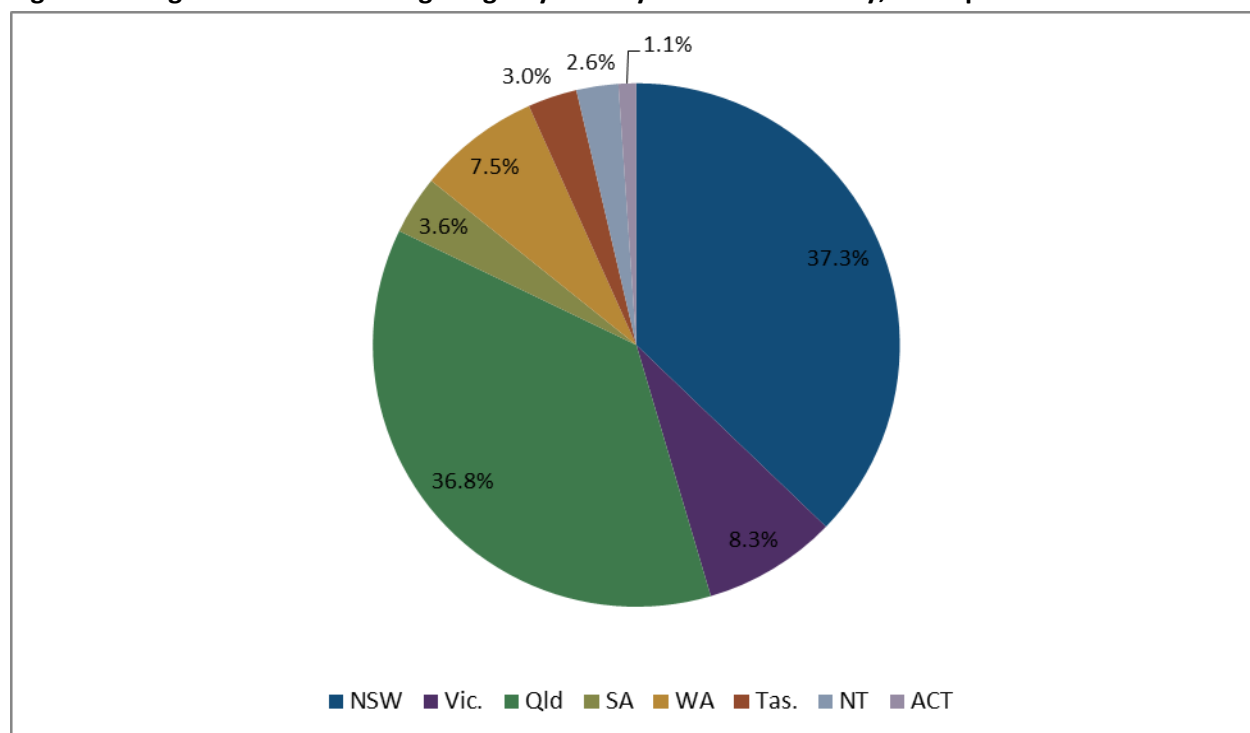
Service type	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Long Day Care	19,050	20,280	20,620	20,790	20,610
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	4,610	4,660	4,580	4,640	4,160
Occasional Care	200	240	240	210	210
Outside School Hours Care	7,570	7,920	7,700	8,430	8,480
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>30,470</b>	<b>32,080</b>	<b>32,120</b>	<b>32,670</b>	<b>32,500</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 Education and Training administrative data.

The largest proportion of Indigenous children attending Long Day Care was in New South Wales with 37.3 per cent, followed by Queensland with 36.8 per cent.

**Figure 3: Indigenous children using Long Day Care by state and territory, June quarter 2017**



Source: Department of Education and Training 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 (14.5 per cent of Indigenous children aged 0–12 years, and 31.5 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, June quarter 2017**

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia <sup>1</sup>
Long Day Care	7,690	1,700	7,590	750	1,550	630	530	230	20,610
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	1,870	470	1,110	130	210	320	30	30	4,160
Occasional Care	120	30	20	<10	20	10	0	<10	210
Outside School Hours Care	2,680	770	2,840	580	610	380	440	180	8,480
<b>Total Indigenous children using approved child care<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>11,260</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>32,500</b>
<i>Per cent of Indigenous population<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>17.1%</i>	<i>17.8%</i>	<i>16.6%</i>	<i>11.7%</i>	<i>8.3%</i>	<i>15.3%</i>	<i>5.1%</i>	<i>22.3%</i>	<i>14.5%</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 Education and Training administrative data and ABS Cat. No. 3238.0 Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 2001 to 2026 (30 April 2014).

Almost half of all Indigenous children who attended child care did so in regional or remote Australia (15,850 children or 48.8 per cent).

**Table 10: Number of Indigenous children using child care by service type and region, June quarter 2017**

Service type	Major cities of Australia	Regional <sup>1</sup> and Remote Australia <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>3</sup>
Long Day Care	10,070	10,620	20,610
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	2,160	2,020	4,160
Occasional Care	90	120	210
Outside School Hours Care	4,920	3,570	8,480
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>16,850</b>	<b>15,850</b>	<b>32,500</b>

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 Education and Training administrative data.



During the June quarter 2017, 22,610 Indigenous families used approved child care, an increase of 7.0 per cent since the June quarter 2016.

**Table 11: Number of Indigenous families using child care by service type, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

Service type	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Long Day Care	15,030	15,820	16,010	16,050	16,220
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	2,810	2,820	2,740	2,780	2,650
Occasional Care	170	190	190	170	180
Outside School Hours Care	5,170	5,380	5,260	5,690	5,800
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>21,140</b>	<b>22,050</b>	<b>22,040</b>	<b>22,260</b>	<b>22,610</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 and Training administrative data.

More than one third (8,580 or 37.9 per cent) of Indigenous families had children in approved child care located in New South Wales; another third (7,640 or 33.8 per cent) had children in approved child care located in Queensland.

**Table 12: Number of Indigenous families using child care by service type and state and territory, June quarter 2017**

Service type	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia <sup>1</sup>
Long Day Care	6,200	1,360	5,740	610	1,210	510	450	190	16,220
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	1,220	260	680	80	140	240	30	20	2,650
Occasional Care	100	30	20	<10	20	10	0	<10	180
Outside School Hours Care	1,870	540	1,900	390	410	250	310	130	5,800
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>8,580</b>	<b>1,990</b>	<b>7,640</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>22,610</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 Education and Training administrative data.

## Availability

### Services

During the June quarter 2017, 18,461 approved child care services operated in Australia, an increase of 2.6 per cent (467 services) since the June quarter 2016. There were 10,353 Outside School Hours Care services which accounted for 56.1 per cent of all services and 7,184 Long Day Care services which accounted for 38.9 per cent of all services.

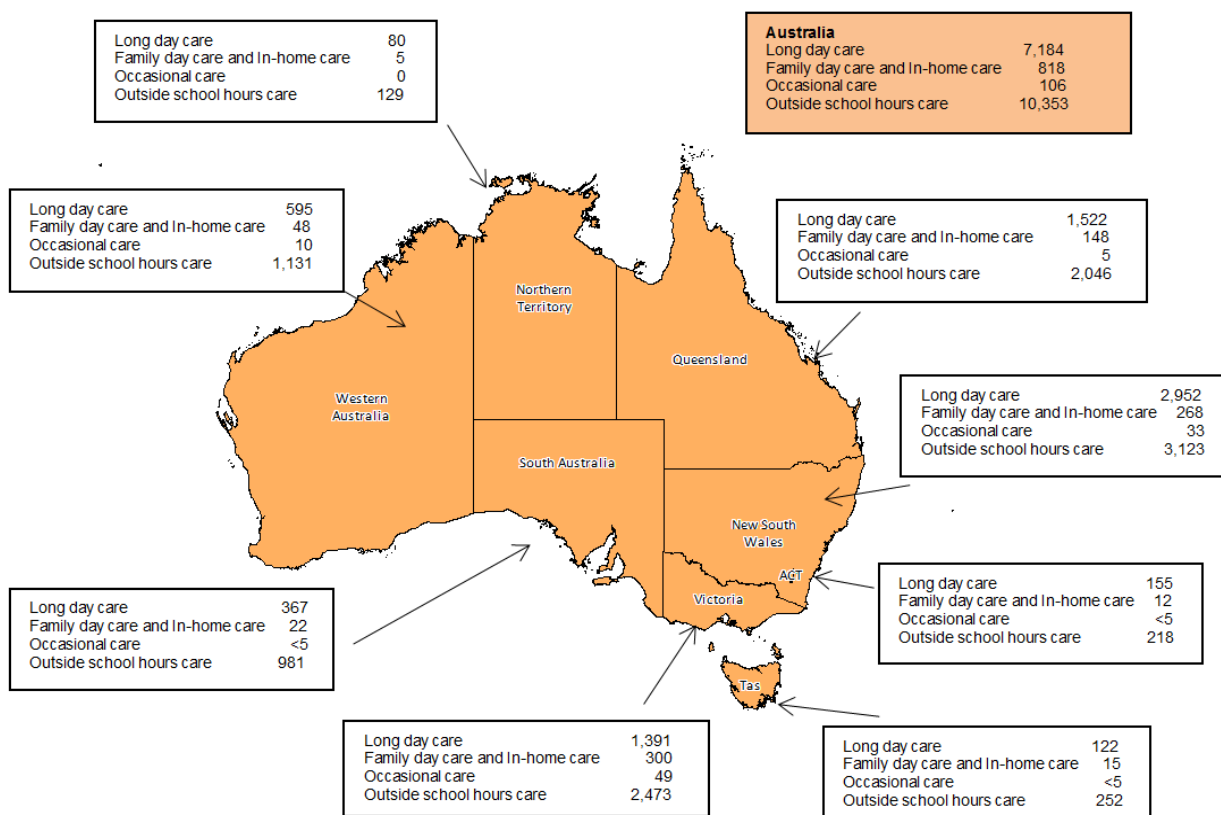
**Table 13: Number of child care services by service type, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

Service type	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Long Day Care	6,932	7,027	7,051	7,145	7,184
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	887	914	881	858	818
Occasional Care	110	110	110	106	106
Outside School Hours Care	10,065	10,136	9,873	10,209	10,353
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,994</b>	<b>18,187</b>	<b>17,915</b>	<b>18,318</b>	<b>18,461</b>

Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

In the June quarter 2017, around one third of services were located in New South Wales (34.5 per cent), with 22.8 per cent in Victoria and 20.2 per cent in Queensland.

**Figure 4: Number of approved services by service type and state and territory, June quarter 2017**



Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

## Affordability

### Costs of care before Australian Government fee assistance

The average hourly child care fee for all service types in the June quarter 2017 was \$8.90, an increase of 2.7 per cent since the June quarter 2016. Fees varied across service types from a high of \$10.25 per hour for Occasional Care services to a low of \$7.20 per hour for Outside School Hours Care services.

**Table 14: Average hourly fee by service type, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

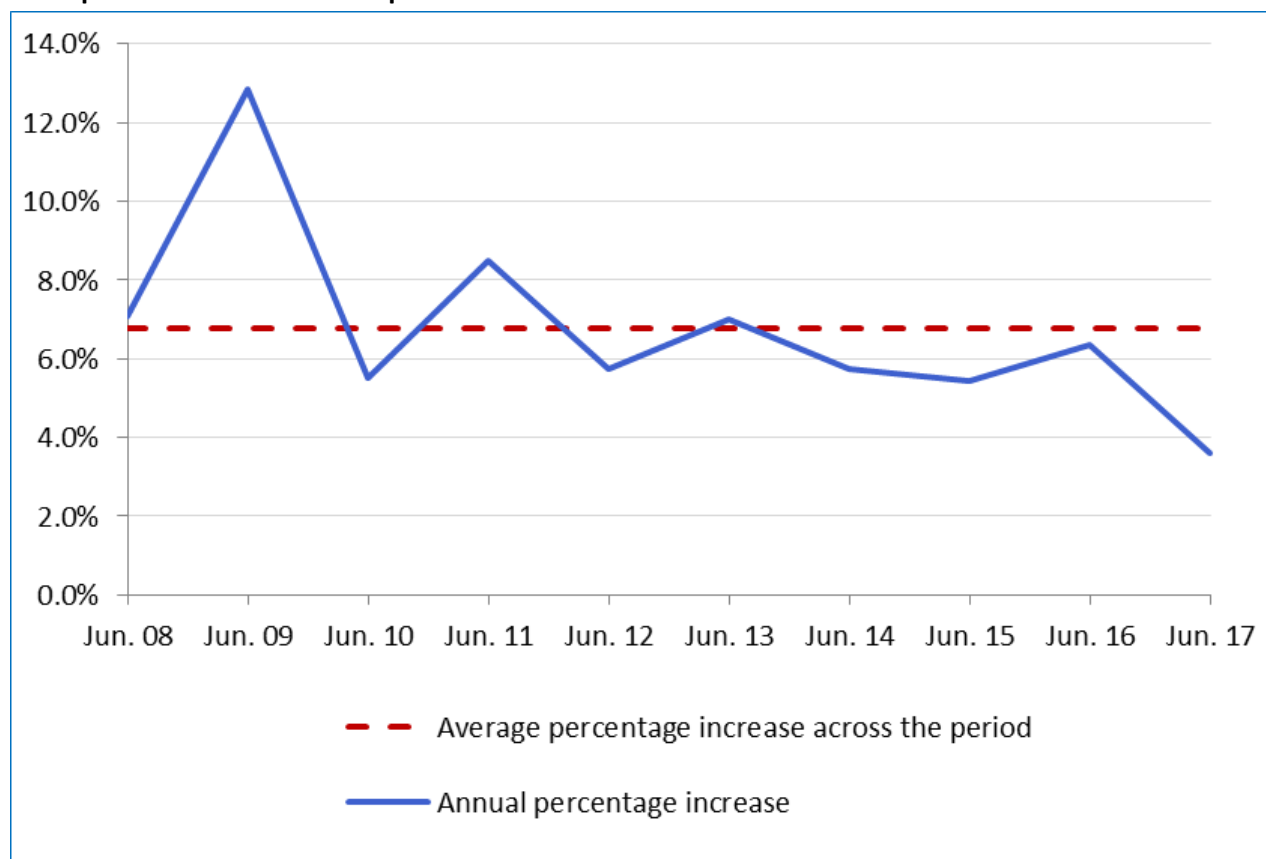
Service type	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Long Day Care	\$8.90	\$9.00	\$8.95	\$9.15	\$9.20
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	\$8.80	\$8.90	\$8.95	\$8.95	\$8.80
Occasional Care	\$9.90	\$10.05	\$10.05	\$10.25	\$10.25
Outside School Hours Care	\$7.05	\$6.95	\$7.00	\$7.05	\$7.20
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$8.65</b>	<b>\$8.75</b>	<b>\$8.75</b>	<b>\$8.85</b>	<b>\$8.90</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 Education and Training administrative data.

The average hourly fee for Long Day Care increased by 3.6 per cent from the June quarter 2016 to the June quarter 2017. This increase compares with the average annual percentage increase of 6.8 per cent for the period from the June quarter 2008 to the June quarter 2017.

**Figure 5: Average and annual percentage change to Long Day Care hourly fees, June quarter 2008 to the June quarter 2017**



Source: Department of Education and Training 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 June quarter 2017, the total estimated expenditure on Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate was \$1,602.5 million. The majority (\$1,060.1 million or 66.2 per cent) of this was paid in relation to families using Long Day Care services.

**Table 15: Total estimated Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlements by service type, June quarter 2017**

Service type	Child Care Benefit ('000)	Child Care Rebate ('000)	Total ('000)
Long Day Care	\$452,480	\$607,604	\$1,060,084
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	\$270,421	\$100,837	\$371,257
Occasional Care	\$1,333	\$2,084	\$3,417
Outside School Hours Care	\$56,885	\$110,833	\$167,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$781,120</b>	<b>\$821,357</b>	<b>\$1,602,477</b>

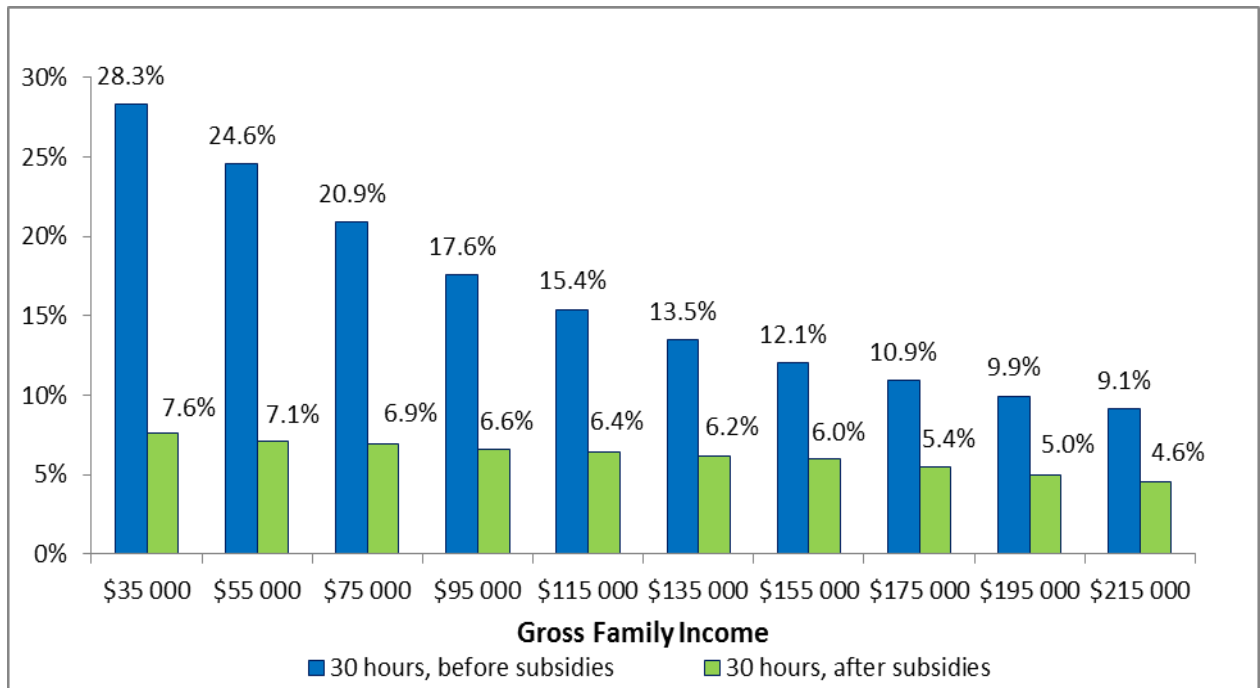
Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data – based on estimated entitlements.

### 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 28.3 per cent of weekly disposable income for families earning a gross income of \$35,000 per year to 9.1 per cent for families earning a gross income of \$215,000 per year. After Australian Government child care subsidies, out-of-pocket costs were significantly reduced, varying from 7.6 per cent for families earning a gross income of \$35,000 per year to 4.6 per cent for families earning a gross income of \$215,000 per year.

**Figure 6: Out-of-pocket costs<sup>1</sup> for one child in Long Day Care before and after Australian Government subsidies, March quarter 2017**



<sup>1</sup> Out-of-pocket costs (before and after Australian Government subsidies) are shown for families with one child aged less than 5 years old using Long Day care for 30 hours of care per week. This takes into account the CCR cap (of \$7,500).

Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

## Additional Assistance

### JET Child Care Fee Assistance

In the June quarter 2017 there were 7,360 families assisted with Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA). This represented 0.8 per cent of the total number of families who used approved child care services.

**Table 16: JET Child Care Fee Assistance usage, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Number of children assisted	12,380	12,470	11,530	10,610	10,560
Number of families using JETCCFA	8,640	8,600	7,880	7,350	7,360
Average hours per week per child	26.4	26.6	26.4	26.6	26.4
Estimated JETCCFA entitlement (\$'000)	\$8,945	\$9,313	\$7,729	\$6,436	\$8,373

Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

### Special Child Care Benefit

In the June quarter 2017, 10,480 families were assisted with Special Child Care Benefit. This represented 1.2 per cent of the total number of families who used approved child care services.

**Table 17: Special Child Care Benefit usage, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Number of children assisted	14,790	16,520	15,630	14,730	15,390
Number of families using SCCB	9,900	10,870	10,270	9,780	10,480
Average hours per week per child	33.8	34.2	34.2	34.4	34.0
Estimated SCCB entitlement (\$'000)	\$43,575	\$55,771	\$45,269	\$42,407	\$45,850

Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

### Grandparent Child Care Benefit

In the June quarter 2017, 4,400 families were assisted with Grandparent Child Care Benefit. This represented 0.5 per cent of the total number of families who used approved child care services.

**Table 18: Grandparent Child Care Benefit usage, June quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017**

	Jun. 16	Sep. 16	Dec. 16	Mar. 17	Jun. 17
Number of children assisted	7,500	8,220	8,560	8,800	8,010
Number of families using GCCB	4,170	4,470	4,540	4,590	4,400
Average hours per week per child	36.2	37.7	36.8	37.8	36.2
Estimated GCCB entitlement (\$'000)	\$43,748	\$53,492	\$55,409	\$55,220	\$33,256

Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

## Vacancies

Table 19 details the national trend in child care vacancies from the June quarter 2015 to the June quarter 2017 by service type.

**Table 19: Child care vacancies by service type, June quarter 2015 to June quarter 2017**

Service type	Jun-15	Sep. 15	Dec. 15	Mar. 16	Jun. 16	Sep-16	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17
<b>Long Day Care</b>									
Total number of services	6,723	6,755	6,804	6,862	6,932	7,027	7,051	7,145	7,184
Per cent services reporting	91%	91%	91%	92%	92%	92%	91%	90%	92%
Proportion with vacancies	90%	89%	88%	91%	91%	89%	89%	93%	92%
Average vacancies	94,000	86,700	77,440	110,510	106,650	91,980	87,610	122,570	113,560
<b>Family Day Care</b>									
Total number of services	778	786	792	794	823	849	819	794	757
Per cent services reporting	34%	32%	32%	30%	44%	42%	40%	37%	36%
Proportion with vacancies	89%	87%	90%	89%	87%	90%	91%	92%	94%
Average vacancies	8,510	8,410	7,520	7,180	9,270	11,640	9,990	8,940	9,029
<b>Occasional Care</b>									
Total number of services	116	115	115	111	110	110	110	106	106
Per cent services reporting	59%	63%	64%	59%	68%	71%	68%	72%	70%
Proportion with vacancies	51%	55%	54%	60%	56%	56%	56%	53%	55%
Average vacancies	460	390	420	510	460	470	430	600	468
<b>Before and After School Hours Care</b>									
Total number of services	6,911	7,348	6,981	7,177	7,331	7,324	7,306	7,502	7,583
Per cent services reporting	58%	51%	60%	58%	60%	80%	80%	79%	79%
Proportion with vacancies	91%	90%	92%	91%	92%	93%	94%	94%	94%
Average vacancies	102,770	100,080	119,040	105,750	117,550	187,600	194,800	188,400	197,386
<b>Vacation Care</b>									
Total number of services	2,609	2,732	2,139	2,648	2,734	2,812	2,907	2,707	2,770
Per cent services reporting	55%	55%	57%	55%	55%	60%	60%	58%	58%
Proportion with vacancies	72%	73%	64%	75%	70%	75%	68%	77%	67%
Average vacancies	30,510	34,000	34,100	33,410	30,510	42,920	43,930	39,360	31,670

Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data.

## Technical Notes

### General counting rules

All analysis broken down by state in this report corresponds to the *state of the service* rather than the state where the child/family lives.

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.

### CCB and CCR estimation

The Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) estimation method used in this report:

- Under-estimates CCB as only CCB payments made during the quarter are reported and not the CCB amounts customers were actually entitled to but did not receive (for example because of families over-estimating income or receiving annual or lump sum CCB payments to avoid debts).
- Over-estimates CCR due to under-estimation of CCB.
- Doesn't take into account reconciliation which will adjust the customers' CCB and CCR actual entitlements based on their actual rather than estimated incomes. There is a considerable time lag for the reconciliation process to be complete, this can take a number of years.

### 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 Education and Training 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 Education and Training. 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 19) 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 June quarter 2017, vacancies for Long Day Care, Before and After School Hours Care, Occasional Care and Family Day Care are reported from 29 May to 4 June 2017. Vacancies for Vacation Care are reported from 10 April to 16 April 2017.

## 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 and Training 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.

**Grandparent Child Care Benefit (GCCB):** Grandparents with the primary care of grandchildren and who receive an income support payment may be eligible for the Grandparent Child Care Benefit (GCCB). The GCCB covers the full cost of approved child care for up to 50 hours for each child per week. In certain circumstances Grandparents may be able to get GCCB for more than 50 hours per week.

**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.

**Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA):** This is a form of government assistance that provides extra help with the cost of approved child care for eligible parents undertaking activities such as job search, work, study, or rehabilitation as part of an Employment Pathway Plan with the Department of Human Services or an employment service provider, to help them to enter or re-enter the workforce.

**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 December quarter 2015, that is, they had at least one record of child care attendance in the quarter.

**Special Child Care Benefit (SCCB):** Additional child care assistance provided for children considered to be at risk of serious abuse or neglect, or exceptional cases where a family's income does not truly reflect their capacity to pay the usual charged fee. Special Child Care Benefit is reported as 'child at risk' and 'financial hardship'.

**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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