National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection

Data Collection Guide

2013

National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection:

Data Collection Guide

Australia

2013

4240.0.55.002

ABS Catalogue No. 4240.0.55.002

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
CCB	Child Care Benefit
CCMS	Child Care Management System
CCR	Child Care Rebate (formerly known as Child Care Tax Rebate: CCTR)
CD	Collection District
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DOB	Date of Birth
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ECEC	Early Childhood Education and Care
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
LDC	Long Day Care
MB	Mesh Block
METeOR	Metadata Online Registry
NIA ECEC	National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NP ECE	National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education
NSSC	National Schools Statistics Collection
RoGS	Report on Government Services
SA1	Statistical Area Level 1
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
SLK	Statistical Linkage Key
UA	Universal Access
URL	Unit Record Level
YBFS	Year before full-time schooling

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF COLLECTION

The National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (the Collection) has been established to provide nationally comparable statistics on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and for assessing outcomes and informing future policy developments in the ECEC area. ECEC statistics published by the ABS represent considerable improvements in the quality and accessibility of national ECEC data and assists in the progress reporting for the National Partnership Agreement on ECEC.

The Collection is underpinned by standards specified within the 2013 Early Childhood Education and Care National Minimum Data Set (the NMDS). Further information on the NMDS is available on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) website: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/494143>

Data from the Collection is published annually, with the fourth iteration being *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013 (cat. no. 4240.0)* to be published in early 2014.

PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

The *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Data Collection Guide 2013* (the Guide) provides detailed guidelines, instructions and definitions to assist in the collection and reporting of ECEC data collected using both unit record level and aggregate level data collection methodologies. The Guide is intended for use by data providers as the primary information source to assist the delivery of quality data for the Collection. This document is to be used in conjunction with the Data request templates and the NMDS. The guidelines contained within the Guide will facilitate the delivery and the development of nationally comparable ECEC statistics.

A number of data items specified within the Guide are operationally different to what is specified within the NMDS. Where this is the case, full details have been documented and explained in the relevant sections of the Guide. In addition, there are a number of non-NMDS data elements requested by the ABS that work in conjunction with other data elements to ensure high quality output data for the 2013 Collection. The use, purpose and application of the additional data elements are documented within Chapter 2, Data Element Collection Instructions.

USE AND MAINTENANCE OF THIS PUBLICATION

The Guide has been developed by the National Centre for Education and Training Statistics within the ABS. This publication will be updated annually to reflect changes to the agreed collection standards and processes.

For further assistance or information, please contact the ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) on 1300 135 070 or go to: <http://www.abs.gov.au>. For additional information on the Collection please see the *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001) and *Preschool Education, Australia* (cat. no. 4240.0).

INTRODUCTION

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

ABS terminology guidelines on the use of 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' and 'Indigenous' to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has recently been updated to better reflect current, common and recommended practice. The ABS adopted 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' as the most precise and inclusive reference to use when referring to Australia's first peoples. This publication, however, mostly refers specific data element descriptions in the NMDS. Consequently, this publication will not be consistent with the 2013 ABS guidelines and have not been amended to reflect the new terminology, and the term 'Indigenous' has been used to describe data elements or refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

CHAPTER 1: COLLECTION SPECIFICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

A key requirement of the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (the Collection) is that data providers are required to supply data to the ABS using a unit record level (URL) data collection methodology. Where this is not possible, data can be supplied by way of an aggregate level collection methodology. All data providers are working towards data improvements applying a URL collection methodology for all Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sectors. Collection of data using a URL methodology for the Collection is required to enable accurate reporting on the number of children who attend preschool. A preschool program, for the purposes of the Collection, is defined as a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. Aggregate collection methodologies only enable reporting on episodes of preschool enrolment and attendance. Counts of episodes include multiple child experiences of a preschool program and are not a good proxy for counts of children. These concepts are further outlined in the publication *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 4240.0.55.001).

The Collection authority comes through the National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care (NIA ECEC) which was developed in consultation with the Australian Government, state and territory governments and key data agencies including the ABS and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The NIA ECEC aims to increase the ability to collect and disseminate quality, comparable and reliable ECEC data. Jurisdictional data providers supply data to the ABS supporting commitments under the NIA ECEC. The ABS supports the NIA ECEC through conducting the Collection under Memorandum of Understanding arrangements with the Australian Government Department of Education (formerly known as the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations). The ABS collects this data under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (Cwlth).

This chapter provides an overview of assistance the ABS gives to data providers in delivering data submissions for the Collection. An indicative collection timetable is presented to help data providers plan for the 2013 collection cycle. The chapter outlines data request template changes applicable for the 2013 Collection, as well as URL and aggregate instructions for the provision of Child, Service Provider Organisation and Worker data.

GEO-CODING

Jurisdictions should supply robust geography information and ideally including address information for both child and service provider data items within completed ECEC templates. The ABS will use this information to derive geographical information to support the Collection. The ABS returns this geo-code information back to data providers through return to source arrangements.

2013 DATA COLLECTION DATE AND TIMETABLE

The census date for the Collection is the first Friday in August each year. For 2013 the census date is 2nd August 2013, with the 1 week reference period spanning 29th of July to the 2nd of August 2013. Some data providers may adopt a 2 week reference period that needs to include the census week. The 2 week reference period is adopted in some jurisdictions to better reflect their preschool program delivery models. This means the permissible period spans the 22nd of July to the 9th of August 2013 inclusive.

CHAPTER 1: COLLECTION SPECIFICATIONS

The following tentative timetable outlines key dates for both data providers and the ABS for the Collection in 2013.

- Official ABS request for the 2013 Collection — 19 Jun 2013
- ABS consultation process with data providers — 21 Jun – 30 Jul 13
- 2013 National ECEC Collection census date — 2 August 2013
- Data providers submit populated Data request templates to the ABS secure deposit box — 8 Nov 2013
- ABS completes initial data interrogations and begin discussions with data providers — 22 Nov 2013
- ABS cut-off for jurisdictional data edits or data re-supply — 29 Nov 2013
- ABS publication of *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013* (cat. no. 4240.0) — 7 March 2014
- Jurisdictional agencies receive return to source data sets — March/April 2014

The timeline above will facilitate data dissemination through *Preschool Education, Australia, 2013* (cat. no. 4240.0) in March 2014.

RETURN OF DATA TO SOURCE

For 2013, the Australian Statistician has approved return-to-source arrangements for the Collection under Section 19 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (Cwlth).

This approval includes returning all data received from a particular data provider back to that data provider as well as any transformations applied to that data (e.g. age derived from date of birth, geographical area information derived from usual residence or coding applied for blank or missing data).

The approval does not include any information about individuals obtained from other data providers or from other data managed by the ABS.

Return to source is approved to support improvements in data management and statistical capability of data providers.

2013 NATIONAL ECEC COLLECTION DATA REQUEST TEMPLATES

The Collection Data request templates are provided in a spread sheet format. The ABS has provided data providers with three templates:
- 2013_ECEC_URL_Child_template
- 2013_ECEC_URL_Worker_template
- 2013_ECEC_AGG_template_QLD_only (Aggregate child template – for Queensland only).

With the exception of Queensland, all data providers are required to complete only the 'Child' and 'Worker' templates. 'Child' and 'Worker' templates have a number of common service provider data elements. Queensland is also required to complete the aggregate template for those service providers where child URL information is not available. The ABS requests that Queensland does not supply aggregate data for services included within the QLD URL child template to ensure there is no double counting, i.e. aggregate and URL data submissions are mutually exclusive.

CHAPTER 1: COLLECTION SPECIFICATIONS

Each Data request template consists of three worksheets:

- Metadata dictionary
- Legal value checks
- Data template

Data providers are requested to return completed Data request templates intact without separating any of the 3 worksheets.

METADATA DICTIONARY

The 'Metadata dictionary' worksheet contains a complete listing of the 2013 data elements requested in the Collection. It is designed as a quick metadata reference guide highlighting data item descriptions, format, precision and attribute codes. The data item specifications within the Guide are designed to further support the information within the 'Metadata dictionary'. The worksheet also includes a column entitled 'Jurisdictional data comments – 2013 National ECEC Collection'. In this field, the ABS requests that data providers document supporting information to assist data comprehension and the communication of data quality issues and limitations (including completeness) for the supplied data element. If there is insufficient space to document this information, data providers can attach a separate report. This document should also be sent to the ABS through Secure Deposit Box (SDB) processes.

LEGAL VALUE CHECKS

The 'Legal value checks' are designed to assist data providers to compile their data in accordance with instructions in this guide. Adherence to the edit checks in these tables will assist the ABS to ensure national comparability of statistics. Prior to submitting 2013 ECEC data, data providers are requested to address each of the listed edit specifications to ensure comprehensive validation of data being supplied.

COLLECTION DATA REQUEST TEMPLATES

The 2013 Data request templates have been designed to incorporate minimal change from the 2012 templates. The discussion below outlines the updates to the 2013 Data request templates including the implications due to changes in the 2013 collection standards.

Data providers are asked to contact the ABS if they require clarification regarding the application of collection standards or further assistance in completing the Data request templates.

In 2013 the ABS will continue to work with all data providers to further develop useful tools to assist data providers in the collection of high quality data for future collection cycles.

CHAPTER 1: COLLECTION SPECIFICATIONS

TRANSFER OF DATA TO THE ABS AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

Completed ECEC data requires transmission to the ABS under secure arrangements. In October, the ABS will contact data providers to prepare for lodgement of their completed Data request templates via the ABS's Secure Deposit Box (SDB) facility. This involves updating the list of authorised SDB users and arranging establishment of SDB accounts and instructions. All data providers are requested to submit their completed Data request templates to the ABS via the SDB in accordance with the timetable outlined previously in this chapter.

The ABS is bound by the Census and Statistics Act to maintain the confidentiality of the information supplied to us. The information provided to the ABS is kept secure through the use of the strongest industry standard encryption technology and at no time will identifiable data be released.

CHAPTER 1: COLLECTION SPECIFICATIONS

UNIT RECORD LEVEL DATA INSTRUCTIONS

The differences between the 2013 and 2012 Data request templates for Child URL are summarised in the following table. Further information on permissible values for data elements can be found in the tabs titled 'Metadata dictionary' and 'Legal value checks' in the Data request templates. Refer to Chapter 2, Data Element Collection Instructions for details of all requested data items for 2013. The differences between the 2013 and 2012 NMDS including retired data elements, new data elements, revised definitions, changed classifications and codes are documented within Appendix. Overview of changes to the ECEC NMDS.

UPDATES TO URL TEMPLATE – CHILD AND SERVICE PROVIDER

Data Entity	Data Item	ABS short name	Summary of changes to format and position	Changes to attribute codes and permissible values
Child	Child – Statistical Linkage Key (SLK) Sequential match code, NNNNN	PSN_SLK_MATCH	Title of data element changed to reinforce that, within a jurisdictional dataset, the SLK match code must increase by 1 for each child who experienced preschool at different service providers during the reference period,	No change. Continues the treatment of this data element in 2013. Collection of this information enables precise calculation of the number of unique children in preschool. Chapter 2, Data Element Collection Instructions, includes further detail on how to collect and report data for 'Statistical Linkage Key – Sequential Match Code'.
Service Provider Organisation	Service provider organisation—service activity type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]	EPR_SERVACTTYP		Permissible Values and guide for Use: Combined classification values for 'Preschool program: stand-alone' and 'Preschool program: as part of a school' into one classification value 7: 'Preschool'. Classification value 8 retired.
Service Provider Organisation	Service provider organisation—service delivery setting, early childhood education and care, code N	EPR_DLIVSET		Permissible Values and guide for Use: Code 2 reclassified 'Centre-based – stand-alone', Code 3 reclassified 'Centre-based – Other', Code 4 reclassified 'Home-based', Code 5 reclassified 'General Community' and Code 8: 'Other setting' is retired.

CHAPTER 1: COLLECTION SPECIFICATIONS

STATISTICAL ENTITY: WORKER DEFINITION

For 2013, the Collection defines an in-scope 'ECEC contact worker' as a contact worker who has paid employment with an ECEC service provider (including full-time, part-time and contract workers); has a role of principal/ director/ coordinator/ teacher/ teacher-in-charge or group leader; and has delivered a preschool program in the reference period.

This definition reflects the revised definitions for 'ECEC contact worker' and 'ECEC teacher' included in the 2013 NMDS as Glossary items:

<Early childhood education and care contact worker [METeOR ID 493450]>
<Early childhood education and care teacher [METeOR ID 493482]>

The diagram below illustrates the collection scope of Workers. This includes the inclusions and exclusions for the requested worker population. Some data providers may have supplied a broader collection scope for previous cycles however in 2013, only workers that fall within the scope inclusions should be provided in the worker data request template. Data providers are requested to exclude workers employed by service providers that have no in-scope children enrolled in a preschool program during the reference period.

COLLECTION SCOPE - WORKER
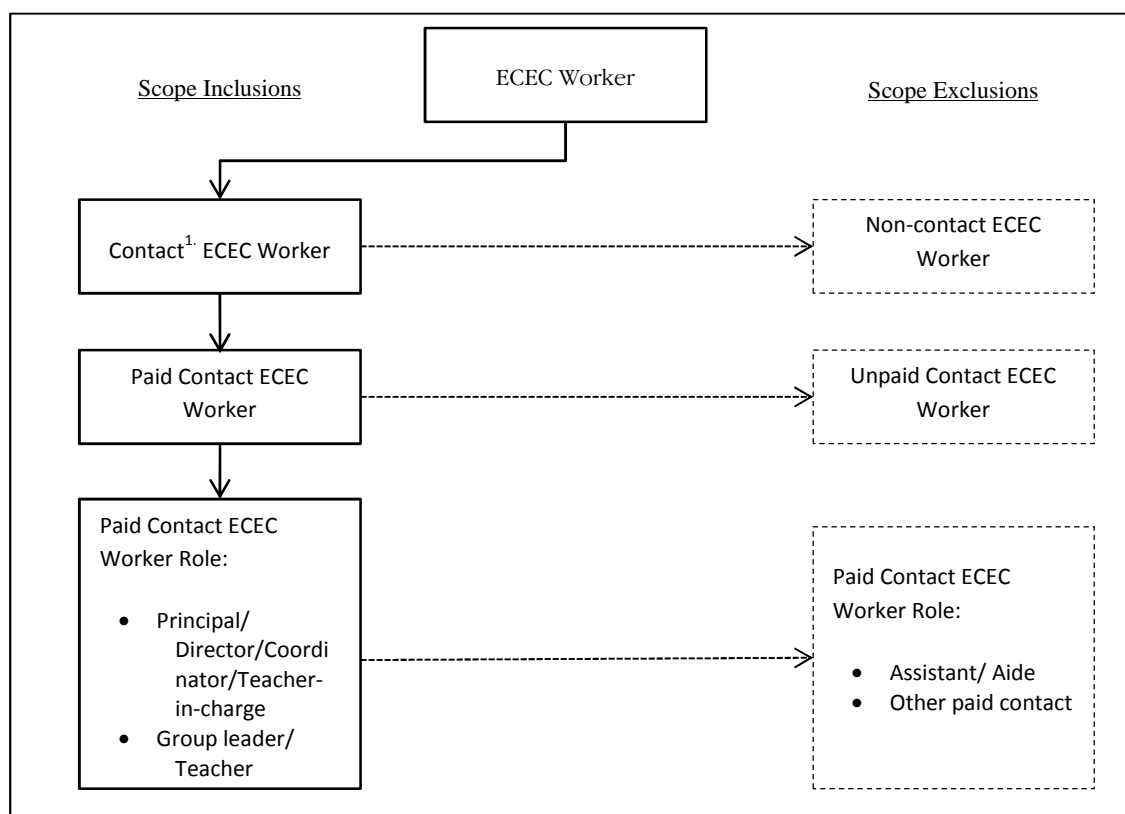
1. Contact worker who delivered a preschool program in the reference period includes contact workers who are usually present to deliver preschool programs but may have been absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave and are expected to return.

CHAPTER 1: COLLECTION SPECIFICATIONS

CHANGES IN THE 2013 DATA REQUEST TEMPLATE – WORKER URL

Differences between the 2013 and 2012 data request templates for Worker URL are summarised in the following table. Further information on permissible values for Worker URL data elements can be found in the tabs titled 'Metadata dictionary' and 'Legal value checks' in the template files.

For the first time in 2013, the collection of URL worker data includes a person identifier and/or statistical linkage key (SLK) if data providers have the capability to supply this information.

UPDATES TO THE URL TEMPLATE – ECEC WORKER

Data Entity	Data Item	ABS short name	Summary of changes to format and position	Changes to attribute codes and permissible values
Person (employed)	Paid employment indicator	TCH_PAIDEMPIND	Data element retired from 2013 NMDS. Paid employment is now a conditional determinant of the collection scope.	
Person (employed)	Preschool program delivery indicator	TCH_PROGDELIND	Data element retired from 2013 NMDS. Delivery of a preschool program is now a conditional determinant of the collection scope.	
Person (employed)	Hours worked in preschool program delivery	TCH_PSPROGDELHRS	Data element retired from 2013 NMDS but retained by the ABS as an additional element.	
Person (employed)	Record – Statistical linkage key, 581 format (optional)	TCH_LNK_RECKEY	New data element. For agencies, establishments or collection authorities that are able to derive a 'Person – SLK' for workers, data providers are encouraged to supply this data element for statistical linkage purposes only.	Same SLK format as for child.
Person (employed)	Person identifier (optional)	TEACHER_ID	New data element. Agencies, establishments or collection authorities may use their own alphabetic, numeric or alphanumeric coding systems.	Alphabetic, numeric or alphanumeric code not exceeding 20 characters in length.

CHAPTER 1: COLLECTION SPECIFICATIONS

AGGREGATE DATA INSTRUCTIONS

The 2013 aggregate template is designed to assist Queensland to deliver comprehensive data for the Collection. Queensland should not supply both URL and aggregate data for any given service provider but ensure they are mutually exclusive. Refer to Chapter 2, Data Element Collection Instructions for further information on aggregate data template specifications. The 2013 aggregate data request template is provided in a continuous flat-file spread sheet format incorporating the necessary disaggregations.

CHANGES IN THE 2013 AGGREGATE DATA REQUEST TEMPLATE – SERVICE PROVIDER

Differences between the 2013 and 2012 aggregate data request template are summarised in the following table. Further information on permissible values for data elements can be found in the tabs titled 'Metadata dictionary' and 'Legal value checks' in the template files. Refer to Chapter 2, Data Element Collection Instructions for details of all 2013 aggregate data elements.

UPDATES TO THE AGGREGATE TEMPLATE – SERVICE PROVIDER

Data Entity	Data Item	ABS short name	Summary of changes to format and position	Changes to attribute codes and permissible values
Service Provider Organisation	Service provider organisation—service activity type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]	EPR_SERVACTTYP	Nil	Permissible Values and Guide for Use: Combined classification values for 'Preschool program – stand-alone' and 'Preschool program – as part of a school' into one classification value 7: 'Preschool'. Classification value 8 retired.
Service Provider Organisation	Service provider organisation—service delivery setting, early childhood education and care, code N	EPR_DLIVSET	Nil	Permissible Values and guide for Use: Code 2 Reclassified 'Centre-based – stand-alone', Code 3 reclassified 'Centre-based – Other', Code 4 reclassified 'Home-based', Code 5 reclassified 'General Community' and Code 8: 'Other setting' has been retired.

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS OVERVIEW

This chapter provides detailed collection instructions, guidelines and definitions for each data element in the 2013 National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (the Collection). These are ABS recommended guidelines of the ideal data collection framework, based on the 2013 Early Childhood Education and Care National Minimum Data Standards (the NMDS). This guide is a key document to assist data providers involved in the Collection.

Data elements are collected at the unit record level or aggregate level, under the following statistical entities:

DEFINITIONS

ABS short name: An abbreviated form of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Metadata Online Registry (METeOR) technical name used within the ABS data processing environment. The ABS short name code serves as a two way link between the data collection template and the ABS data processing system. Within the ABS processing system, additional metadata is held for each short-name code such as data element technical name, data type, data format, units of measure, value sets, record lengths, related collections, associated derivations and business rules.

ABS Template reference: The relevant column position within the associated template for the described data element.

METeOR Technical name: The full title of the data element in METeOR, describing the object class, the data concept and the data format, e.g. Child - preschool program hours attended per week, total hours N[N]. If no METeOR technical name is listed, the data element is not in the 2013 NMDS but represents an additional data element requested by ABS for 2013.

METeOR identifier: The code assigned to the data element in METeOR, e.g. 390310. If no METeOR identifier is listed, the data element is not in the 2013 NMDS but represents an additional data element requested by ABS for 2013.

METeOR link: A web link to the data element in METeOR. If there is no METeOR link, the data element is not in the 2013 NMDS but represents an additional data element requested by ABS for 2013.

METeOR definition: A description of the meaning of the data element as outlined in METeOR for the 2013 Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) NMDS, e.g. 'The total number of hours of a preschool program that a child has attended per week'. If no METeOR definition is listed, the data element is not in the 2013 NMDS but represents an additional data element requested by ABS for 2013.

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

SCOPE

Inclusions: Provides information on the population to be included within a data element.

Exclusions: Provides information on the population not to be included within a data element (e.g. exclude all unpaid workers).

UNDERLYING CONCEPTS

This section outlines the key concept of the data element as it relates to the Collection. The conceptual basis of the standard arises from the analytical requirements it is intended to support. The specific details required for this section are listed below.

Concept: Name of the METeOR data element concept.

Nominal definition: Explains the concept as it would ideally be collected. For aggregate child data elements collected at the service provider level, this section outlines the concept as it would be collected at the unit record level.

Operational definition: This section specifies the concept as it is actually collected. The operational definition can differ from the nominal definition, because operational constraints may prevent collecting the concept exactly as it is defined in the nominal definition. For aggregate child data elements collected at the service provider level, this section states the concept as it should be reported, given the aggregate methodological restrictions.

Supporting data elements: This is a list of supporting data elements which are required to ascertain values for the standard, or for an editing process, or for combining with the data element to derive additional values.

Conceptual issues: Outlines issues that are specific to the data element, such as how the data element is derived, or related definitions. This section will also explain why the operational definition varies from the nominal definition.

STANDARD JURISDICTIONAL OUTPUT CATEGORIES

This section specifies the output required to be produced by the data providers, which includes information on the format and classification structure of the data and the legal value checks required to be undertaken prior to submission to the ABS. The jurisdictional output categories align directly with the ABS input categories. In the majority of instances, the information contained in this section aligns with the format presented in METeOR in the 'Value domain attributes' section. Some aggregate data element output categories differ from the METeOR 'Value domain attributes', due to the aggregate collection methodology.

Representation class: Specifies the representation class of data such as date, text, code, identifier or numeric total. Data element values can be enumerated (e.g. total hours) or non-numerical (e.g. Sex, M/F).

Data type: Summarises the permissible data types, e.g. Date, Number, String.

Format: Specifies the presentation structure of the data value, e.g. for Date of birth, DDMMYYYY, for *Letters of family name*, text X[X(40)], for *Preschool program attendance indicator*, yes/no, code N.

Maximum character length: Details the maximum character length that is valid for the data field.

Unit of measure: Specifies the unit of measure attributed to the data value, e.g. for *Preschool program hours enrolled*, Hour (h).

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Classification structure: Includes the classification and supplementary values for the data element. Data providers should undertake mapping of their data from local values to the format presented in this section prior to outputting the data to the ABS. These classifications in most cases align directly with the values presented in METeOR. There may be cases where supplementary value codes are missing from METeOR or the ABS requires alternative values, and therefore these values may differ. The ABS requests that data providers use the codes as stated within the ABS guide.

Legal value checks: Details the edit checks that the ABS recommends data providers undertake on their data sets prior to submission. Adherence to the edit checks in these tables will assist the ABS to ensure that jurisdictional data are compiled according to national standards and classifications, and to ensure comparability of statistics. Additional legal value checks to those listed in the data request template are included in this guide to assist in the accurate interpretation of data elements and adherence in reporting to the required operational standards to ensure the best possible statistical outputs.

GUIDE FOR USE

This section provides instructions to assist with the collection of the data element.

Counting rules: Collection standards that ensure the correct properties and related attributes for the data element are obtained. Counting rules aim to ensure consistency and comparability of data, e.g. 'enrolment hours in non-instructional activities such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks should be included if the child was under the supervision of the service provider organisation'.

CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS

Outlines the definitions for each of the classifications and supplementary values.

OTHER INFORMATION

Provides any other relevant information, such as related aggregate or URL data elements.

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

UNIT RECORD LEVEL DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

For the Collection, unit record level (URL) data collection methods enable provision of information at individual child and worker level, and at the service provider organisation level. The data request template for URL data elements is categorised into the following three statistical entities:

STATISTICAL ENTITY: CHILD

A child is considered in scope of the Collection if they are enrolled in a preschool program at an in-scope service provider, are aged between 3 and 6 years old (inclusive).

The 2013 URL data request template for child and service provider organisation contains the following sequence of data elements for the child:

The following descriptions outline the 2013 URL child level data element collection instructions.

STATISTICAL LINKAGE KEY

ABS short name: PSN_LNK_RECKEY
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column B
METeOR Technical name: Record - linkage key, code 581 XXXXXDDMMYYYYN
METeOR identifier: 349895
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/349895>
METeOR definition: A key that enables two or more records belonging to the same individual to be brought together. It is represented by a code consisting of the second, third and fifth characters of a person's family name, the second and third letters of the persons' given name, the day, month and year when the person was born and the sex of the person, concatenated in that order.

Scope

Inclusions: For all children enrolled in a preschool program, include in the following sequence:
- the second, third and fifth letters of the child's family name
- the second and third letters of the child's given name
- the day, month and year of birth of the child, concatenated in that order to form the child's date of birth
- the sex of the child.

Exclusions:
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.
- Exclude the following components:
  - the first, fourth, sixth, and any subsequent letters of the child's family name
  - the first, fourth, and subsequent characters of the child's given name
  - hyphens, apostrophes or spaces which may form part of a child's family name or given name.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Statistical Linkage Key 581.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used to develop the statistical linkage key:
- *Date of birth*
- *Letters of family name*
- *Letters of given name*
- *Sex*

Conceptual issues:
- The statistical linkage (SLK) key enables counting the number of children and the preschool programs they received, without counting the same child more than once. The intention of this data element is to create a unique key for each child; however in practice it is possible for a derived SLK to exactly match the derived SLK of another child or children. In this small percentage of cases, additional available data can be used to confirm the validity of a match. For more information on matching SLKs and how the ABS recommends they are flagged, see Chapter 1, Collection Specifications.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: String
Format: XXXXXDDMMYYYYN, for example BGRUK021120082
Maximum character length: 14

2.1.0 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid SLK.
2.	If SLK is not equal to format XXXXXDDMMYYYY.	Provide a valid SLK according to definition and counting rules

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Ensure that each associated data element is collected using the appropriate collection instructions. Refer to the individual data element summaries for further information:
  - Date of birth
  - Letters of family name
  - Letters of given name
  - Sex

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

Back to URL data elements

STATISTICAL LINKAGE KEY – SEQUENTIAL MATCH CODE

ABS short name: PSN_SLK_MATCH
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column C
METeOR Technical name: N/A
METeOR identifier: N/A
METeOR link: N/A
METeOR definition: N/A
Note: This is an additional ABS data element, requested for the following purpose:

- To accurately connect episodes of preschool to a child record.

Scope

Inclusions: Children who have experienced episodes of preschool at multiple service providers, during the reference period.
Exclusions: Child records that have only one discrete episode record.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Statistical Linkage Key (SLK) – Sequential Match Code, identifies where two or more episode records relate to the SLK of one child. Within a jurisdictional dataset, the SLK sequential match code must increase by 1 for each child with episodes of preschool at multiple service providers, during the reference period.
Nominal definition: N/A.
Operational definition: N/A
Supporting data elements: The following data element is used to support the matching statistical linkage keys:

- *Statistical linkage key*

Conceptual issues:

- This data element facilitates correct handling of complex scenarios where duplicate SLKs are supplied in a given dataset. Duplicate SLKs identified as coincidental matches are processed as separate children. Duplicate SLKs flagged as non-coincidental matches (using this SLK-sequential match code) are processed as one child.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: NNNNN, for example 2
Maximum character length: 5

Classification values:

Blank	Non matching SLK
1 to 99,999	Matching SLK number (sequential number corresponding to the number of children with preschool episode records at multiple service providers)

2.1.1. Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If SLK Match number is not numeric or blank	Provide a valid SLK Match number.
2.	If SLK Match number is not sequential compared with the preceding matched SLK.	Provide SLK Match numbers that increment by units of 1.
3.	If character length is greater than 5.	Provide a valid SLK Match number.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

Refer to the table below for further detail regarding correct use of matching SLK codes.

Matching Statistical Linking Key, Scenarios and instructions

Matching scenario	Observation	Validity status	Jurisdiction action	Matching SLK code
1. Child record has no matching SLK anywhere else in the dataset.	All records that do not have a matching SLK.	Unique SLK.	No action	Blank: Non Matching SLK
2. Coincidental match of SLKs produced for 2 discrete children in the same dataset. Can be at the same or different service providers.	Confirm that matched SLKs represent different children. This may entail cross-checking other characteristics of the child such as address, indigenous status etc.	Matching SLK but valid multiple children, i.e. coincidental SLKs for separate children.	No action	Blank: Non Matching SLK
3. Non-coincidental match of SLKs, ie same child with preschool episodes at different service providers in the same dataset.	Confirm that matched SLKs represent the same child. This may entail cross-checking other characteristics of the child such as address, indigenous status etc.	Matching SLK for the same child, i.e. non-coincidental SLKs.	Set SLK sequential match code Note: Each child will have a unique SLK sequential match number to enable grouping of his/her episodes across multiple service providers within the dataset.	Set a sequential match code against all episodes for that child, to indicate that they are linked, i.e. Assign '1' – to all episodes of the first matched child. Assign '2' – to all episodes of the 2nd matched child. Assign '3' – to all episodes of the 3rd matched child. And so on. Operationally this will necessitate two or more occurrences of the same SLK Match code (one for each episode) within the dataset.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.
Back to URL data elements

DATE OF BIRTH

ABS short name: PSN_DOB
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column D
METeOR Technical name: Person - date of birth, DDMMYYYY
METeOR identifier: 287007
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/287007>
METeOR definition: The date of birth of the person.

Scope

Inclusions: The day, month and year of birth of the child, concatenated in that order to form the child's date of birth, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions: Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Date of birth.
Nominal definition: The day, month and year on which the child was born.
Operational definition: The day, month and year on which the child was born, as identified by the child's parent or guardian and as recorded on the child's enrolment record.
Supporting data elements: *Date of birth* is used in conjunction with the following data elements to develop the *Statistical linkage key*:

- *Letters of family name*
- *Letters of given name*
- *Sex*

Conceptual issues:

- Operationally, the child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the child's date of birth on the child's enrolment form.
- *Date of birth* can be used to derive the child's age as at 1 July of the collection year.
- Where the day or month of birth of the child is unknown, the section of the date of birth that the jurisdiction sets it to '00' will be imputed to '01' by the ABS to calculate an age. In the situation that an incomplete date of birth is provided to the ABS, the SLK cannot be used for linking purposes.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Date
Data type: Date/time
Format: DDMMYYYY, for example: 21012009
Maximum character length: 8
Supplementary values:

00   Unknown response

2.1.2 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid date of birth, otherwise default to '00' for unknown component of DOB.
2.	If field is not in the format DDMMYYYY.	Provide a valid date of birth.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 8.	Provide a valid date of birth.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- In instances where the jurisdiction can provide the month and year of birth but cannot provide the day of birth for the child, the day of birth should be set to '00' (i.e. 00122009).
- In instances where only year of birth is available, and day and month of birth is unavailable, only year should be supplied, with both day and month components set to '00' (i.e. 00002009).
- The jurisdiction should clearly indicate in supporting documentation, any estimated or imputed dates of birth.

Classification Definitions

CODE 00 - Unknown

For use as a response in instances where the date of birth of the child is unknown. Where the date of birth is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

Back to URL data elements

INDIGENOUS STATUS

ABS short name: PSN_INDGSTATUS
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column E
METeOR Technical name: Person - Indigenous status, code N
METeOR identifier: 291036
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/291036>
METeOR definition: Whether a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, as represented by a code. This is in accord with the first two of three components of the Commonwealth definition.

Scope

Inclusions: The Indigenous status of the child, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions: Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Indigenous status.
Nominal definition: According to the 'The Commonwealth Definition', 'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives'.
There are three components to the Commonwealth definition:
- descent
- self-identification
- community acceptance.

'The Commonwealth Definition' was given in a High Court judgement in the case of *Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 46 ALR 625.
Operational definition: The Indigenous status of the child as identified by the child's parent or guardian and recorded on the child's enrolment record.
Conceptual issues:
- Nominal and operational definitions of Indigenous status differ because it is infeasible for children in-scope of this collection to self-report. Operationally therefore, the child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the child's Indigenous status on the child's behalf.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N, for example: 3
Maximum character length: 1

Classification values:

1	Aboriginal, but not Torres Strait Islander origin
2	Torres Strait Islander, but not Aboriginal origin
3	Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
4	Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin

Supplementary values:

8	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander – not further defined
9	Not stated/inadequately described

2.1.3 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid Indigenous code otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If Indigenous code is not 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 or 9.	Provide a valid Indigenous code.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid Indigenous code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Enter data as recorded on the child's enrolment record, as identified by the child's parent or guardian.
- Supplementary value code 8: 'Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, not further defined' should only to be used where NMDS categorisations for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons cannot be supplied. If Indigenous status can only be collected at this level for the 2013 collection, the ABS recommends that changes to enrolment forms be made for future cycles to allow collection of this information in accordance with the agreed standards set out in the NMDS.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Aboriginal, but not Torres Strait Islander origin

This code should be used when the child's parent or guardian identifies the child as being of Aboriginal, but not Torres Strait Islander origin.

CODE 2 - Torres Strait Islander, but not Aboriginal origin

This code should be used when the child's parent or guardian identifies the child as being of Torres Strait Islander, but not Aboriginal origin.

CODE 3 - Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin

This code should be used when the child's parent or guardian identifies the child as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

CODE 4 - Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin

This code should be used when the child's parent or guardian identifies the child as being of neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin.

CODE 8 - *Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander – not further defined*

This code should only be used in instances where an Indigenous child cannot be further identified by their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use where the child's Indigenous Status is not stated or inadequately described.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Number of Indigenous children attending a preschool program* and *Number of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program*

Back to URL data elements

LETTERS OF FAMILY NAME

ABS short name: PSN_LTSFAMNAME
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column F
METeOR Technical name: Person - letters of family name, text XXX
METeOR identifier: 349481
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/349481>
METeOR definition: The combination of the 2nd, 3rd and 5th letters of a person's family name.

Scope

Inclusions: The second, third and fifth letters of the child's family name, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.

Exclusions:

- The first, fourth, sixth and any subsequent letters of the child's family name.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Family name.
Nominal definition: The child's legal family name, also referred to as 'last name' or 'surname'.
Operational definition: The child's legal family name, also referred to as 'last name' or 'surname', as identified by the child's parent or guardian and recorded on the child's enrolment record.
Supporting data elements: Letters of family name is used in conjunction with the following data elements to develop the *Statistical linkage key*:

- *Letters of given name*
- *Date of birth*
- *Sex*

Conceptual issues:

- Nominal and operational definitions of *Family name* differ as operationally, it is infeasible for children in-scope of this collection to self-report. Therefore, the child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the child's family name on the child's behalf.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: XXX, for example if the family name is Thompson, the reported string should be 'HOP'
Maximum character length: 3
Supplementary values:

 2   For insufficient character lengths in family name (i.e. a family name of less than five letters)
 999 Family name not stated/inadequately described

2.1.4 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide valid letters of family name, otherwise amend to code '999'.
2.	If character length is greater than 3.	Provide valid letters of family name.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Enter the second, third and fifth letters of the child's family name consecutively. For example, if the child's family name is Thompson, the reported value should be HOP. If the child's family name is Brown, the reported value should be RON.

- If the child's family name includes non-alphabetic characters such as hyphens (as in Lee-Archer), apostrophes (as in O'Mara), or blank spaces (as in De Vries), these should be ignored when counting the position of each character.

- Regardless of the length of a person's family name, the reported value should always contain three characters. If the legal family name is not long enough to supply the requested letters (i.e. a legal family name of less than five letters) then agencies should substitute the number '2' to reflect the missing letters.

- The placement of a number '2' should always correspond to the same space that the missing letter would have been positioned within the 3-digit field. A number (rather than a letter) is used for such a substitution in order to indicate clearly that an appropriate corresponding letter from the child's name is not available. For example: If a child's family name is Farr, the value reported would be AR2 because the 2 is substituting for a missing 5th letter of the family name. Similarly, if the person's family name was Hua, then the value reported would be UA2 because the 2 is substituting for the missing 5th letter of the family name.

- The placement of a number '2' should always correspond to the same space that the missing letter would have been positioned within the 3-digit field. A number (rather than a letter) is used for such a substitution in order to indicate clearly that an appropriate corresponding letter from the child's name is not available. For example: If a child's family name is Ly, the value reported would be Y22 because the 2 is substituting for the missing 3rd and 5th letter of the family name. Similarly, if the person's family name was Hu, then the value reported would be U22 because the 2 is substituting for the missing 3rd and 5th letter of the family name.

- If special characters of symbols form part of the name they should be included as English Alphabet letters. i.e. â, ë, ü should be listed as a, e, u. Mixed case should be used rather than upper case only.

- In some cultures, it is traditional to state the family name first. To overcome discrepancies in recording/reporting that may arise as a result of this practice, agencies should always ask the child's parent/guardian to specify their legal first name and their legal family name separately. These should then be recorded as first given name and family name, regardless of the order in which they are traditionally given.

- If the child's family name is missing altogether, record the number 999 for all three spaces associated with the family name (not the number 2).

- This data element should be reported for the child only, i.e. this information is not required for teachers.

Classification Definitions

CODE 2 - Missing letters

For use when the legal family name is not long enough to supply the requested letters (i.e. a legal family name of less than five letters).

CODE 999 - Family name not stated/inadequately described

For use where the child's family name is not stated or inadequately described. Where the family name is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

Back to URL data elements

LETTERS OF GIVEN NAME

ABS short name: PSN_LTSGIVNAME
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column G
METeOR Technical name: Person - letters of given name, text XX
METeOR identifier: 349483
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/349483>
METeOR definition: The combination of the 2nd and 3rd letters of a person's given name.

Scope

Inclusions: The second and third letters of the child's given name, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The first, fourth and any subsequent letters of the child's given name.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Given name.
Nominal definition: The child's legal given name, also referred to as 'first name'.
Operational definition: The child's legal given name, also referred to as 'first name', as identified by the child's parent or guardian and recorded on the child's enrolment record.
Supporting data elements: *Letters of given name* is used in conjunction with the following data elements to develop the *Statistical linkage key:*
- *Letters of family name*
- *Date of birth*
- *Sex*

Conceptual issues:
- Nominal and operational definitions of *Given name* differ, as operationally, it is infeasible for children in-scope of this collection to self-report. Therefore, the child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the child's given names on the child's behalf.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: XX
Maximum character length: 2
Supplementary values:

2   For insufficient character length in given name (i.e. a given name of less than three letters)
99   Given name not stated/inadequately described

2.1.5 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide valid letters of given name, otherwise amend to code '99'.
2.	If character length is greater than 2.	Provide valid letters of given name.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Enter the second and third letters of the child's given name or first name consecutively. For example, if the child's given name is Elizabeth, the reported value should be LI. If the child's given name is Robert the reported value should be OB. If the child's given name includes non-alphabetic characters such as hyphens (as in Jo-Anne) or apostrophes (as in D'Arcy), these non-alphabetic characters should be ignored when counting the position of each character.

- Regardless of the length of a person's given name, the reported value should always be two characters long. If the given name of the person is not long enough to supply the requested letters (i.e. a name of less than three letters) then agencies should substitute the number '2' to reflect the missing letters.

- The placement of a number '2' should always correspond to the same space that the missing letter would have within the 2-digit field. A number (rather than a letter) is used for such substitutions in order to clearly indicate that an appropriate corresponding letter from the person's name is not available. For example: If the person's legal name was Jo then the value reported would be O2 because the 2 is substituting for the missing 3rd letter of the given name.

- If special characters of symbols form part of the name they should be included as English Alphabet letters. i.e. â, ë, ü should be listed as a, e, u. Mixed case should be used rather than upper case only.

- In some cultures, it is traditional to state the family name first. To overcome discrepancies in recording/reporting that may arise as a result of this practice, agencies should always ask the person to specify their given name and their family name separately. These should then be recorded as first given name and family name as appropriate, regardless of the order in which they may be traditionally given.

- If the person's given name is missing altogether, record 99 for the two spaces associated with the given name (not the number 2).

- This data element should be reported for the child only, i.e. this information is not required for teachers.

Classification Definitions

CODE 2 - Missing letters

For use when the given name of the person is not long enough to supply the requested letters (i.e. a name of less than three letters).

CODE 99 - Given name not stated/inadequately described

For use where the child's given name is not stated or inadequately described. Where the given name is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

Back to URL data elements

SEX

ABS short name: PSN_SEX
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column H
METeOR Technical name: Person - sex, code N
METeOR identifier: 287316
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/287316>
METeOR definition: The biological distinction between male and female, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The sex of the child, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions: Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Sex.
Nominal definition: The sex of the child.
Operational definition: The sex of the child as identified by the child's parent or guardian and recorded on the child's enrolment record.
Supporting data elements: *Sex* is used in conjunction with the following data elements to develop the *Statistical linkage key:*
   ▪ *Letters of family name*
   ▪ *Letters of given name*
   ▪ *Date of birth*
Conceptual issues:
   ▪ Nominal and operational definitions of *Sex* differ, as operationally it is infeasible for children in-scope of this collection to self-report. Therefore, the child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the child's sex on the child's behalf.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N, for example: 2
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

   1   Male
   2   Female
   3   Intersex or indeterminate

Supplementary values:

   9   Not stated/inadequately described

2.1.6 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid sex code, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If field is not code 1, 2, 3 or 9	Provide a valid sex code, otherwise amend to code '9'.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid sex code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Record the sex of the child as reported by the child's parent or guardian on the child's enrolment record.
- This data element should be reported for the child only (i.e. this information is not required for teachers).

Classification Definitions

CODE 3 - Intersex or indeterminate

Refers to a person, who because of a genetic condition, was born with reproductive organs or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female or whose sex has not yet been determined for whatever reason. The definition for Intersex in the Guide for use is sourced from the ACT Legislation (Gay, Lesbian and Transgender) Amendment Act 2003. Code 3 Intersex or indeterminate - Is normally used for babies for whom sex has not been determined for whatever reason.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use where the item has not been collected, not available, unknown, not stated or inadequately described.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

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MAXIMUM PRESCHOOL PROGRAM HOURS AVAILABLE

ABS short name: PSN_HRSOFFPW
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column I
METeOR Technical name: Child - maximum preschool program hours available total hours N[N]
METeOR identifier: 436113
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/436113>
METeOR definition: The maximum number of hours of preschool program available to the child at this service, in total hours.

Scope

Inclusions: The maximum number of weekly preschool program hours made available to the child, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- Weekly hours available in non-preschool programs offered by the service provider.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Maximum weekly preschool program hours available.
Nominal definition: The maximum number of weekly hours of the preschool program that was made available to the child.
Operational definition: As for nominal definition. Where this data element is unable to be reported accurately at individual child level, the total hours enrolled in a preschool program for the child with the highest weekly hours (during the reference period) should be recorded for each preschool child at the service provider.
Supporting data elements: *Preschool program hours enrolled per week*
Conceptual issues:
- Identifying and recording the maximum weekly hours available for a child to attend a preschool program enables calculation of the proportion of all children who are enrolled in preschool programs that are available for 15 hours per week.
- Maximum preschool program hours available may be less than or equal to the opening hours of the service.
- Maximum preschool program hours available may be greater than or equal to a child's Preschool program hours enrolled.
- The maximum preschool program hours available to the child are the maximum hours for which the child could enrol in the reference period at that service.
- The operational definition differs from the nominal definition because maximum hours available to each child may not be recorded by service providers.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total
Data type: Number
Format: N[N], for example: 15
Maximum character length: 2
Unit of measure: Hour (h)

Supplementary values:

99   Not stated/inadequately described

2.1.7 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of preschool hours available per week, otherwise amend to code '99'.
2.	If character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid number of preschool hours available per week.
3.	If maximum preschool hours available is greater than 60.	Provide a valid number of preschool hours available per week, otherwise amend to code '99'.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Count the maximum hours available that the child is able to attend the preschool program at the service.
- Where this data element is not able to be reported accurately at an individual child level, for each preschool program, count the total hours enrolled for the child with the highest enrolment hours during the reference period, and record this total for all children enrolled in that preschool program.
- Non-instructional times such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks should be included if the child was under the supervision of the service provider organisation.
- Where the service provider offers other integrated child care services, the hours associated with these services should be excluded from this data element.
- Jurisdictions which adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative reference week.

Classification Definitions

CODE 99 - Not stated/Unknown

For use when the maximum hours available to the child is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the maximum hours available are unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Maximum preschool program hours available*

Back to URL data elements

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE INDICATOR

ABS short name: PSN_ATTENDIND
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column J
METeOR Technical name: Child - preschool program attendance indicator, yes/no, code N
METeOR identifier: 436120
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/436120>
METeOR definition: An indicator of whether the child attended a preschool program, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions: Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concepts: Preschool program attendance.
Nominal definition: A child who is enrolled in a preschool program and has attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements:
- *Preschool program enrolment indicator*
- *Preschool program hours attended per week*

Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Boolean
Format: N, for example: 1
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1   Yes
2   No

2.1.8 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid preschool program attendance indicator.
2.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid preschool program attendance indicator.
3.	If attendance indicator is not code 1 or 2.	Provide a valid preschool program attendance indicator.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- When the child's preschool program hours attended are greater than or equal to 1, ensure that this indicator is set to '1' - Yes
- When the child's preschool program hours attended are 0, ensure that this indicator is set to '2' - No.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Yes

Record if the child:
- has attended a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period.

CODE 2 - No

Record if the child:
- did not attend a preschool program in the reference period, OR
- was absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Number of children attending a preschool program*

Back to URL data elements

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM RECEIVED FROM QUALIFIED TEACHER INDICATOR

ABS short name: PSN_RECVDIND
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column K
METeOR Technical name: Child - preschool program received from a qualified teacher indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N
METeOR identifier: 506731
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506731>
METeOR definition: An indicator that the child has received a structured, play-based, educational preschool program delivered by a teacher with university qualifications in early childhood education, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: Children that attended a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period.
Exclusions:

- Attendance in non-preschool programs offered by the service provider.
- Children who were enrolled but did not attend (or receive) a preschool program in the reference period.
- Children who were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program received from a qualified teacher.
Nominal definition: Whether a child received a structured, play-based, educational preschool program for at least one hour in the reference period, which was delivered face to face by a teacher with university qualifications in early childhood education.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements:

- *Preschool program attendance indicator*
- *Field of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care*
- *Level of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care*
- *Hours worked in preschool program delivery*

Conceptual issues:

- *Teacher:* refers to the primary contact worker(s) delivering the preschool program who have a university qualification in early childhood education.
- *Delivery of a preschool program:* refers to face to face delivery of a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period by a teacher of a preschool program or distance education preschool program. Includes teachers who are usually present to deliver a face to face or distance education preschool program, but may have been absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave and are expected to return. Excludes relief teachers who are not present at the early childhood education and care service (i.e. not delivering a face to face preschool program) during the reference period.
- *University qualification in early childhood education:* refers to a university qualification (or equivalent) in Teaching (early childhood related) (or equivalent).

- *Equivalent:* is where certain employment and educational experience is deemed to be comparable to a certain level of qualification (i.e. a 'grandfathered' qualification). For example, an individual, or group of individuals, may have an early childhood diploma and 10 years of experience, but the government department or regulatory agency has recognised the individual's, or group of individuals', qualifications as equivalent to a four year early childhood education university degree.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N, for example: 1

Maximum character length: 1

Classification values:

1	Yes
2	No

Supplementary values:

7	Not applicable
8	Unknown
9	Not stated/inadequately described

2.1.9 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid indicator code, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid indicator code.
3.	If indicator is not code 1, 2, 7, 8 or 9.	Provide a valid indicator code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- A child is counted as having received a preschool program from a qualified teacher if the teacher had face to face contact with the child for at least one hour during the reference period and the teacher had a university qualification in early childhood education and care.
- For example, in a long day care setting, if a care worker delivers a 'preschool program' to the child, but the care worker does not hold a university qualification in early childhood education and care, this would result in a 'No' response. Alternatively, a 'Yes' response would be supplied if a teacher with a university qualification in early childhood education and care was delivering the preschool program to the child.
- Face to face delivery includes preschool programs delivered by distance education services to children in remote locations (e.g. 'School of the air' programs delivered using two way video and/or audio links), by a teacher with a qualification in early childhood education and care.
- An affirmative response should not be supplied for children who were enrolled but did not attend (or receive) a preschool program during the reference period.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Yes

Record if the child has received a preschool program during the reference period that was being delivered by a teacher with a university qualification in early childhood education.

CODE 2 - No

Record if the child has received a preschool program during the reference period that was not being delivered by a teacher with a university qualification in early childhood education.

CODE 7 - Not applicable

Record only if the child has not received a preschool program from a qualified teacher because the service provider received an approved exemption, for example, the usual qualified teacher was unavailable and no suitably qualified staff could be found to deliver the program in the reference period.

CODE 8 - Unknown

For use when it is unknown if the child received a preschool program during the reference period that was being delivered by a teacher with a university qualification in early childhood education. Where this data element is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when it is not stated if the child has received a preschool program during the reference period that was being delivered by a teacher with university qualifications in early childhood education. Where this data element is not stated or inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

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PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ENROLMENT INDICATOR

ABS short name: PSN_ENROLIND
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column L
METeOR Technical name: Child - preschool program enrolment indicator, yes/no code N
METeOR identifier: 506727
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506727>
METeOR definition: An indicator of whether the child was enrolled in a preschool program, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions: Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program enrolment.
Nominal definition: A child that has been offered a place in a preschool program and is actively attending.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements:

- *Preschool program hours attended per week*
- *Preschool program hours enrolled per week*

Conceptual issues:

- A child is considered to be actively attending if they have been enrolled in a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period or were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave, but were expected to return.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Boolean
Format: N, for example: 1
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1   Yes
2   No

2.1.10 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid preschool program enrolment indicator.
2.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid preschool program enrolment indicator.
3.	If indicator is not code 1 or 2.	Provide a valid preschool program enrolment indicator.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Yes

Record if the child has been offered a place and has formally enrolled or registered in a preschool program, and:
- has attended a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period, OR
- was absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave but was expected to return.

CODE 2 - No

Record if the child:
- has been offered a place but has not formally enrolled or registered in a preschool program OR
- was not enrolled (i.e. has not been offered a place and formally enrolled or registered) in a preschool program OR
- was absent during the reference period and not expected to return to the preschool program OR
- has left the service (e.g. has ceased education or changed services), or has been absent without explanation for four continuous weeks (excluding school vacations) prior to the reference period.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Number of preschool program enrolments*

Back to URL data elements

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM FEES CHARGED PER WEEK

ABS short name: PSN_FEESCENSUSWK
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column M
METeOR Technical name: Child - preschool program fees charged per week, total Australian currency N[N(8)]
METeOR identifier: 436106
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/436106>
METeOR definition: The actual tuition fees charged per week for the child to attend the preschool program at this service, measured in Australian dollars.

Scope

Inclusions: Fees charged, after deducting subsidies and discounts, based on the number of hours the child is enrolled to receive a preschool program in the reference week, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions:

- Fees charged for the child to attend non-preschool programs with the service provider, such as out of school hours care.
- Voluntary contributions, donations or additional charges (e.g. levies or meals) for service components.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Fees charged.
Nominal definition: The tuition fees charged for the child's enrolment in a preschool program.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: Fees reported should be based on the number of hours the child is enrolled to receive the preschool program. Therefore the following is a supporting data element:

- *Preschool program hours enrolled per week*

Conceptual issues:

- Fees charged will provide information to identify and record the affordability of preschool programs by identifying out of pocket costs to the parent or guardian towards the payment of tuition fees for the child to attend the preschool program.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total
Data type: Currency
Format: N[NNNNNN].NN, for example: 12.55
Maximum character length: 9
Unit of measure: Australian currency (AU$)
Supplementary values:

0.00	No fees charged
9999	Not stated/inadequately described

2.1.11 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid preschool fee, otherwise amend to '0.00' for nil fee charged or code '9999' for unknown.
2.	If character length is greater than 9.	Provide a valid preschool fee.
3.	If field does not include a cent value.	Provide a value to 2 decimal places.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Preschool fees reported should be based on the number of hours the child is enrolled.
- If fees are charged on a per day, per term or per year basis, the pro-rata equivalent weekly fee should be derived by taking into account the days per week, weeks per term and/or weeks per year of the preschool program the child is enrolled to receive.
- If no fees are payable for a child to attend the preschool program record 0.00.
- If subsidies are included in the calculation of the fees charged to the child, report the fees charged after deducting subsidies.
- If the child is eligible for additional fee discount, report the fees after the additional discount.
- Only report fees charged for the child to attend the preschool program. Fees charged for the child to attend other programs with the service provider, such as out of school hours care, should be excluded.
- Some preschool programs, particularly those offered at government preschools, don't charge tuition fees but may encourage parents to make a voluntary contribution to assist with the cost of running the preschool program. Voluntary contributions should be excluded, as should donations or additional charges for service components such as nappy supplies, meals or transportation.
- Jurisdictions which use a two week reference period are required to derive fees to a representative week.

Classification Definitions

CODE 0.00 - No fees charged

For use when there are no fees charged for the child's attendance at the preschool program.

CODE 9999 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the tuition fees are unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the tuition fees are not stated or inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Weekly tuition fee schedule amount*
Back to URL data elements

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM HOURS ATTENDED PER WEEK

ABS short name: PSN_HRSATTPW
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column N
METeOR Technical name: Child - preschool program hours attended (per week), total hours N[N]
METeOR identifier: 436128
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/436128>
METeOR definition: The total number of hours of a preschool program that a child has attended per week.

Scope

Inclusions: Total hours of attendance in a preschool program in the reference period, for children who have attended for at least one hour during the reference period.
- Non-instructional times such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks should be included if the child was under the supervision of the service provider organisation.

Exclusions:
- Hours that the child has attended in non-preschool programs offered by the service provider.
- Children who were enrolled but did not attend a preschool program in the reference period.
- Children who were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program hours attended.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition:
- *For LDCs:* consistent with METeOR definition.
- *For stand-alone or school-based preschools:* the total number of hours of a preschool program that a child has attended derived from preschool program sessions attended per week.

Supporting data elements:
- *Preschool program attendance indicator*

Conceptual issues:
- A child is regarded as attending a preschool program if they were present for at least one hour during the reference period.
- If the child attends more than one preschool program in a given day, non-instructional or waiting times between programs should be excluded in the count of hours.
- The hours attended may be less than or equal to the maximum number of hours available for children to attend the preschool program and/or the hours the child is enrolled, at the service in the reference period.
- Preschool program hours attended may be less than or equal to the data elements Maximum preschool program hours available and Preschool program hours enrolled per week.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total

Data type: Number

Format: N[N], for example: 15

Maximum character length: 2

Unit of measure: Hour (h)

Supplementary values:

    99   Not stated/inadequately described

2.1.12 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of attending hours; otherwise amend to '0' for nil hours or code '99' for unknown.
2.	If character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid number of attending hours.
3.	If total number of hours attended is greater than the total number of hours enrolled in a preschool program.	Provide a valid number of enrolled and attending hours and verify that attendance hours are less than or equal to enrolment hours.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Record the total number of whole hours that the child is in attendance at the preschool program, i.e. minutes should be rounded to the nearest whole hour.
- Attendance hours for stand-alone preschools or preschools attached to a school should be derived by recording the number of whole sessions attended by the child and deriving hours from the usual length of each session. When a child attends part of a session, this should be recorded and counted as a half session if possible. Alternatively, if recording part session attendances are not possible, a part session attendance should be recorded as an absence for the whole session, with zero attendance hours recorded for this session.
- Attendance hours for a preschool program delivered in a Long Day Care (LDC) should be calculated by recording the child's arrival and departure times from the preschool program. Hours should then be derived from these times.
- Include hours attended in non-instructional activities such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks if the child remained under the supervision of the service provider for these activities.
- If the child attends more than one preschool program in a given day, non-instructional or waiting times between programs should be excluded in the count of hours.
- Where the service provider offers other integrated child care services, the hours associated with these services should be excluded from this data element.
- Jurisdictions which adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative reference week.
- 0 hours should be recorded for children who were enrolled but did not attend a preschool program during the reference period.

Classification Definitions

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the number of hours a child is attending the preschool program is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the number of hours the child is attending is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Total hours of preschool program attended*

Back to URL data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM HOURS ENROLLED PER WEEK

ABS short name: PSN_HRSENRPW
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column O
METeOR Technical name: Child - preschool program hours enrolled (per week), total hours N[N]
METeOR identifier: 506729
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506729>
METeOR definition: The total number of hours of a preschool program that a child is enrolled to receive per week.

Scope

Inclusions: Total hours that the child is enrolled in a preschool program in the reference period, for:
- Children enrolled in a preschool program, AND
- Children that have attended for at least one hour during the reference period, OR
- Children who were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave, but are expected to return.
- Non-instructional times such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks if the child is under direct supervision of the service provider

Exclusions:
- Hours that the child is enrolled in non-preschool programs offered by the service provider.
- Children who were absent during the reference period and were not expected to return.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.
- Children who have only completed enrolment procedures at the service.
- Children who have left the service (e.g. have ceased education or changed services), or have been absent without explanation for four continuous weeks (excluding school vacations) prior to the reference period.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program hours enrolled.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Supporting data elements: *Preschool program enrolment indicator*
Conceptual issues:
- The child must have been offered a place in a preschool program and be actively attending to be counted as enrolled.
- A child is considered to be actively attending if they attended a preschool program for at least one hour in the reference period or was absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave but was expected to return.
- Preschool program hours enrolled per week may be less than or equal to the data element Maximum preschool program hours available, but may be greater than or equal to the data element Preschool program hours attended.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total
Data type: Number
Format: N[N], for example: 15

Maximum character length: 2

Unit of measure: Hour (h)

Supplementary values:

  99   Not stated/inadequately described

2.1.13 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide valid number of enrolled hours, otherwise amend to '0' for nil hours or code '99' for unknown.
2.	If character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid number of enrolled hours.
3.	If total number of hours enrolled is less than the total number of hours attended in a preschool program.	Provide a valid number of enrolled and attending hours and verify that enrolment hours are equal to or greater than attendance hours.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Record the total number of whole hours that the child is enrolled in the preschool program, i.e. minutes should be rounded to the nearest whole hour.
- Enrolment hours can be derived by recording the number of sessions the child is enrolled and deriving total hours from the usual length of each session.
- Include hours enrolled in non-instructional activities such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks if the child is under the supervision of the service provider during these activities.
- Where the facility provides other integrated child care services, the hours the child is enrolled with these services should be excluded.
- Jurisdictions which adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative reference week.

Classification Definitions

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the number of hours a child is enrolled to attend the preschool program is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the number of hours a child is enrolled is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Number of preschool program hours enrolled*

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PRESCHOOL PROGRAM REPEATER INDICATOR

ABS short name: PSN_PSREPEATIND
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column P
METeOR Technical name: Child - preschool program repeater indicator, yes/no/unknown/not stated/inadequately described code N
METeOR identifier: 436651
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/436651>
METeOR definition: An indicator of whether the child was enrolled in their second or third year of a preschool program, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions: Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program repeater.
Nominal definition: A child who is enrolled in their second (or third) year of a preschool program that is intended for children in the year before they commence full-time schooling.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements:

- *Preschool program enrolment indicator*
- *Preschool program attendance indicator*

Conceptual issues:

- To be considered as repeating, the child must be enrolled in a preschool program intended for children in the year before they commence full-time schooling, for their second or third year.
- A child is considered to be enrolled if they have attended a preschool program for at least one hour in the reference period or were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave but were expected to return.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	Yes
2	No
3	Unknown

Supplementary values:

| 9 | Not stated/inadequately described |

2.1.14 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid repeater indicator code, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid repeater indicator code.
3.	If indicator is not code 1, 2, 3 or 9.	Provide a valid repeater indicator code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Repeat enrolments are to be identified at a jurisdictional level. This will enable the identification of second or third year enrolments across service providers.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Yes

Record if the child is enrolled in a preschool program for their second or subsequent year (i.e. the child is repeating the preschool program intended for children in the year before they commence full-time schooling).

CODE 2 - No

Record if the child was not enrolled in a preschool program for their second or subsequent year (i.e. this is the first year the child has been enrolled in a preschool program intended for children in the year before they commence full-time schooling).

CODE 3 - Unknown

Record if it cannot be determined whether the child is enrolled in their second or third year of a preschool program intended for children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. Where the response is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when it is not stated whether the child is repeating a preschool program during the reference period. Where the response is not stated or is inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

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CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

ADDRESS LINE

ABS short name: PSN_ADDRESL
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column Q
METeOR Technical name: N/A
METeOR identifier: N/A
METeOR definition: N/A
Note: This is an additional data element, requested at child level for the following purposes:

- Geo-coding to ASGC 2006 Collection District (CD), ASGS 2011 Statistical area level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) if data providers are unable to undertake coding.
- Validating jurisdictional geo-coding.
- Validating matched SLKs.
- Validating other address components.

Scope

Inclusions: For all children enrolled in a preschool program include:

- The address line of the child's parent or guardian, with whom the child spends the majority of their time, which may include:
  - apartment/flat/unit number (if any)
  - house/property number
  - street name.

Exclusions:

- The post office box address of the child's parent or guardian.
- The address line of any other parent or guardian of the child that is not the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Address line.
Nominal definition: The complete street address component of a child's address that identifies the child's place of usual residence.
Operational definition: The street address component of a child's parent or guardian's address, that identifies where the child's parent or guardian lives, reported for the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Address line* to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) for the data elements *Area of usual residence - ASGC 2006 (Collection District), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)* and *Area of usual residence (Mesh Block) ASGS 2011.*

- *Suburb/ town/ locality name* (Child)
- *Australian postcode* (Child)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Child)

Address line can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 codes or other supplied address data elements.

Conceptual issues:

- The *Address line* for the child should be reported using the concept of 'usual residence', which is nominally defined as 'the place where the person has or intends to live for 6 months or more'.
- Operationally, the address details of the child's parent or guardian are recorded as it is assumed that the child lives with the parent or guardian. It is not operationally possible to confirm whether the address provided on the service provider records is the place that the parent or guardian has or intends to live for 6 months or more, in accordance with the nominal definition of 'usual residence'.
- Operationally, the *Address line* should reflect that of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: [x(180)] 0 -180 characters, for example: 10 High Street.
Maximum character length: 180
Supplementary values:

UNKNOWN	Not stated/inadequately described
CONCEALED	Concealed Record

2.1.15 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid address line, otherwise amend to 'UNKNOWN'.
2.	If address line is required to be concealed	Amend to 'CONCEALED' if required
3.	If field is a post office box address.	Provide a valid geographic address.

Guide for Use

If a jurisdiction is able to accurately code complete address information for CD, SA1 and MB, there is no requirement to provide this data element. However, if data providers do not provide Address line in addition to CD, SA1 and MB codes, detailed information on jurisdictional geo-coding processes and validations should be provided to the ABS.

Counting rules:

- Collect the place of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian, obtained from the child's enrolment record.
- Record the address line of the place of usual residence of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time. If the child spends 50% with one parent/guardian and 50% with the other, record the first address recorded.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Queanbeyan who attends a preschool in Canberra would be recorded by the ACT jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.
- For children boarding at a boarding school, report the address of the child's parent or guardian, not the boarding school.

Classification Definitions

UNKNOWN - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the address of the child's parent or guardian is unknown, not stated, or inadequately described. Where the address is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up process undertaken.

CONCEALED - Concealed Record

For use when the address of the child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

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SUBURB/TOWN/LOCALITY NAME

ABS short name: PSN_ADDRESS
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column R
METeOR Technical name: Address – suburb/town/locality name, text X[46]
METeOR identifier: 429889
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/429889>
METeOR definition: The name of the locality/suburb of the address, as represented by text.

Scope

Inclusions: For all children enrolled in a preschool program include:
- The suburb/town/locality name of the child's parent or guardian, with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

Exclusions:
- The suburb/town/locality name for a post office box of the child's parent or guardian.
- The suburb/town/locality name of any other parent or guardian of the child that is not the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Suburb/town/locality name.
Nominal definition: The suburb, town or locality name component of a child's address that identifies the child's place of usual residence.
Operational definition: The suburb, town or locality name component of a child's parent or guardian's address, that identifies where the child's parent or guardian lives, reported for the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time. The child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the suburb, town or locality name on the child's behalf.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Suburb/town/locality name* to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) for the data elements *Area of usual residence - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)*, *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Area of usual residence (Mesh Block) ASGS 2011.*
- *Address line* (Child)
- *Australian postcode* (Child)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Child)

Suburb/town/locality name can also be used to validate CD codes and SA1 codes or other supplied address data elements.
Conceptual issues:
- The *Suburb/town/locality name* for the child should be reported using the concept of 'usual residence', which is nominally defined as 'the place where the person has or intends to live for 6 months or more'.
- Operationally, the address details of the child's parent or guardian are recorded as it is assumed that the child lives with the parent or guardian. It is not operationally possible to confirm whether or not the address provided on the service provider records is the place that the parent or guardian has or intends to live for 6 months or more, in accordance with the nominal definition of 'usual residence'.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: X(46), for example, Gawler
Maximum character length: 46
Supplementary values:

UNKNOWN	Not stated/inadequately described
CONCEALED	Concealed Record

2.1.16 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid Suburb/town/locality name, otherwise amend to appropriate supplementary value.
2.	If suburb/town/locality name is required to be concealed	Amend to 'CONCEALED' if required.

Guide of Use

If a jurisdiction is able to accurately code complete address information for CD, SA1 and MB, there is no requirement to provide this data element. However, if data providers do not provide Address line in addition to CD, SA1 and MB codes, detailed information on jurisdictional geo-coding processes and validations should be provided to the ABS.

Counting rules:

- The *Suburb/town/locality name* should reflect the place of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
- *Suburb/town/locality name* should be obtained from the child's enrolment record.
- If the child spends 50% with one parent/guardian and 50% with the other, record the first suburb/town/locality name recorded.
- The locality name may be a town, city, suburb or commonly used location name such as a large agricultural property or Aboriginal community.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Queanbeyan who attends a preschool in Canberra would be recorded by the ACT jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.
- For children boarding at a boarding school, report the suburb/town/locality name of the child's parent or guardian, not the boarding school.

Classification Definitions

UNKNOWN – Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the address of the child's parent or guardian is unknown, not stated, or inadequately described. Where the address is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up process undertaken.

CONCEALED – Concealed Record

For use when the address of the child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

AUSTRALIAN POSTCODE

ABS short name: PSN_POSTCODE
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column S
METeOR Technical name: Address - Australian Postcode, code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}
METeOR identifier: 429894
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/429894>
METeOR definition: The numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area, aligned with locality, suburb or place for the address of a person.

Scope

Inclusions: For all children enrolled in a preschool program include:
- The postcode of the child's parent or guardian, with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

Exclusions:
- The postcode associated with a post office box address.
- The postcode of a parent or guardian of the child that is not the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Postcode.
Nominal definition: The postcode component of a child's address that identifies the child's place of usual residence.
Operational definition: The postcode component of a child's parent or guardian's address, that identifies where the child's parent or guardian lives, reported for the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Australian Postcode* to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD) Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) for the data elements *Area of usual residence - ASGC 2006 (Collection District), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)* and *Area of usual residence (Mesh Block) ASGS 2011*. This data element can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 and MB codes or other supplied address data elements.
- *Suburb/ town/ locality name* (Child)
- *Address line* (Child)
- *Australian state/ territory identifier* (Child)

Australian postcode can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 and MB codes or other supplied address data elements.

Conceptual issues:
- The *Postcode* for the child should be reported using the concept of 'usual residence', which is nominally defined as 'the place where the person has or intends to live for 6 months or more'.
- Operationally, the address details of the child's parent or guardian are recorded as it is assumed that the child lives with the parent or guardian. It is not operationally possible to confirm whether or not the address provided on the service provider records is the place that the parent or guardian has or intends to live for 6 months or more, in accordance with the nominal definition of 'usual residence'.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification scheme: Postcode datafile

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: {NNNN}, for example: 5118

Maximum character length: 4

Supplementary values:

> 0   Concealed Record

2.1.17 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid Australian postcode
2.	If postcode is required to be concealed	Amend to '0' = Concealed if required
3.	If field contains text or character length greater than or less than 4 numbers.	Provide a valid Australian postcode. Ensure that NT postcodes are prefixed with '0'.

Guide for Use

If a jurisdiction is able to accurately code complete address information for CD, SA1 and MB, there is no requirement to provide this data element. However, if data providers do not provide Postcode in addition to CD, SA1 and MB codes, detailed information on jurisdictional geo-coding processes and validations should be provided to the ABS.

Counting rules:

- *Postcode* should reflect the place of usual residence of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time, as specified on the child's enrolment form.
- If the child spends 50% with one parent/guardian and 50% with the other, record the first postcode recorded.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Queanbeyan who attends a preschool in Canberra would be recorded by the ACT jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.
- For children boarding at a boarding school, report the postcode of the child's parent or guardian, not the boarding school.

Classification Definitions

CODE 0 – Concealed Record

For use when the address of the child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

The ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for blank responses and document any follow-up processes undertaken. Postcode is a key determinant used within the ABS geocoding process and if not supplied, can have adverse impacts on geography data quality.

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

Back to URL data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

AUSTRALIAN STATE/TERRITORY IDENTIFIER

ABS short name: PSN_STATE
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column T
METeOR Technical name: Person - Australian state/territory identifier, code N
METeOR identifier: 286919
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/286919>
METeOR definition: The Australian state or territory where a person can be located, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: For all children enrolled in a preschool program include:

- The Australian state or territory, including Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory, of the child's parent or guardian, with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

Exclusions:

- The Australian state or territory of any other parent or guardian of the child that is not the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Australian state/territory.
Nominal definition: The state or territory component of a child's address that identifies the child's place of usual residence.
Operational definition: The state or territory component of a child's parent or guardian's address, that identifies where the child's parent or guardian lives, reported for the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Australian state/territory identifier* to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) for the data elements *Area of usual residence - ASGC 2006 (Collection District), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)* and *Area of usual residence (Mesh Block) ASGS 2011.*

- *Address line* (Child)
- *Suburb/ town/ locality name* (Child)
- *Australian postcode* (Child)

Australian state/territory identifier can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 codes or other supplied address data elements.
Conceptual issues:

- The *Australian state/territory identifier* for the child should be reported using the concept of 'usual residence', which is nominally defined as 'the place where the person has or intends to live for 6 months or more'.
- Operationally, the address details of the child's parent or guardian are recorded as it is assumed that the child lives with the parent or guardian. It is not operationally possible to confirm whether or not the address provided on the service provider records is the place that the parent or guardian has or intends to live for 6 months or more, in accordance with the nominal definition of 'usual residence'.
- Operationally, the *Australian state/territory identifier* should reflect that of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

- The state/territory is the largest spatial unit in the Australian Statistical Geographical Standard (ASGS 2011). In aggregate, states and territories cover Australia without gaps or overlaps.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N, for example: 2
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	New South Wales
2	Victoria
3	Queensland
4	South Australia
5	Western Australia
6	Tasmania
7	Northern Territory
8	Australian Capital Territory
9	Other territories (Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory)

Supplementary values:

| 0 | Concealed Record |

2.1.18 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid state/territory identifier.
2.	If state/territory identifier is required to be concealed	Amend to code '0' = concealed if required
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid state/territory identifier.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Collect the place of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian, obtained from the child's enrolment record.
- Record the Australian state or territory of the place of usual residence of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time. If the child spends 50% with one parent/guardian and 50% with the other, record the first Australian state or territory recorded.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Queanbeyan who attends a preschool in Canberra would be recorded by the ACT jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.
- For children boarding at a boarding school, report the Australian state or territory of the child's parent or guardian, not the boarding school.

Classification Definitions

CODE 0 – Concealed Record

For use when the address of the child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

[Back to URL data elements](#)

AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE - ASGC 2006 (COLLECTION DISTRICT)

ABS short name: PSN_CD
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column U
METeOR Technical name: Person - area of usual residence, geographical location CD code, (ASGC 2006) NNNNNNN
METeOR identifier: 455512
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/455512>
METeOR definition: The geographical location of the usual residence of the person, using a seven digit numerical code which indicates the Collection District (CD) within the state or territory of Australia.

Scope

Inclusions: For all children enrolled in a preschool program include:
- The area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian, with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

Exclusions:
- The CD of a post office box address.
- The CD area of usual residence for any other parent or guardian of the child that is not the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Area of usual residence - ASGC 2006 (Collection District).
Nominal definition: Area of usual residence is the place where the child has lived or intends to live for 6 months or more from the reference date of the data collection, as represented by a geographical area code (Collection District).
Operational definition: Area of usual residence is the place where the child's parent or guardian lives, as represented by a geographical area code (Collection District). The address should be reported for the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used to ascertain the child's area of usual residence and to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD) for this data element:
- *Address line* (Child)
- *Suburb/ town/ locality name* (Child)
- *Australian postcode* (Child)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Child)

Conceptual issues:
- By recording the geographic location of the child's 'area of usual residence', this information can be used to determine the socio-economic status of the area in which the child lives. This information assists in the derivation of disadvantage status and the disaggregation of Indigenous children by geographic location. *Area of usual residence - ASGC 2006* also enables disaggregation of data by Remoteness Area.
- *Area of usual residence - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)* is derived from the data elements outlined above. Jurisdictions wishing to undertake their own coding should contact the ABS for further information about the correct use of geography correspondences.

- Operationally, the area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian should be supplied as it is assumed that the child lives with the parent or guardian. It is not operationally possible to confirm whether or not the address provided on the service provider records is the place that the parent or guardian has or intends to live for 6 months or more, in accordance with the nominal definition of 'usual residence'. Operationally, the *Area of usual residence - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)* should reflect that of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC):
- The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) was replaced with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) in 2011. For the 2013 Collection, the ABS again requests that ASGC (CD) be supplied. This is due to the scheduled availability of re-based population estimates by single year of age from the 2011 Census. In particular, Indigenous Estimated Resident Population (ERP) by single year of age will not be available until mid-2014. Consequently, the 2013 Indigenous single year of age ERP will be produced from the 2006 ASGC (CD) projections to enable comparable performance indicator reporting on universal access for Indigenous children.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2006
Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: NNNNNNN, for example: 4052030
Maximum character length: 7
Supplementary values:

1999899	New South Wales: undefined CD
2999899	Victoria: undefined CD
3999899	Queensland: undefined CD
4999899	South Australia: undefined CD
5999899	Western Australia: undefined CD
6999899	Tasmania: undefined CD
7999899	Northern Territory: undefined CD
8999899	Australian Capital Territory: undefined CD
9999899	Other Territories: undefined CD

2.1.19 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid CD code, otherwise default to state/territory specific CD undefined code.
2.	If field contains text or if character length is greater than 7.	Provide a valid CD code, otherwise default to state/territory specific CD undefined code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Code the area of usual residence to CD using the child's parent or guardian's address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state/territory, as obtained from the child's enrolment record.
- The place of usual residence of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time should be used for coding to CD. If the child spends 50% with one parent/guardian and 50% with the other, use the first residential address recorded.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Queanbeyan who attends a preschool in Canberra would be recorded by the ACT jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.
- For children boarding at a boarding school, report the CD code for the area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian, not the boarding school.

Classification Definitions

Undefined CD codes

For use when the address of the child's parent or guardian is not known or incomplete, the child's address is required to be concealed or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to CD. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Throughout the NMDS, the classification scheme for ASGC is referred to as 'ASGC 2011'. This should be referred to as 'ASGC 2006'.

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

Back to URL data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

STATISTICAL AREA LEVEL 1 (SA1)

ABS short name: PSN_SA1
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column V
METeOR Technical name: Address – statistical area level 1 (SA1) code (ASGS 2011 N(11)
METeOR identifier: 457287
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/457287>
METeOR definition: A designated region representing the smallest unit for the release of Census data used for describing a location, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: For all children enrolled in a preschool program:
- The area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian, with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

Exclusions:
- The Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) of a post office box address.
- The SA1 area of usual residence for any other parent or guardian of the child that is not the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011.
Nominal definition: Area of usual residence is the place where the child has lived or intends to live for 6 months or more from the reference date of the data collection, as represented by a geographical area code (SA1).
Operational definition: Area of usual residence is the place where the child's parent or guardian lives, as represented by a geographical area code (SA1). The address should be reported for the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time. The child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the address on the child's behalf and the service provider should record this on the child's enrolment record.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used to ascertain the child's area of usual residence and to geo-code an address to SA1 for this data element:
- *Address line* (Child)
- *Suburb/ town/ locality name* (Child)
- *Australian postcode* (Child)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Child)

Conceptual issues:
- By recording the geographic location of the child's 'area of usual residence', this information can be used to determine the socio-economic status of the area in which the child's parent or guardian lives. This information assists in the derivation of disadvantage status and the disaggregation of Indigenous children by geographic location.
- *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* also enables disaggregation of data by Remoteness Area.
- *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* is derived from the data elements outlined above. Jurisdictions wishing to undertake their own coding should contact the ABS for further information about the correct use of geography correspondences.

- Operationally, the area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian is recorded as it is assumed that the child lives with the parent. It is not operationally possible to confirm whether or not the address provided on the service provider records is the place that the parent or guardian has or intends to live for 6 months or more, in accordance with the nominal definition of 'usual residence'. Operationally, the *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) - ASGS 2011* should reflect that of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

- The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) has replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). For further information to assist you to move from the ASGC to the ASGS please refer to the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>

Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)

- The SA1s have been designed as the smallest unit for the release of Census data. SA1s are built from whole Mesh Blocks. Whole SA1s aggregate directly to SA2s in the Main Structure, as well as all of the Non-ABS Structures except Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Tourism Regions. SA1s do not cross state or territory borders. There are approximately 55,000 SA1s. In aggregate, they cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2011
Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N(11), for example: 40520301234
Maximum character length: 11
Supplementary values:

19999998999	New South Wales: unknown SA1
29999998999	Victoria: unknown SA1
39999998999	Queensland: unknown SA1
49999998999	South Australia: unknown SA1
59999998999	Western Australia: unknown SA1
69999998999	Tasmania: unknown SA1
79999998999	Northern Territory: unknown SA1
89999998999	Australian Capital Territory: unknown SA1
99999998999	Other Territories: unknown SA1

2.1.20 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid SA1 code, otherwise amend to state/territory SA1 unknown code.
2.	If field contains text or if character length of SA1 field is greater than 11.	Provide a valid SA1 code, otherwise amend to state/territory SA1 unknown code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Code the area of usual residence to SA1, using the child's parent or guardian's address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state/territory, as obtained from the child's enrolment record.
- The place of usual residence of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time should be used for coding to SA1. If the child spends 50% with one parent/guardian and 50% with the other, use the first residential address recorded.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Queanbeyan who attends a preschool in Canberra would be recorded by the ACT jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.
- For children boarding at a boarding school, report the SA1 code for the area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian, not the boarding school.

Classification Definitions

Unknown SA1 codes

For use when the address of the child's parent or guardian is not known or incomplete, the child's address is required to be concealed or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to SA1. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

[Back to URL data elements](#)

AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE – ASGS 2011 (MESH BLOCK)

ABS short name: PSN_MESHBLOCK
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column W
METeOR Technical name: N/A
METeOR identifier: N/A
METeOR link: N/A
METeOR definition: N/A
Note: This is an additional data element. The Australian Statistical Geographic Standard (ASGS) is the new geographic standard that has replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). The ABS requests this data element to strengthen the quality of outputs by geographic locations.

Scope

Inclusions: For all children enrolled in a preschool program:
- The area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian, with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

Exclusions:
- The Mesh Block (MB) of a post office box address.
- The MB area of usual residence for any other parent or guardian of the child that is not the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Area of usual residence – ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block).
Nominal definition: Area of usual residence is the place where the child has lived or intends to live for six months or more from the reference date of the data collection, as represented by a geographical area code Mesh Block (MB).
Operational definition: Area of usual residence is the place where the child's parent or guardian lives, as represented by a geographical area code MB. The address should be reported for the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time. The child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the address on the child's behalf and the service provider should record this on the child's enrolment record.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used to ascertain the child's area of usual residence and to geo-code an address to MB for this data element:
- *Address line* (Child)
- *Suburb/ town/ locality name* (Child)
- *Australian postcode* (Child)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Child)

Conceptual issues:
- By recording the geographic location of the child's 'area of usual residence', this information can be used to determine the socio-economic status of the area in which the child's parent or guardian lives. This information assists in the derivation of disadvantage status and the disaggregation of Indigenous children by geographic location.
- *Area of usual residence- ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)* also enables disaggregation of data by Remoteness Area.
- *Area of usual residence- ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)* is derived from the data elements outlined above. Jurisdictions wishing to undertake their own coding should contact the ABS for further information about the correct use of geography correspondences.

- Operationally, the area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian is recorded as it is assumed that the child lives with the parent or guardian. It is not operationally possible to confirm whether or not the address provided on the service provider records is the place that the parent or guardian has or intends to live for 6 months or more, in accordance with the nominal definition of 'usual residence'. Operationally, the *Area of usual residence - ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)* should reflect that of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time.

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

- The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) has replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). For further information to assist you to move from the ASGC to the ASGS please refer to the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

Mesh Block (MB)

- Mesh Blocks (MBs) are the smallest geographic region in the ASGS and form the basis for the larger regions of the ASGS. There are approximately 347,000 MBs covering the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They broadly identify land use such as residential, commercial, agricultural and parks etc. MBs are the building blocks for all the larger regions of the ASGS. As MBs are very small they can be combined together to accurately approximate a large range of other statistical regions.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2011

Representation class: Code

Data type: String

Format: N(11), for example: 40520305768

Maximum character length: 11

Supplementary values:

19999998999	New South Wales: undefined MB
29999998999	Victoria: undefined MB
39999998999	Queensland: undefined MB
49999998999	South Australia: undefined MB
59999998999	Western Australia: undefined MB
69999998999	Tasmania: undefined MB
79999998999	Northern Territory: undefined MB
89999998999	Australian Capital Territory: undefined MB
99999998999	Other Territories: undefined MB

2.1.21 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid MB code, otherwise amend to state/territory MB undefined code.
2.	If field contains text of if character length of MB field is greater than 11.	Provide a valid MB code, otherwise amend to state/territory MB undefined code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Code the area of usual residence to MB, using the child's parent or guardian's address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state/territory, as obtained from the child's enrolment record.
- The place of usual residence of the parent or guardian with whom the child spends the majority of their time should be used for coding to MB. If the child spends 50% with one parent/guardian and 50% with the other, use the first residential address recorded.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Queanbeyan who attends a preschool in Canberra would be recorded by the ACT jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.
- For children boarding at a boarding school, report the MB code for the area of usual residence of the child's parent or guardian, not the boarding school.

Classification Definitions

Undefined MB codes

For use when the address of the child's parent or guardian is not known or incomplete, the child's address is required to be concealed or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to MB. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

STATISTICAL ENTITY: SERVICE PROVIDER ORGANISATION

An early childhood education and care provider is considered in scope if it is delivering a preschool program intended for children in the year before they commence full-time schooling.

The 2013 URL Data Template for Child and Service Provider contain the following sequence of data elements for Service Provider:

The following descriptions outline the 2013 URL service provider level data element collection instructions.

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

ORGANISATION IDENTIFIER

ABS short name: EPR_ID
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column X
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column B
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - organisation identifier, X(15)
METeOR identifier: 397155
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/397155>
METeOR definition: A unique identifier assigned to each service which delivers child care or preschool services to children.

Scope

Inclusions: A unique identifier for each service provider, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:

- Identifiers assigned to the registered business or the organisation operating the service, if different from the preschool program provider.
- Identifier assigned to the parent school, if different from the preschool program provider.
- Summary level identifiers (e.g. region or district codes) that comprise more than one early childhood education and care service.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Organisation identifier.
Nominal definition: A unique identifier at the national level, assigned to each service that delivers a preschool program.
Operational definition: A unique identifier at the state or territory level, assigned to each service that delivers a preschool program.
Supporting data elements: *Organisation name*
Conceptual issues:

- The organisation identifier is used to enable accurate identification of the service provider.
- The organisation identifier may be used to identify records that require follow-up with service providers to resolve data queries.
- The nominal and operational definitions differ as there is currently no uniform method for assigning the organisation identifier. States and territories are advised to adopt a consistent approach to assigning identifiers within their jurisdiction.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Identifier
Data type: String
Format: X(15), for example: N112233
Maximum character length: 15

Supplementary values:
    CONCEALED   Concealed Record

2.2.1 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid organisation identifier.
2.	If character length is greater than 15.	Provide a valid organisation identifier.
3.	If service provider identity is required to be concealed.	Amend to 'CONCEALED' if required.
4.	If same Identifier is used for more than one service provider or campus.	Provide a unique valid organisation identifier for each separate service provider and campus.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- The identifier should include components that identify the main service type, state/territory and an individual number for each service.
- The identifier should be reported for the location at which the preschool program is delivered. A discrete identifier should be supplied for each preschool program operated as a separate campus or 'satellite' of a parent service provider organisation.
- All individual caregivers working for family day care/in-home care services should be provided with the same service identifier as the service in which they work.

Classification Definitions

CONCEALED – Concealed Record

For use when the organisation identifier of a Service Provider Organisation of an enrolled child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Organisation identifier*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

ORGANISATION NAME

ABS short name: EPR_NAME
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column Y
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column C
METeOR Technical name: Organisation – organisation name, text [X(200)]
METeOR identifier: 453823
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/453823>
METeOR definition: The full title of an organisation's name by which it trades or is recognised, as represented by text.

Scope

Inclusions: The service provider's full operating or trading name, including a campus name or satellite school name where relevant, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The registered business name, where materially different from the name of the service delivering the preschool program that it manages or owns.
- Name of the parent school, where different from the name of the preschool program.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Organisation name.
Nominal definition: The operating or trading name, including the campus name or satellite school name, of the early childhood education and care service.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: *Organisation Identifier*
Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: [X(200)], for example: Lavender Gardens Preschool
Maximum character length: 200
Supplementary values:

CONCEALED   Concealed Record

2.2.2 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid organisation name.
2.	If service provider identity is required to be concealed.	Amend to 'CONCEALED' if required.

Guide for Use

This item should be used to report the operating or trading name of the early childhood education and care service which delivers a preschool program to children. Generally, the complete establishment, agency or organisation name should be used to avoid any ambiguity in identification.

Counting rules:

- This item should be used to report the operating or trading name of the early childhood education and care service which delivers a preschool program.
- The registered business name should not be used if it is different from the name of the early childhood education and care service that it manages or owns.
- The name of the institution may or may not include a Pty Ltd business name.
- A campus name or satellite school name (e.g. where the service provider organisation operates preschool programs at multiple geographical locations using the same service provider name) may also be used. For example, St Joseph's Kindergarten may operate two separate preschool programs at centres located in different geographical areas, so each centre should be listed with a distinguishable name, such as 'St Joseph's Kindergarten - Brighton' and 'St Joseph's Kindergarten - Gawler'.
- If special characters or symbols form part of the name they should be included. This includes characters such as the letters A-Z, hyphens, commas, apostrophes, @,# etc. Mixed case should be used rather than upper case only.

Classification Definitions

CONCEALED – Concealed Record

For use when the organisation name of a Service Provider Organisation of an enrolled child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Organisation name*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

ADDRESS LINE

ABS short name: EPR_ADDRESL
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column Z
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column D
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation (address) - address line, text [X(180)]
METeOR identifier: 290315
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/290315>
METeOR definition: A composite of one or more standard address components, as represented by text.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program include:
- The physical location at which the preschool program is being delivered, which may include:
  - Building/complex sub-unit type
  - Building/complex sub-unit number
  - Building/property name
  - Floor/level number
  - Floor/level type
  - House/property number
  - Lot/section number
  - Street name
  - Street type code
  - Street suffix code.

Exclusions:
- Post office box address of the service provider.
- Address of the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Address of a parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Address line.
Nominal definition: The complete street address component of a service provider address which identifies the specific geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Address line*
to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) for the data
elements *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Geographic Location of Organisation - ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block).*
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/ territory identifier* (Service provider)

Address line can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 codes or other supplied address data elements.
Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: [X(180)], for example: 50 Tulip Avenue
Maximum character length: 180
Supplementary values:

> CONCEALED   Concealed Record

2.2.3 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid address line, otherwise amend to 'UNKNOWN'.
2.	If address line is required to be concealed.	Amend to 'CONCEALED" if required.
3.	If field is a post office box address.	Provide a valid geographic address.

Guide for Use

Service providers may operate preschool programs at a number of different geographical localities, with the management and operational responsibilities for those preschools being run out of the same administration office. In this situation, each preschool program is required to have an individual address line recorded, to allow identification of the geographical location where the preschool program is being delivered.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the address line of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Counting rules:

- Record the address line where the preschool program is delivered, by collecting comprehensive address details which allow identification of the geographical location. As a minimum, street number, street name and street type are requested to allow for accurate geo-coding.
- If no address line exists to identify the location of the service provider, which may occur in remote areas, provide detailed information regarding the locality where the preschool program is being delivered. For example:
  - On Outback Station, 120km from Bushland via East Highway (80km) and access road (30km)
  - On the western shore of Sunshine Island, 150km south of Summerville.

Classification Definitions

CONCEALED – Concealed Record

For use when the address line of the service provider organisation of the child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: Address line

Back to service provider organisation data elements

SUBURB/TOWN/LOCALITY NAME

ABS short name: EPR_ADDRESS
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AA
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column E
METeOR Technical name: Address – suburb/town/locality name, text X[46]
METeOR identifier: 429889
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/429889>
METeOR definition: The name of the locality/suburb of the address, as represented by text.

Scope

Inclusions: The suburb/town/locality name which identifies the physical location at which the preschool program is being delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The suburb/town/locality name of a service provider's post office box address.
- The suburb/town/locality name of the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Suburb/town/locality name of the parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Suburb/town/locality name.
Nominal definition: The suburb/town/locality name component of a complete service provider address, which identifies the specific geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Suburb/town/locality name* to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) for the data elements *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Geographic location of organisation - ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)*.
- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/ territory identifier* (Service provider)

Suburb/town/locality name can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 codes or other supplied address data elements.
Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text

Data type: String

Format: [X(46)], for example: Lavender Gardens

Maximum character length: 46

Supplementary values:

| UNKNOWN | Not stated/inadequately described |
| CONCEALED | Concealed record |

2.2.4 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid suburb/town/locality name, otherwise amend to 'UNKNOWN'.
2.	If suburb/town/locality name is required to be concealed	Amend to 'CONCEALED' if required.

Guide for Use

Service providers may operate preschool programs at a number of different geographical localities, with the management and operational responsibilities for those preschools being run out of the same administration office. In this situation, each preschool program is required to have an individual suburb/town/locality name recorded, to allow identification of the geographical location where the preschool program is being delivered.

The suburb/town/locality name may be a town, city, suburb or commonly used location name such as a large agricultural property or Aboriginal community.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the suburb/town/locality name of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Counting rules:

- Record the suburb/town/locality name where the preschool program is delivered.

Classification Definitions

UNKNOWN - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the suburb/town/locality name of the service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the suburb/town/locality name is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

CONCEALED – Concealed record

For use when the suburb/town/locality name of the service provider organisation of the child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Related aggregate data elements: *Suburb/town/locality name*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

AUSTRALIAN STATE/TERRITORY IDENTIFIER

ABS short name: EPR_STATE

ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AB

ABS Template reference (Worker): Column F

METeOR Technical name: Australian state/territory identifier (service provider organisation)

METeOR identifier: URL: N/A, (Aggregate: 289083)

METeOR link: N/A

METeOR definition: An identifier of the Australian state or territory where an organisation or agency can be located, as represented by a code. *(Aggregate NMDS)*

Note: This is an additional data element, requested for the following purpose:

- Maintaining high quality service provider characteristics within the ABS Preschool Provider Frame.
- Validating jurisdictional geo-coding.
- Validating other address components.

Scope

Inclusions: The Australian state or territory, including Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.

Exclusions:

- Australian state/territory in which the head administration office is located, if this is not the state/territory where the preschool program is delivered.
- Australian state/territory in which the parent school is located, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Australian state/territory.

Nominal definition: The Australian state/territory component of a complete service provider address which identifies the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered.

Operational definition: Consistent with the nominal definition.

Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Australian state/territory identifier* to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) for the data elements *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Geographic location of organisation – ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)*

- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)

Australian state/territory identifier can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 codes or other supplied address data elements.

Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number
Format: N, for example: 3

Maximum character length: 1

Classification values:

1	New South Wales
2	Victoria
3	Queensland
4	South Australia
5	Western Australia
6	Tasmania
7	Northern Territory
8	Australian Capital Territory
9	Other territories (Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory)

Supplementary values:

0	Concealed record

2.2.5 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid Australian state/territory identifier.
2.	If Australian state/territory identifier is required to be concealed	Amend to '0' = concealed if required.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid Australian state/territory identifier.

Guide for Use

Service providers may operate preschool programs at a number of different geographical localities, with the management and operational responsibilities for those preschools being run out of the same administration office. In this situation, each preschool program is required to have an individual address to allow identification of the geographical location from which the preschool program is delivered.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the state/territory identifier of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Counting rules:

- Record the Australian state or territory where the preschool program is delivered.

Classification Definitions

CODE 0 – Concealed record

For use when the Australian state/territory identifier of the service provider organisation of the child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

Related aggregate data element: *Australian State/territory identifier*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

AUSTRALIAN POSTCODE

ABS short name: EPR_POSTCODE
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AC
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column G
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation (address) - Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}
METeOR identifier: 429894
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/429894>
METeOR definition: The numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area, aligned with locality, suburb or place for the address of an organisation, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The Australian postcode which identifies the physical location at which the preschool program is being delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:

- Postcode associated with a post office box address.
- Postcode of the head administration office, if this is not the postcode where the preschool program is delivered.
- Postcode of the parent school, if this is not the postcode where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Postcode.
Nominal definition: The postcode component of a complete service provider address that identifies the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with Australian postcode to geo-code an address to Collection District (CD), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Mesh Block (MB) for the data elements *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District), Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Geographic location of organisation - ASG 2011 (Mesh Block)*.

- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/ territory identifier* (Service provider)

Postcode can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 codes or other supplied address data elements.
Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification scheme: Postcode datafile

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: {NNNN}, for example: 2345

Maximum character length: 4

Supplementary values:

> 0   Concealed record

2.2.6 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid Australian postcode
2.	If postcode is required to be concealed	Amend to '0' = Concealed postcode
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than or less than 4 numbers.	Provide a valid Australian postcode. Ensure that NT postcodes are prefixed with '0'.

Guide for Use

Service providers may operate preschool programs at a number of different geographical locations, with the management and operational responsibilities for those preschools being run out of the same administration office. In this situation, data providers are required to supply individual addresses and postcodes for each preschool program to allow identification of the geographical location where the preschool program is delivered.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the postcode of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Counting rules:

- Record the postcode where the preschool program is delivered.
- Postcode may be collected as part of the address line, or separately.

Classification Definitions

CODE 0 – Concealed record

For use when the postcode of the service provider organisation of the child is concealed/withheld to protect the child's identity.

Other Information

The ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for any blank responses and document their follow-up processes undertaken. Postcode is a key determinant used within the ABS geocoding process and if not supplied, can have adverse impacts on geography data quality.

Related aggregate data elements: *Australian postcode*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF ORGANISATION - ASGC 2006 (COLLECTION DISTRICT)

ABS short name: EPR_CD
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AD
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column H
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - geographic location (CD), code (ASGC 2006) NNNNNNN
METeOR identifier: 455515
METeOR link: http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/455515
METeOR definition: The geographical location of an agency using a seven-digit numerical code which indicates the Collection District (CD) within the state or territory of Australia.

Scope

Inclusions: ASGC 2006 CD code indicating the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The CD code associated with a post office box address.
- The CD code associated with the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- The CD code associated with the parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (CD).
Nominal definition: The geographic location of the service provider within a state or territory of Australia as represented by a geographical area code (CD).
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: CD is derived using the following data elements:
- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)

Conceptual issues:

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)
- The ASGC was replaced with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). For 2013, the ABS requests that both ASGC (CD) and ASGS (MB/SA1) codes be provided in jurisdictional data sets, and that they are clearly distinguished.

Collection District (CD)
- The CD was the smallest geographic area defined in the ASGC. CDs served as the basic building block in the ASGC and were used for the aggregation of statistics to larger ASGC areas, and some non-ASGC areas, such as Commonwealth and State electoral divisions. CDs are represented by a seven digit code and are derived from the data elements outlined above in the supporting data elements list. CDs have now been replaced by Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1), within the new geographic standard, the ASGS.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: ASGC 2006

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: NNNNNNN, for example: 1129001

Maximum character length: 7

Supplementary values:

1999899	New South Wales: undefined CD
2999899	Victoria: undefined CD
3999899	Queensland: undefined CD
4999899	South Australia: undefined CD
5999899	Western Australia: undefined CD
6999899	Tasmania: undefined CD
7999899	Northern Territory: undefined CD
8999899	Australian Capital Territory: undefined CD
9999899	Other Territories: undefined CD

2.2.7 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid CD code, otherwise default to state/territory specific CD undefined code.
2.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 7.	Provide a valid CD code, otherwise default to state/territory specific CD undefined code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Code the geographical location (CD) where the preschool program is delivered using the address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state or territory of the service provider.
- For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the geographic location (CD) of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Classification Definitions

Unknown CD codes

For use when the address of the service provider is not known or incomplete and unable to be coded to CD, when the provider address is required to be concealed or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to CD. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Throughout the NMDS, the classification scheme for ASGC is referred to as 'ASGC 2011'. This should be referred to as 'ASGC 2006'.

Related aggregate data elements: *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

STATISTICAL AREA LEVEL 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011

ABS short name: EPR_SA1
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AE
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column I
METeOR Technical name: Address – statistical area level 1 (SA1) code (ASGS 2011) N(11)
METeOR identifier: 457287
METeOR link: < http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/457287>
METeOR definition: A designated region representing the smallest unit for release of Census data used for describing a location, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011 code indicating the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:

- The SA1 code associated with a post office box address.
- The SA1 code associated with the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- The SA1 code associated with the parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011.
Nominal definition: The geographic location of the service provider within the state or territory of Australia as represented by a geographical area code (SA1).
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: MB/SA1 is derived using the following data elements:

- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)

Conceptual issues:

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

- The ASGS has replaced the ASGC. Further information to assist data providers to move from the ASGC to the ASGS is available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)

- The SA1s have been designed as the smallest unit for the release of Census data. SA1s are built from whole MBs. Whole SA1s aggregate directly to SA2s in the Main Structure, as well as all of the Non-ABS Structures except LGAs and Tourism Regions. SA1s do not cross state or territory borders. There are approximately 55,000 SA1s. In aggregate, they cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: ASGS 2011

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N(11), for example: 40520315620

Maximum character length: 11

Supplementary values:

19999998999	New South Wales: unknown SA1
29999998999	Victoria: unknown SA1
39999998999	Queensland: unknown SA1
49999998999	South Australia: unknown SA1
59999998999	Western Australia: unknown SA1
69999998999	Tasmania: unknown SA1
79999998999	Northern Territory: unknown SA1
89999998999	Australian Capital Territory: unknown SA1
99999998999	Other Territories: unknown SA1

2.2.8 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid SA1 code, otherwise amend to state/territory SA1 unknown code.
2.	If field contains text or if character length of SA1 field is greater than 11.	Provide a valid SA1 code, otherwise amend to state/territory SA1 unknown code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Code the geographical location (SA1) where the preschool program is delivered using the address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state or territory of the service provider.
- For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the geographic location (SA1) of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Classification Definitions

Unknown SA1 codes

For use when the address of the service provider is not known or incomplete and unable to be coded to SA1, when the provider address is required to be concealed or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to SA1. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Statistical Areal Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF ORGANISATION – ASGS 2011 (MESH BLOCK)

ABS short name: EPR_MESHBLOCK
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AF
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column J
METeOR Technical name: N/A
METeOR identifier: N/A
METeOR link: N/A
METeOR definition: N/A
Note: This is an additional data element. The Australian Statistical Geographic Standard (ASGS) is the new geographic standard that has replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

Scope

Inclusions: ASGS Mesh Block (MB) code indicating the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The MB code associated with a post office box address.
- The MB code associated with the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- The MB code associated with the parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Geographic location of organisation - ASGS 2011 (MB).
Nominal definition: The geographic location of the service provider within the state or territory of Australia as represented by a geographical area code (MB).
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: MB/SA1 is derived using the following data elements:
- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Service provider)
Conceptual issues:
The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)
- The ASGS has replaced the ASGC. Further information to assist data providers to move from the ASGC to the ASGS is available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

Mesh Block (MB)
- MBs are the smallest geographic region in the ASGS and form the basis for the larger regions of the ASGS. There are approximately 347,000 MBs covering the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They broadly identify land use such as residential, commercial, agricultural and parks etc. MBs are the building blocks for all the larger regions of the ASGS. As MBs are very small they can be combined together to accurately approximate a large range of other statistical regions.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: ASGS 2011

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N(11), for example: 40520305768

Maximum character length: 11

Supplementary values:

19999998999	New South Wales: undefined MB
29999998999	Victoria: undefined MB
39999998999	Queensland: undefined MB
49999998999	South Australia: undefined MB
59999998999	Western Australia: undefined MB
69999998999	Tasmania: undefined MB
79999998999	Northern Territory: undefined MB
89999998999	Australian Capital Territory: undefined MB
99999998999	Other Territories: undefined MB

2.2.9 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid MB code, otherwise amend to state/territory MB undefined code.
2.	If field contains text or if character length of MB field is greater than 11.	Provide a valid MB code, otherwise amend to state/territory MB undefined code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Code the geographical location (MB) where the preschool program is delivered using the address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state or territory of the service provider.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the geographic location (MB) of the town or suburb out of which they operate. This may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Classification Definitions

Undefined MB codes

For use when the address of the service provider is not known or incomplete and unable to be coded to MB, when the provider address is required to be concealed or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to MB. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: *Geographic location of organisation – ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

GOVERNMENT FUNDING TYPE

ABS short name: EPR_GOVFUNDTYP
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AG
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation – government funding type, early childhood education and care N
METeOR identifier: 473096
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/473096>
METeOR definition: The type of government funding received by an early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All early childhood education and care service providers that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions: Early childhood education and care service providers that do not deliver a preschool program.

- Funding of services primarily for capital works should be excluded.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: State or territory government funded early childhood education and care services.
Nominal definition: Early childhood education and care services that are provided by state and territory governments or are in receipt of state or territory government contributions to assist in the delivery of a preschool program.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	State or territory government funded only
2	Australian government funded only
3	Both state or territory and Australian government funded
4	Neither state or territory nor Australian government funded

Supplementary values:

9	Not stated/inadequately described

2.2.10 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid funding type indicator, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If field is not code 1, 2, 3, 4 or 9.	Provide a valid funding type indicator.
3.	If character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid funding type indicator.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Record whether the preschool program at the early childhood education and care service is funded by the state or territory government and/or the Australian Government, or funded by neither.
- Federal funding received by states and territories through the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education should be classed as state or territory funding.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - State or territory government funded only

Record if the early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program is funded by the state or territory government only (i.e. does not receive any funding from the Australian Government).

CODE 2 - Australian government funded only

Record if the early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program is funded by the Australian Government only (i.e. does not receive any funding from state or territory government). Australian Government funding refers only to funding for Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved services that provide a preschool program. These are predominantly Long Day Care services that also provide a preschool program.

CODE 3 - Both state or territory funding and Australian government funded

Record if the early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program is funded by the state or territory government and funded by the Australian Government. Australian Government funding refers only to funding for Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved services that provide a preschool program. These are predominantly Long Day Care services that also provide a preschool program.

CODE 4 – Neither state or territory nor Australian government funded

Record if the early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program is funded neither by the state or territory government nor by the Australian Government.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the funding type of the service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the funding type is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

This item categorises services by funding type to provide contextual information for the Report on Government Services (RoGS).

The presentation of preschool data in RoGS is yet to be determined, but this item will allow preschool data from the Collection to be disaggregated by the service funding type (e.g if reporting the indicator 'children enrolled in a preschool program', data could be disaggregated by those enrolled in a service that is government funded, or those enrolled in a service this is privately funded only).

Related aggregate data elements: *Government funding type*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

MANAGEMENT TYPE

ABS short name: EPR_MANAGTYP

ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AH

METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - management type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]

METeOR identifier: 436087

METeOR link: http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/436087

METeOR definition: The type of legal or social entity responsible for managing the delivery of an early childhood education and care service, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The management type for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.

Exclusions: Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Management type.

Nominal definition: The legal or social entity responsible for managing the delivery of an early childhood education and care service.

Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.

Supporting data elements:

- *Service activity type*
- *Service delivery setting*

Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N[N], for example: 5

Maximum character length: 2

Classification values:

1	Private not for profit - community managed
2	Private not for profit - other organisations
3	State and territory and local government managed
4	Private for profit
5	State and territory government schools
6	Independent schools
7	Catholic schools
8	Other

Supplementary values:

99	Not stated/inadequately described

2.2.11 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid management type; otherwise amend to code '99'.
2.	If management type is not code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 99.	Provide a valid management type. Where jurisdictional management types differ from NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to ABS to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid management type code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Record the legal or social entity responsible for managing the delivery of early childhood education and care services.
- Management responsibilities include the day to day running of early childhood education and care services, including task such as the design and the delivery of the preschool program, the hiring and firing of staff, the care of the children, etc.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Private not for profit - community managed

Includes services that are managed by organisations based in the community through a membership made up of community members (e.g. the parents). The membership elects a management committee and the committee is accountable to the membership. No profit is distributed to the management committee or the members, any surplus funds are redirected to the service.

CODE 2 - Private not for profit - other organisations

Include services that are managed by non-profit organisations such as charity organisations, consortium of charity organisations and church groups. Excludes Independent and Catholic schools which should be recorded at Codes 6 and 7.

CODE 3 - State and territory and local government managed

Include services that are managed by the state, territory or local government. Excludes state and territory government schools which should be recorded at Code 5.

CODE 4 - Private for profit

Includes for-profit services provided or managed by a company or private individual.

CODE 5 - State and territory government schools

Schools that are funded and managed by the respective state government.

CODE 6 - Independent schools

Includes non-government schools that are governed, managed and accountable at the level of the individual school and are not affiliated with the diocesan Catholic Department of Education.

CODE 7 - Catholic schools

Schools affiliated with the diocesan Catholic Department of Education. Catholic schools, as with other classes of non-government schools, receive funding from the Commonwealth Government.

CODE 8 - Other

Includes employer sponsored services.

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the management type of the service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the management type is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

In conjunction with the data elements Service activity type (ECEC) and Service delivery setting (ECEC), this data element provides information on the different models of preschool program delivery.

Related aggregate data elements: *Management type*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

SERVICE ACTIVITY TYPE

ABS short name: EPR_SERVACTTYP
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AI
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - service activity type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]
METeOR identifier: 506394
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506394>
METeOR definition: The main type of activity available from or provided by an early childhood education and care service provider, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The main service activity type, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- Activity types offered by the service provider which are not the service provider's main activity type.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Service activity type.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Supporting data elements:
- *Management type*
- *Service delivery setting*

Conceptual issues:
- 'Main' is defined as the activity type that the service provider spends the majority of time delivering during the reference period.
- The range of activity types in which a preschool program may be delivered are diverse. This data element is used, in conjunction with other data elements about service provision, to obtain a more detailed appraisal of service availability and how services are provided.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N[N], for example: 8
Maximum character length: 2

Classification values:

1	Long day care
2	Occasional care
3	Outside school hours care
4	Vacation care
5	Family day care
6	In-home care
7	Preschool

Supplementary values:

99	Not stated/inadequately described

2.2.12 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid activity type code, otherwise amend to code '99'.
2.	If activity type is not code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 99.	Provide a valid activity type code. Where jurisdictional activity types differ from NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to ABS to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid activity type code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Only one code should be selected to represent the 'main' type of activity available or provided.
- Multiple responses to this data element are not accepted.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Long day care

Long day care is a centre-based form of child care service providing all-day or part-time care for children of working families and the general community (services may cater to specific groups within the general community). For-profit and not-for-profit organisations, local councils, community organisations and employers may run these services. Long day care primarily provides long day care services for children aged 0–5 years. Some long day care services may also provide preschool and kindergarten programs and care for school children outside of school hours and during school holidays, where permitted by state and territory government regulations. The service may operate from stand-alone or shared premises, including those on school grounds.

CODE 2 - Occasional care

Occasional care comprises services usually provided at a centre on an hourly or sessional basis for short periods or at irregular intervals for parents who need time to attend appointments, take care of personal matters, undertake casual and part time employment, study or have temporary respite from full time parenting. These services provide developmental activities for children and are aimed primarily at 0–5 year olds. Centres providing these services usually employ a mix of qualified and other staff.

CODE 3 - Outside school hours care

Outside School Hours Care comprises services that provide care for school aged children before school, after school, during school holidays, and on pupil free days. Outside school hours care may use stand-alone facilities, share school buildings and grounds and/or share facilities such as community halls.

CODE 4 - Vacation care

Vacation Care comprises services provided for school aged children during school holidays only.

CODE 5 - Family day care

Family day care comprises services providing small group care for children in the home environment of a registered carer. Care is primarily aimed at 0–5 year olds, but primary school children may also receive care before and after school, and during school holidays. Educators work in partnership with scheme management and coordination unit staff.

CODE 6 - In-home care

In-home care comprises services where an approved carer provides care in the child's home. Families eligible for in-home care include families where the parent/s or child has an illness or disability; families in rural or remote areas; parents working shift work or non-standard hours; families with more than two children from a multiple birth and/or more than two children under school age; and families where a breastfeeding mother is working from home.

CODE 7 - Preschool

Preschool comprises services providing a structured, play based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. The terms most commonly used to describe preschool in states and territories are:
  ▪ Kindergarten – Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania.
  ▪ Kindergarten or Preschool – Victoria, South Australia.
  ▪ Preschool – New South Wales, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory.

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the service activity type of a service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the service activity type is not stated or inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

In conjunction with the data elements Management type (ECEC) and Service delivery setting (ECEC), this data element provides information on the different models of preschool program delivery.

Related aggregate data elements: *Service activity type*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

SERVICE DELIVERY SETTING

ABS short name: EPR_DLIVSET
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AJ
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - service delivery setting, early childhood education and care, code N
METeOR identifier: 506400
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506400>
METeOR definition: The type of setting in which early childhood education and care service activities are provided by a service provider, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The service delivery setting for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions: Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Service delivery setting.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Supporting data elements:

- *Management type*
- *Service activity type*

Conceptual issues:

- The range of service settings in which a preschool program may be delivered are diverse. This data element is used, in conjunction with other data elements about service provision, to obtain a more detailed appraisal of service availability and how services are provided.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N, for example: 2
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	Centre-based—school
2	Centre-based—stand-alone
3	Centre-based—other
4	Home-based
5	General community setting

Supplementary values:

9	Not stated/inadequately described

2.2.13 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid delivery setting code, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If delivery setting is not code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9.	Provide a valid delivery setting code. Where jurisdictional delivery setting types differ from NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to ABS to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid delivery setting code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- The service provider should include only one response to this data element.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Centre-based—school

Centre-based—school, refers to child care services or preschool programs delivered on school grounds, using school facilities e.g. a building owned by the school.

CODE 2 - Centre-based—stand-alone

Centre-based—stand-alone, refers to child care services or preschool programs delivered in a non-residential building that was purpose-built or renovated (i.e. for the purpose of delivering early childhood education and care services), e.g. child care or early childhood centre, or preschool that is not part of a school (i.e. not co-located).

CODE 3 - Centre-based—other

Centre-based—other, refers to child care services or preschool programs delivered in a non-residential building that was purpose built or renovated (i.e. for the purpose of delivering early childhood education and care services), for which it cannot be determined whether they are co-located or stand-alone (i.e. Code 1 or 2), or where multiple types of early childhood education and care service activities are provided (e.g. preschool co-located with a long day care centre). This could include child care centres or other forms of integrated settings/services.

CODE 4 - Home-based

Home-based, refers to a private residential dwelling where a early childhood education and care service or preschool program is delivered by a child's parents, carers or guardian in their own home, family day care caregiver's house, or via a school of the air or distance education program.

CODE 5 - General community setting

General community setting, refers to a non-residential community infrastructure, facility or building that was not specifically built or developed for the provision of early childhood education and care services and is not part of a State, Independent or Catholic school, e.g. a park, community or scout hall, public library, etc. Includes locations where mobile services are delivered, if not covered by codes 1 to 4.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the service delivery setting for the service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the service delivery setting is not stated or inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

In conjunction with the data elements Management type (ECEC) and Service activity setting (ECEC), this data element provides information on the different models of preschool program delivery.

Related aggregate data elements: *Service delivery setting*

Back to service provider organisation data elements

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM SERVICE OPERATION WEEKS

ABS short name: EPR_SRVOPPWKS
ABS Template reference (Child URL): Column AK
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - number of preschool program service operation weeks (calendar year), total NN
METeOR identifier: 450316
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/450316>
METeOR definition: The total number of weeks per calendar year that the service provider organisation is open to provide preschool program services.

Scope

Inclusions: The number of weeks per year that the service provider is open for delivery of a preschool program, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- Weeks per calendar year when the preschool program is not being delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Operation weeks.
Nominal definition: The number of weeks per calendar year that the service provider organisation actually provides a preschool program.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements:
- *Maximum preschool program hours available*
Conceptual issues:
- The provision of service relates only to the preschool program component. Exclude operational weeks during which a service provider delivers only child care services (i.e. the reported number of service operation weeks must only represent those weeks that the service provider actually delivers a preschool program).

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total
Data type: Number
Format: NN, for example: 40
Maximum character length: 2
Unit of measure: Week
Supplementary values:
90   No regular pattern of operation through a year
99   Not stated/inadequately described

2.2.14 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of operation weeks, otherwise amend to code '99' for not stated/inadequately described or code '90' for no regular pattern of operation through a year.
2.	If operation weeks are greater than 52 (excluding code 90 or 99).	Provide a valid number of operation weeks.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Do not include weeks when the preschool program is not being delivered, for example if the preschool program is operated in a school setting, do not count weeks during school holiday periods when the centre is only open for administrative purposes.
- A week is measured from 12:00AM (midnight) Monday morning to 11:59PM the following Sunday. If a preschool program operates within this period then it is counted as having operated during that week. Therefore if a preschool program operates for only a short time for one of the days within a week, it is counted as operating during that week.
- Valid numbers are 0 to 52.
- For service providers which commenced delivering a preschool program part-way into the current calendar year, report the number of weeks from the opening of the preschool program to the end of the calendar year (if the program is likely to continue operation until the end of the year). Do not derive weeks to an annual equivalent, e.g. if the preschool program commenced on 1 July, report 26 weeks if it is expected the program will continue to the end of the year.

Classification Definitions

CODE 90 - No regular pattern of operation through a year

This category is for use when the preschool program has no regular pattern of operation through a year, or is offered on an irregular basis. Where the service operation weeks have no regular pattern of operation through a year, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response, document any follow-up processes undertaken and contact the ABS to discuss this response.

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the service operation weeks are unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the service operation weeks are not stated or inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: Preschool program service operation weeks

Back to service provider organisation data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

STATISTICAL ENTITY: WORKER

At the broadest level, the population of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) workers includes all persons working in an ECEC service, irrespective of whether they deliver a preschool program. For the purposes of the Collection, the collection scope of workers is restricted to just those workers who are paid contact workers. An 'ECEC contact worker' is defined as a contact worker who has paid employment with an ECEC service provider (including full-time, part-time and contract workers); has a role of principal/ director/ coordinator/ teacher/ teacher-in-charge or group leader; and has delivered a preschool program in the reference period.

Worker data was disseminated for the first time as part of the 2011 collection. Worker level data collected using a URL methodology in 2013 will be output by the ABS as aggregated data, reported at the state and territory level.

The 2013 URL Data Template for Service Provider and Worker contain the following sequence of data elements for Service Provider:

Refer to the section Statistical Entity: Service Provider Organisation for further information on these data elements.

The 2013 URL Data Template for Service Provider Organisation and Worker contain the following sequence of data elements for Worker:

Further information on the 2013 ECEC URL NMDS is available on the AIHW website:
<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/494147>

The following descriptions outline the 2013 URL worker level data element collection instructions.

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – UNIT RECORD LEVEL

STATISTICAL LINKAGE KEY

ABS short name: TCH_LNK_RECKEY
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column K
METeOR Technical name: Record - linkage key, code 581 XXXXXDDMMYYYYN
METeOR identifier: 349895
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/349895>
METeOR definition: A key that enables two or more records belonging to the same individual to be brought together. It is represented by a code consisting of the second, third and fifth characters of a person's family name, the second and third letters of the person's given name, the day, month and year when the person was born and the sex of the person, concatenated in that order.

Scope

Inclusions: For all in-scope workers at an early childhood education and care service provider (see Chapter 1, Collection Specifications), include in the following order:
- the second, third and fifth letters of the person's family name
- the second and third letters of the person's given name
- the day, month and year of birth of the person, concatenated in that order to form the person's date of birth
- the sex of the person.

Exclusions:
- Workers not in-scope of the ECEC Collection.
- Exclude the following components:
  - the first, fourth, sixth, and any subsequent letters of the person's family name
  - the first, fourth, and subsequent characters of the person's given name
  - hyphens, apostrophes or spaces which may form part of a person's family name or given name.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Statistical Linkage Key 581.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.

Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used to develop the statistical linkage key:
- *Date of birth*
- *Letters of family name*
- *Letters of given name*
- *Sex*

Conceptual issues:
- The statistical linkage key enables a high level of accuracy for calculating the total number of workers, without counting the same worker more than once. The intention of this data element is to create a unique key for each worker. However, in practice it is possible that the derived SLK for one worker may coincidentally match to the derived SLK of another worker.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: String
Format: XXXXXDDMMYYYYN, for example MIHIC021119832
Maximum character length: 14

2.3.0 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid SLK if possible.
2.	If SLK is not equal to format XXXXXDDMMYYYY.	Provide a valid SLK according to definition and counting rules.
3.	If character length is greater than 14.	Provide a valid SLK.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Ensure that each associated data element is collected using the appropriate collection instructions. Refer to the individual data element summaries for further information:
    - Date of birth
    - Letters of family name
    - Letters of given name
    - Sex

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

Back to Worker data elements

PERSON IDENTIFIER

ABS short name: TEACHER_ID
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column L
METeOR Technical name: Person - person identifier, XXXXXX[X(14)]
METeOR identifier: 290046
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/290046>
METeOR definition: A person identifier unique within an establishment or agency.

Scope

Inclusions: For all in-scope workers at an early childhood education and care service provider (see Chapter 1, Collection Specifications), individual agencies, establishments or collection authorities may use their own methodology to produce discrete person identifier codes that are:

- numeric
- alphabetic
- alpha-numeric.

Exclusions:

- Workers not in-scope of the ECEC Collection.
- Non alpha-numeric characters.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Person Identifier
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Supporting data elements:

- *Record - statistical linkage key*

Conceptual issues:

- The person identifier is a unique code that may improve the quality of worker and teacher data without counting the same person more than once. The intention of this data element is to create a discrete code for each worker.
- The person identifier may be used to flag records requiring further investigation with service providers to resolve data queries.
- Currently there is no uniform method for assigning the person identifier. Data providers are advised to adopt a consistent approach to assigning unique person identifiers within their jurisdiction.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: String
Format: XXXXXX[X(14)], for example JV50001267
Maximum character length: 20

2.3.1 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a Person Identifier.
2.	If person identifier is not equal to format XXXXXX[X(14)] or if field length is less than 6 or greater than 20.	Provide a valid Person Identifier.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- The person identifier may also incorporate other components such as the state/territory code as well as a unique code for each worker. For example, a person identifier of an ECEC worker in SA may be 4000002182, where 4 represents the ABS code for state/territory.

Other Information

Related aggregate data elements: No related aggregate data element.

Back to Worker data elements

TYPE OF WORK ACTIVITY

ABS short name: TCH_TYPWRKACT
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column M
METeOR Technical name: Person (employed) - type of work activity, early childhood education and care, code N
METeOR identifier: 507581
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/507581>
METeOR definition: The main type of work performed by a person in an early childhood education and care service, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All contact workers who have paid employment with an early childhood education and care service provider and are involved in the delivery of a preschool program:
- For Codes 1 and 2 this includes <u>contact workers</u> who are usually present to deliver a face to face <u>preschool program</u>, but may have been absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave and expected to return.

Exclusions: Unpaid and non-contact persons working within early childhood education and care services.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Type of work activity.
Nominal definition: The type of work activity is the main type of work performed by a person during the reference period, regardless of whether this is different to their usual type of work.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Conceptual issues:
- 'Main' is defined as the type of work that the person spends the majority of time performing during the reference period.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	Primary contact
2	Other contact
3	Management/administration
4	Other work

Supplementary values:

9	Not stated/inadequately described

2.3.2 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid type of work activity code, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If field is not code 1, 2, 3, 4 or 9.	Provide a valid type of work activity code. Where jurisdictional types of work differ from the NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to the ABS to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid type of work activity code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- For Codes 1 and 2 this excludes relief teachers who are not present at the early childhood education and care service (i.e. not delivering a face to face preschool program) during the reference period.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Primary contact

A 'primary contact worker' mainly has direct contact with children. This may include but is not limited to teachers, teachers' assistants/aides, specialist teachers and therapists.

CODE 2 - Other contact

An 'other contact worker' has some duties involving direct contact with children, but deals mainly with staffing or management issues such as supervising staff and handling queries from parents or designing the education program. This may include but is not limited to principals, deputy principals, centre managers and coordinators.

CODE 3 - Management/administration

A staff member who mainly performed management or administration work that contributed to the running of the early childhood education and care service and had no direct contact with children. Work may include clerical or receptionist duties, filing, keeping financial records, staffing and management issues.

CODE 4 - Other work

Any worker who provides support services such as cooking, cleaning or gardening. This may include drivers, cooks, cleaners and maintenance staff.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the main type of work activity undertaken by the worker is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the type of work activity is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data element: No related aggregate data element.

ROLE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE WORKER

ABS short name: TCH_ROLE
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column N
METeOR Technical name: Person (employed) - role of early childhood education and care worker, code N
METeOR identifier: 507585
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/507585>
METeOR definition: The main role undertaken by an early childhood education and care worker, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All contact workers who have paid employment with an early childhood education and care service provider and are involved in the delivery of a preschool program:

- For Codes 1 to 4 this includes contact workers who are usually present to deliver a face to face preschool program, but may have been absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave and expected to return.

Exclusions: Unpaid and non-contact persons working within early childhood education and care services.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Role of early childhood education and care worker.
Nominal definition: The main role or responsibility undertaken by an early childhood education and care worker, as defined by the worker's terms of employment.
Operational definition: See nominal definition.
Conceptual issues:

- 'Main role' is defined as the role that the person spends the majority of time performing, during the reference period.
- 'Terms of employment' is defined as the agreement between the worker and the service provider, which specifies work roles and responsibilities. It may be formal or informal, and either written or verbal, and must be mutually understood by the worker and the service provider.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	Principal/director/coordinator/teacher-in-charge
2	Group leader/teacher
3	Assistant/aide
4	Other contact worker
5	Non-contact worker

Supplementary values:

9	Not stated/inadequately described

2.3.3 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid worker role code, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If field is not code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9.	Provide a valid worker role code. Where jurisdictional worker roles differ from NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to the ABS to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid worker role code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- This item is only applicable to paid workers in early childhood education and care services.
- Report the main role performed by a worker during the reference period, regardless of whether this is different to their usual role.
- 'Main' is defined as the role that the person spends the majority of time performing during the reference period.
- For the purposes of this data element, workers who are classified as 'Management/administration' and 'Other work' within the data element Type of work activity, must be classified as 'Non-contact' workers (i.e. Code 5).
- For Codes 1 to 4 this excludes relief teachers who are not present at the early childhood education and care service (i.e. not delivering a face to face preschool program) during the reference period.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Principal/director/coordinator/teacher in charge

A person with overall responsibility for managing the service.

CODE 2 - Group leader/teacher

A degree qualified teacher or educator responsible for a group of young children.

CODE 3 - Assistant/aide

An early childhood worker who helps a more senior and more qualified early childhood teacher or educator.

CODE 4 - Other contact worker

Includes people who provide child care or additional educational or supplementary services for children, such as a child care worker, dance teacher, music therapist, disability support worker, librarian or speech therapist.

CODE 5 - Non-contact worker

A worker who has no direct contact with children and primarily contributes to the running of the service or provides support services.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the role of the worker is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the role of the worker is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data element: No related aggregate data element.

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FIELD OF HIGHEST QUALIFICATION RELEVANT TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

ABS short name: TCH_FLDHIRELQUL
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column O
METeOR Technical name: Person (employed) - education field of highest relevant qualification, in early childhood education and care, code N[N]
METeOR identifier: 473406
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/473406>
METeOR definition: The field of education in which a person has attained their highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All contact workers who have paid employment with an early childhood education and care service provider and are involved in the delivery of a preschool program.
Exclusions: Unpaid and non-contact persons working within early childhood education and care services.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Field of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care.
Nominal definition: The field of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care, completed by a worker within an early childhood education and care service.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements:

   ▪   *Level of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care*

Conceptual issues:

   ▪   The field of education reported should be in relation to the data element Level of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification scheme: Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0)
Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N[N]
Maximum character length: 2
Classification values:

   1   Teaching (early childhood related)
   2   Teaching (primary)
   3   Teaching (other)
   8   Other early childhood related

Supplementary values:

   97   Not applicable (No qualification/no ECEC related qualification)
   99   Not stated/inadequately described

2.3.4 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid field of qualification code, otherwise amend to code '99'.
2.	If field is not code 1, 2, 3, 8, 97 or 99.	Provide a valid field of qualification code. Where jurisdictional fields of qualification differ from NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to the ABS to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid field of qualification code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Report the specific field of education in which the worker has attained their highest early childhood education and care related qualification.
- Operationally, this information may be collected by obtaining all education qualifications for the early childhood education and care worker, and through a concordance, identifying the field of the highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care.
- Only completed qualifications should be reported.

Classification Definitions

This data element uses the Field of Education classification of Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED). This is a three-level hierarchical classification specifying broad, narrow and detailed fields of study.

CODE 1 - Teaching (early childhood related) - ASCED 070101

CODE 2 - Teaching (primary) - ASCED 070103

CODE 3 - Teaching (other) - ASCED 070105-070199

This field includes special education, and teaching English as a second language.

CODE 8 - Other early childhood related

This includes other early education and care related fields not classifiable in any of the above categories.

CODE 97 - Not applicable (no qualification/no ECEC related qualification)

Use this code when there is no qualification or the qualification is not related to early childhood education and care.

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the field of highest relevant qualification of the worker is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the field of qualification is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

For more information on ASCED, see *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0) on the ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) is comprised of two component classifications, Level of Education and Field of Education. It provides a basis for comparable administrative and statistical data on educational activities and attainment classified by level and field. The publication provides details of the conceptual basis of ASCED, the structure of the classification, definitions for all categories of level and field and concordances with other education classifications.

Related aggregate data element: No related aggregate data element.

Back to Worker data elements

LEVEL OF HIGHEST QUALIFICATION RELEVANT TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

ABS short name: TCH_LVLHIRELQUL
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column P
METeOR Technical name: Person (employed) - level of highest qualification in early childhood education and care, code N[N]
METeOR identifier: 441594
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/441594>
METeOR definition: The highest level of early childhood education and care-related qualification a person employed in early childhood education and care has attained, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All contact workers who have paid employment with an early childhood education and care service provider and are involved in the delivery of a preschool program.
Exclusions: Unpaid and non-contact persons working within early childhood education and care services.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Level of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care.
Nominal definition: The highest level of qualification a person has obtained in a field of study relevant to early childhood education and care.
Operational definition: The highest level of qualification a person has obtained in a field of study relevant to early childhood education and care, as reported by the worker.
Supporting data elements:

- *Field of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care*

Conceptual issues:

- The level of highest qualification reported should be in relation to the data element Field of highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care.
- A Bachelor degree pass 4 year equivalent includes staff who are deemed to possess the necessary skills and qualifications to be employed as a 4 year degree equivalent teacher by the jurisdiction. 'Equivalent' refers to when certain combinations of employment experience and educational experience are deemed to be comparable to a certain level of qualification. For example, an individual or group of individuals, may have an early childhood diploma and 10 years' experience, but the governing department or regulatory agency has recognised the individual's, or group of individuals', experience and qualifications as equivalent to a four year early childhood university degree.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification scheme: Australian Standard Classification of Education 2001
Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N[N]
Maximum character length: 2

Classification values:

1	Postgraduate degree
2	Graduate diploma or graduate certificate level
3	Bachelor degree (honours)
4	Bachelor degree pass (4 years or equivalent)
5	Bachelor degree pass (3 years or equivalent)
6	Advanced diploma
7	Diploma
8	Certificate level 3 or 4
9	Certificate level 1 or 2
10	Other certificate

Supplementary values:

97	Not applicable (no qualification in early education and care related field)
99	Not stated/inadequately described

2.3.5 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid level of qualification code, otherwise amend to code '99'.
2.	If field is not code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 97 or 99.	Provide a valid level of qualification code. Where jurisdictional levels of qualification differ from NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid level of qualification code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- This information is required to be reported only for paid contact workers in early childhood education and care services.
- Report the specific level of education in which the early childhood education and care worker has attained their highest early childhood education and care related qualification.
- This information may be collected by obtaining all education qualifications for the early childhood education and care worker, and through a concordance, identifying the level of the highest qualification relevant to early childhood education and care.
- Only completed qualifications should be reported.
- The classification structure outlined above details the levels of qualification from the highest qualification to the lowest qualification (i.e. 'Code 1 - Postgraduate degree' is the highest qualification, whereas 'Code 10 - Other certificate' is the lowest qualification).

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Postgraduate degree

This level includes Doctorates and Masters Degrees, either by research or coursework. Common entry requirements are completion of a Bachelor Degree (with or without Honours) and a qualifying year or equivalent, or a research based Graduate Diploma.

CODE 2 - Graduate diploma and graduate certificate level

The Graduate Diploma is usually the equivalent of one year of full time study, while the Graduate Certificate is usually the equivalent of six months full time study. Entry to a Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate is usually through satisfactory completion of a Bachelor Degree or an Advanced Diploma, and demonstrated potential to complete work at this level. Postgraduate certificates and diplomas are also included in this category.

CODE 3 - Bachelor degree (honours)

Honours is the extended period of study in a specialised field which is offered to students in some courses achieving outstanding results in a relevant discipline or demonstrating outstanding achievement in the early years of a Bachelor program.

CODE 4 - Bachelor degree pass (4 years or equivalent)

Entry to this level is by various pathways which may include the completion of Year 12 or equivalent, or completion of a recognised program and/or recognition of prior learning. Four year university qualified refers to the length of the qualification if the whole program was studied full-time.

CODE 5 - Bachelor degree pass (3 years or equivalent)

Entry to this level is by various pathways which may include the completion of Year 12 or equivalent, or completion of a recognised program and/or recognition of prior learning. Three year university qualified refers to the length of the qualification if the whole program was studied full-time.

CODE 6 - Advanced diploma

Education at this level includes analysing information and concepts at an abstract level and executing judgements across a range of technical and management functions. Entry to this level is by various pathways which may include the completion of Year 12 or equivalent, or completion of a recognised program and/or recognition of prior learning.

CODE 7 - Diploma

Education at this level may also develop basic management or administrative skills. Entry to this level is by various pathways, which may include the completion of Year 12 or equivalent, or completion of a recognised program and/or recognition of prior learning.

CODE 8 - Certificate level 3 or 4

Entry to this level is by various pathways which may include the completion of Year 10 or equivalent, or higher, or completion of a recognised program and/or recognition of prior learning.

CODE 9 - Certificate level 1 or 2

Entry to this level is by various pathways which may include the completion of Year 10 or equivalent, or higher, or completion of a recognised program and/or recognition of prior learning.

CODE 10 - Other certificate

Any certificate not covered by the previous two categories.

CODE 97 - Not applicable (no qualification in early childhood education and care related field)

Use this code when there is no qualification in an early childhood education and care related field.

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the level of highest relevant qualification of the worker is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the field of qualification is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

For more information on ASCED, see *Australian Standard Classification of Education* (cat. no. 1272.0) on the ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Related aggregate data element: No related aggregate data element.

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HOURS WORKED IN PRESCHOOL PROGRAM DELIVERY

ABS short name: PSN_PSPROGDELHRS
ABS Template reference (Worker): Column Q
METeOR identifier: N/A (formerly 437558)
METeOR link: N/A
METeOR definition: N/A
Note: This is an optional additional data element, for the total number of weekly hours worked in preschool program delivery by a paid contact worker.

Scope

Inclusions: All contact workers who have paid employment with an early childhood education and care service provider and are involved in the delivery of a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period.
Exclusions:
- Unpaid and non-contact persons working within early childhood education and care services.
- Paid contact workers within early childhood education and care services who were not involved in the face to face delivery of a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period.
- Hours worked in preparation time and other hours that are not related to actual delivery of the preschool program.
- Hours worked in activities that require the parents/guardians of the children to be present.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Hours worked in preschool program delivery.
Nominal definition: The total number of hours worked in the face to face delivery of a preschool program.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements:
- *Preschool program received from a qualified teacher indicator*

Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

System requirements: Total hours expressed as 15, 20 etc.
Representation class: Total
Data type: String
Format: NNN, Example 30
Maximum character length: 3
Unit of measure: Hour (h)
Supplementary values:

999	Not stated/inadequately described

2.3.6 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of preschool program hours worked, otherwise amend to code '999'.
2.	If character length is greater than 3.	Provide a valid number of preschool program hours worked.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Record the number of hours worked by a paid contact worker in the delivery of a preschool program during the reference period.
- Preparation time and other hours worked that are not related to face to face delivery of the preschool program should not be counted.
- Face to face delivery includes preschool programs delivered by distance education services to children in remote locations (e.g. 'School of the air' programs delivered using two way video and/or audio links), by a contact worker with paid employment with an early childhood education and care service provider.
- Any work undertaken by the worker in an activity that requires the parents/guardians of the children to be present should not be counted.
- Jurisdictions that adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.
- Round 'hours worked' to the nearest hour.

Classification Definitions

CODE 999 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the number of hours worked in delivering a preschool program is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the hours worked in preschool program delivery is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related aggregate data element: No related aggregate data element.

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CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

AGGREGATE LEVEL DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

For the 2013 National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (the Collection), an aggregate data collection methodology supports the collection of information on child data at the service provider level. For the Collection, aggregate data can only be presented in terms of episodes of preschool program delivery, where an episode refers to a preschool program provided to a child. When one child attends two different preschool programs, the child is attending two episodes of preschool.

Due to the nature of aggregate data, a combination of multiple aggregate data elements is requested for the Collection. The complete aggregate data request can be found below. The descriptions within each data element also acknowledge the disaggregations and cross-classifications required at a broader level.

Aggregate counts of enrolment and attendance episodes at service provider level are required to be disaggregated by Indigenous status and Age. Aggregate counts of children by Age and Indigenous status will be output as 'Total Episodes'. Ages of children must reflect a single year of age, in completed years, as at 1 July 2013. If data are collected over a 2 week (or longer) reference period, data providers must derive data to a representative week. Refer below, for further information on the collection and reporting of aggregate data.

AGGREGATE DATA ELEMENTS

Data elements to be collected by data providers using an aggregate methodology in the 2013 Collection are as follows:

Statistical entity: Service provider organisation

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

Statistical entity: Child

The following 2 classifications are sought in conjunction with *Number of preschool program enrolments* and *Number of children attending a preschool program,* to produce the 32 combinations of child episodes listed further below:

Episodes of enrolment (Aggregate)

- Enrolled: Indigenous 3 yo children
- Enrolled: Non-indigenous 3 yo children
- Enrolled: Indigenous 'not stated', 3 yo children
- Enrolled: Total 3 yo children
- Enrolled: Indigenous 4 yo children
- Enrolled: Non-indigenous 4 yo children
- Enrolled: Indigenous 'not stated', 4 yo children
- Enrolled: Total 4 yo children
- Enrolled: Indigenous 5 yo children
- Enrolled: Non-indigenous 5 yo children
- Enrolled: Indigenous 'not stated', 5 yo children
- Enrolled: Total 5 yo children
- Enrolled: Indigenous 6 yo children
- Enrolled: Non-indigenous 6 yo children
- Enrolled: Indigenous 'not stated', 6 yo children
- Enrolled: Total 6 yo children

Episodes of attendance (Aggregate)

- Attending: Indigenous 3 yo children
- Attending: Non-indigenous 3 yo children
- Attending: Indigenous 'not stated', 3 yo children
- Attending: Total 3 yo children
- Attending: Indigenous 4 yo children
- Attending: Non-indigenous 4 yo children
- Attending: Indigenous 'not stated', 4 yo children
- Attending: Total 4 yo children
- Attending: Indigenous 5 yo children
- Attending: Non-indigenous 5 yo children
- Attending: Indigenous 'not stated', 5 yo children
- Attending: Total 5 yo children
- Attending: Indigenous 6 yo children
- Attending: Non-indigenous 6 yo children
- Attending: Indigenous 'not stated', 6 yo children
- Attending: Total 6 yo children

Further information on the 2013 aggregate NMDS is available on the AIHW website:
 <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/494145>

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

STATISTICAL ENTITY: SERVICE PROVIDER ORGANISATION

An early childhood education and care provider is considered in scope if it is delivering a preschool program intended for children in the year before they commence full-time schooling.

The following descriptions outline the 2013 aggregate service provider level data element collection instructions.

ORGANISATION IDENTIFIER

ABS short name: EPR_ID
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column B
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - organisation identifier, X(15)
METeOR identifier: 397155
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/397155>
METeOR definition: A unique identifier assigned to each service which delivers child care or preschool services to children.

Scope

Inclusions: A unique identifier for each service provider, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
  ▪ Identifiers assigned to the registered business or the organisation operating the service, if different from the preschool program provider.
  ▪ Identifier assigned to the parent school, if different from the preschool program provider.
  ▪ Summary level identifiers (e.g. region, district or group codes) that comprise more than one early childhood education and care service.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Organisation identifier.
Nominal definition: A unique identifier at the national level, assigned to each service that delivers a preschool program.
Operational definition: A unique identifier at the state or territory level, assigned to each service that delivers a preschool program.
Supporting data elements: *Organisation name*
Conceptual issues:
  ▪ The organisation identifier is used to enable accurate identification of the service provider.
  ▪ The organisation identifier may be used to identify records that require follow-up with service providers to resolve data queries.
  ▪ The nominal and operational definitions differ as there is currently no uniform method for assigning the organisation identifier. States and territories are advised to adopt a consistent approach to assigning identifiers within their jurisdiction.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Identifier
Data type: String
Format: X(15), for example: N112233
Maximum character length: 15

2.4.1 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid organisation identifier.
2.	If character length is greater than 15.	Provide a valid organisation identifier.
3.	If same Identifier is used for more than one service provider or campus.	Provide a unique valid organisation identifier for each separate service provider and campus.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- The identifier should include components that identify the main service type, state/territory and an individual number for each service.
- The identifier should be reported for the location at which the preschool program is delivered. A discrete identifier should be supplied for each preschool program operated as a separate campus or 'satellite' of a parent service provider organisation.
- All individual caregivers working for family day care/in-home care services should be provided with the same service identifier as the service in which they work.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Organisation identifier*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

ORGANISATION NAME

ABS short name: EPR_NAME
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column C
Technical name: Organisation – organisation name, text [X(200)]
METeOR identifier: 453823
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/453823>
METeOR definition: The full title of an organisation's name by which it trades or is recognised, as represented by text.

Scope

Inclusions: The service provider's full operating or trading name, including a campus name or satellite school name where relevant, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The registered business name, where materially different from the name of the service delivering the preschool program that it manages or owns.
- Name of the parent school, where different from the name of the preschool program.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Organisation name.
Nominal definition: The operating or trading name, including the campus name or satellite school name, of the early childhood education and care service.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data element: *Organisation identifier*
Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: [X(200)], for example: Lavender Gardens Preschool
Maximum character length: 200

2.4.2 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid service provider name.

Guide for Use

This item should be used to report the operating or trading name of the early childhood education and care service which delivers a preschool program to children. Generally, the complete establishment, agency or organisation name should be used to avoid any ambiguity in identification.

Counting rules:

- This item should be used to report the operating or trading name of the early childhood education and care service which delivers a preschool program.
- The registered business name should not be used if it is different from the name of the early childhood education and care service that it manages or owns.
- The name of the institution may or may not include a Pty Ltd business name.
- A campus name or satellite school name (e.g. where the service provider organisation operates preschool programs at multiple geographical locations using the same service provider name) may also be used. For example, St Joseph's Kindergarten may operate two separate preschool programs at centres located in different geographical areas so each centre should be listed with a distinguishable name, such as 'St Joseph's Kindergarten - Brighton' and 'St Joseph's Kindergarten - Gawler'.
- If special characters or symbols form part of the name they should be included. This includes characters such as the letters A-Z, hyphens, commas, apostrophes, @,# etc. Mixed case should be used rather than upper case only.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Organisation name*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

ADDRESS LINE

ABS short name: EPR_ADDRESL
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column D
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation (address) - address line, text [X(180)]
METeOR identifier: 290315
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/290315>
METeOR definition: A composite of one or more standard address components, as represented by text.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program include:
- The physical location at which the preschool program is being delivered, which may include:
  - Building/complex sub-unit type
  - Building/complex sub-unit number
  - Building/property name
  - Floor/level number
  - Floor/level type
  - House/property number
  - Lot/section number
  - Street name
  - Street type code
  - Street suffix code

Exclusions:
- The post office box address of the service provider,
- Address of the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Address of a parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Address line.
Nominal definition: The complete street address component of a service provider address that identifies the specific geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered.
Operational definition: Consistent with the nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Address line* to geo-code an address to CD, SA1 and MB for the data elements *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)*, *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Geographic location of organisation – ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)*
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)

This data element can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 or other supplied address data elements.
Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: [X(180)], for example: 50 Tulip Avenue
Maximum character length: 180

2.4.3 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid address line.
2.	If field is a post office box address.	Provide a valid geographic address.

Guide for Use

Service providers may operate preschool programs at a number of geographical localities, with the management and operational responsibilities for those preschools being run out of the same administration office. In this situation, each preschool program is required to have an individual address line recorded, to allow identification of the geographical location where the preschool program is being delivered.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the address line of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Counting rules:

- Record the address line where the preschool program is delivered, by collecting comprehensive address details which allow identification of the geographical location. As a minimum, street number, street name and street type are requested to allow for accurate geo-coding.
- If no address line exists to identify the location of the service provider, which may occur in remote areas, provide detailed information regarding the locality where the preschool program is being delivered. For example:
  - On Outback Station, 120km from Bushland via East Highway (80km) and access road (30km).
  - On the western shore of Sunshine Island, 150km south of Summerville.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Address line*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

SUBURB/TOWN/LOCALITY NAME

ABS short name: EPR_ADDRESS
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column E
METeOR Technical name: Address – suburb/town/locality name, text X[46]
METeOR identifier: 429889
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/429889>
METeOR definition: The name of the locality/suburb of the address, as represented by text.

Scope

Inclusions: The suburb/town/locality name which identifies the physical location at which the preschool program is being delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The suburb/town/locality name associated with the post office box address of the service provider.
- Suburb/town/locality name of the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Suburb/town/locality name of a parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Suburb/town/locality name.
Nominal definition: The suburb/town/locality name component of a complete service provider address, which identifies the specific geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered.
Operational definition: Consistent with the nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Address line* to geo-code an address to CD, SA1 and MB for the data elements *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)*, *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Geographic location of organisation – ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)*
- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Service provider)

Suburb/town/locality name can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 and MB codes or other supplied address data elements.
Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Text
Data type: String
Format: X[46], for example: Lavender Gardens
Maximum character length: 46
Supplementary values:

UNKNOWN   Not stated/inadequately described

2.4.4 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid suburb/town/locality name, otherwise amend to 'UNKNOWN'.

Guide for Use

Service providers may operate preschool programs at a number of geographical localities, with the management and operational responsibilities for those preschools being run out of the same administration office. In this situation, each preschool program is required to have an individual suburb/town/locality name recorded, to allow identification of the geographical location where the preschool program is being delivered.

The suburb/town/locality name may be a town, city, suburb or commonly used location name such as a large agricultural property or Aboriginal community.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the suburb/town/locality name of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Counting rules:

- Record the suburb/town/locality name where the preschool program is delivered.
- Mobile preschools should record the suburb/town/locality of the non-mobile preschool from which it operates.

Classification Definitions

UNKNOWN - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the suburb/town/locality name of the service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the suburb/town/locality name is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Suburb/town/locality name*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

AUSTRALIAN STATE/TERRITORY IDENTIFIER

ABS short name: EPR_STATE
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column F
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation – Australian state/territory identifier, code N
METeOR identifier: 289083
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/289083>
METeOR definition: An identifier of the Australian state or territory where an organisation or agency can be located, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The Australian state or territory, including Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:

- The Australian state/territory at which the head administration office is located, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- The Australian state/territory at which the parent school is located, if this is not the state/territory where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Australian state/territory.
Nominal definition: The Australian state/territory component of a complete service provider address which identifies the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered.
Operational definition: Consistent with the nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Address line* to geo-code an address to CD, SA1 and MB for the data elements *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)*, *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Geographic location of organisation – ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)*

- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)

Conceptual issues: N/A

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N, for example: 3
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	New South Wales
2	Victoria
3	Queensland
4	South Australia
5	Western Australia
6	Tasmania
7	Northern Territory
8	Australian Capital Territory
9	Other territories (Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory)

2.4.5 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid Australian state/territory identifier.
2.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid Australian state/territory identifier.

Guide for Use

Service providers may operate preschool programs at a number of geographical localities, with the management and operational responsibilities for those preschools being run out of the same administration office. In this situation, each preschool program is required to have an individual Australian state/territory identifier recorded, to allow identification of the geographical location where the preschool program is delivered.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the state/territory identifier of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Counting rules:

- Record the Australian state or territory where the preschool program is delivered.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Australian state/territory identifier*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

AUSTRALIAN POSTCODE

ABS short name: EPR_POSTCODE
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column G
METeOR Technical name: Address – Australian postcode, code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}
METeOR identifier: 429894
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/429894>
METeOR definition: The Australian numeric descriptor for a postal delivery area for an address.

Scope

Inclusions: The Australian postcode which identifies the physical location at which the preschool program is being delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.

Exclusions:

- The postcode associated with a post office box address.
- Postcode of the head administration office, if this is not the postcode where the preschool program is delivered.
- Postcode of the parent school, if this is not the postcode where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Postcode.

Nominal definition: The postcode component of a complete service provider address that identifies the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered.

Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.

Supporting data elements: The following data elements are used in conjunction with *Address line* to geo-code an address to CD, SA1 and MB for the data elements *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)*, *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011* and *Geographic location of organisation – ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)*

- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Service provider)

Postcode can also be used to validate CD codes, SA1 and MB codes or other supplied address data elements.

Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification scheme: Postcode datafile
Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: {NNNN}, for example: 2345
Maximum character length: 4

2.4.6 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid Australian postcode.
2.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 4.	Provide a valid Australian postcode.

Guide for Use

Service providers may operate preschool programs at a number of geographical localities, with the management and operational responsibilities for those preschools being run out of the same administration office. In this situation, each preschool program is required to have an individual postcode recorded, to allow identification of the geographical location where the preschool program is delivered.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the postcode of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Counting rules:

- Record the postcode where the preschool program is delivered.
- Postcode may be collected as part of the address line, or separately.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Australian postcode*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF ORGANISATION - ASGC 2006 (COLLECTION DISTRICT)

ABS short name: EPR_CD
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column H
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - geographic location (CD), code (ASGC 2006) NNNNNNN
METeOR identifier: 455515
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/455515>
METeOR definition: The geographical location of an agency using a seven-digit numerical code which indicates the Collection District (CD) within the state or territory of Australia.

Scope

Inclusions: ASGC 2006 CD code indicating the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The CD code associated with a post office box address.
- The CD code associated with the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- The CD code associated with the parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (CD).
Nominal definition: The geographic location of the service provider within a state or territory of Australia as represented by a geographical area code (CD).
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: CD is derived using the following data elements:
- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Service provider)
Conceptual issues:
  Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)
- The ASGC has now been replaced with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). However, for the 2013 collection the ABS again requests that ASGC (CD) be supplied. This is due to the scheduled availability of re-based population estimates by single year of age from the 2011 Census. In particular, Indigenous Estimated Resident Population (ERP) by single year of age will not be available until mid-2014. Consequently, Indigenous single year of age ERP will be produced from the 2006 ASGC (CD) projections to enable comparable performance indicator reporting on universal access for Indigenous children.

Collection District (CD)

- The CD was the smallest geographic area defined in the ASGC. CDs served as the basic building block in the ASGC and were used for the aggregation of statistics to larger ASGC areas, and some non-ASGC areas, such as Commonwealth and State electoral divisions. CDs are represented by a seven digit code and are derived from the data elements outlined above in the supporting data elements list. CDs have now been replaced by Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1), within the new geographic standard, the ASGS.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: ASGC 2006
Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: NNNNNNN, for example: 1129001
Maximum character length: 7
Supplementary values:

1999899	New South Wales: undefined CD
2999899	Victoria: undefined CD
3999899	Queensland: undefined CD
4999899	South Australia: undefined CD
5999899	Western Australia: undefined CD
6999899	Tasmania: undefined CD
7999899	Northern Territory: undefined CD
8999899	Australian Capital Territory: undefined CD
9999899	Other Territories: undefined CD

2.4.7 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid CD code, otherwise default to state/territory specific CD undefined code.
2.	If field contains text or character length is not equal to 7.	Provide a valid CD code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

Code the geographical location (CD) where the preschool program is delivered using the service provider's address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state/territory.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the geographic location (CD) of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Classification Definitions

Unknown CD codes

For use when the address of the service provider is not known or incomplete and unable to be coded to CD, or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to CD. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Throughout the NMDS, the classification scheme for ASGC is referred to as 'ASGC 2011'. This should be referred to as 'ASGC 2006'.

Related URL data element: *Geographic location of organisation - ASGC 2006 (Collection District)*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

STATISTICAL AREA LEVEL 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011

ABS short name: EPR_SA1
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column I
METeOR Technical name: Address – statistical area level 1 (SA1) code (ASGS 2011) N(11)
METeOR identifier: 457287
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/457287>
METeOR definition: A designated region representing the smallest unit for the release of Census data used for describing a location, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: ASGS Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) code indicating the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The SA1 code associated with a post office box address.
- The SA1 code associated with the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- The SA1 code associated with the parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011.
Nominal definition: The geographic location of the service provider within the state or territory of Australia as represented by a geographical area code (SA1).
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: SA1 is derived using the following data elements:
- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Service provider)

Conceptual issues:

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)
- The ASGS has replaced the ASGC. Further information to assist data providers to move from the ASGC to the ASGS is available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)
- The SA1s have been designed as the smallest unit for the release of Census data. SA1s are built from whole Mesh Blocks. Whole SA1s aggregate directly to SA2s in the Main Structure, as well as all of the Non-ABS Structures except LGAs and Tourism Regions. SA1s do not cross state or territory borders. There are approximately 55,000 SA1s. In aggregate, they cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: ASGS 2011

Representation class: Code

Data type: String

Format: N(11), for example: 40520301234

Maximum character length: 11

Supplementary values:

19999998999	New South Wales: unknown SA1
29999998999	Victoria: unknown SA1
39999998999	Queensland: unknown SA1
49999998999	South Australia: unknown SA1
59999998999	Western Australia: unknown SA1
69999998999	Tasmania: unknown SA1
79999998999	Northern Territory: unknown SA1
89999998999	Australian Capital Territory: unknown SA1
99999998999	Other Territories: unknown SA1

2.4.8 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank	Provide a valid SA1 code, otherwise amend to state/territory SA1 unknown code.
2.	If field contains text or if character length of SA1 field is not equal to 11.	Provide a valid SA1 code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

Code the geographical location (SA1) where the preschool program is delivered using the service provider's address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state/territory.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the geographic location (SA1) of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Classification Definitions

Unknown SA1 codes

For use when the address of the service provider is not known or incomplete and unable to be coded to SA1, or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to SA1. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) ASGS 2011*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF ORGANISATION - ASGS 2011 (MESH BLOCK)

ABS short name: EPR_MESHBLOCK
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column J
METeOR Technical name: N/A
METeOR identifier: N/A
METeOR link: N/A
METeOR definition: N/A
Note: This is an additional data element. The Australian Statistical Geographic Standard (ASGS) 2011 is the new geographic standard that has replaced the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

Scope

Inclusions: ASGS Mesh Block (MB) code indicating the geographical location at which the preschool program is delivered, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- The MB code associated with a post office box address.
- The MB code associated with the head administration office, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- The MB code associated with the parent school, if this is not the location where the preschool program is delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Geographic location of organisation - ASGS 2011 Mesh Block (MB).
Nominal definition: The geographic location of the service provider within the state or territory of Australia as represented by a geographical area code (MB).
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements: MB is derived using the following data elements:
- *Address line* (Service provider)
- *Australian postcode* (Service provider)
- *Suburb/town/locality name* (Service provider)
- *Australian state/territory identifier* (Service provider)

Conceptual issues:

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)
- The ASGS has replaced the ASGC. Further information to assist data providers to move from the ASGC to the ASGS is available on the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

Mesh Block (MB)
- MBs are the smallest geographic region in the ASGS and form the basis for the larger regions of the ASGS. There are approximately 347,000 MBs covering the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They broadly identify land use such as residential, commercial, agricultural and parks etc. MBs are the building blocks for all the larger regions of the ASGS. As MBs are very small they can be combined together to accurately approximate a large range of other statistical regions.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Classification Scheme: ASGS 2011

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N(11), for example: 40520305768

Maximum character length: 11

Supplementary values:

19999998999	New South Wales: undefined MB
29999998999	Victoria: undefined MB
39999998999	Queensland: undefined MB
49999998999	South Australia: undefined MB
59999998999	Western Australia: undefined MB
69999998999	Tasmania: undefined MB
79999998999	Northern Territory: undefined MB
89999998999	Australian Capital Territory: undefined MB
99999998999	Other Territories: undefined MB

2.4.9 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	*Edit resolution*
1.	If field is blank	Provide a valid MB code, otherwise amend to state/territory MB undefined code.
2.	If field contains text or if character length of MB field is not equal to 11.	Provide a valid MB code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

Code the geographical location (MB) where the preschool program is delivered using the service provider's address line, postcode, suburb/town/locality name and state/territory.

For operational purposes, mobile preschools should be recorded with the geographic location (MB) of the town or suburb out of which they operate. For mobile preschools, this may be different to the actual locations of service delivery.

Classification Definitions

Undefined MB codes

For use when the address of the service provider is not known or incomplete and unable to be coded to MB, or where the jurisdiction is unable to accurately code to MB. Where address information is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Geographic location of organisation - ASGS 2011 (Mesh Block)*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

GOVERNMENT FUNDING TYPE

ABS short name: EPR_GOVFUNDTYP
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column K
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation – government funding type, early childhood education and care code N
METeOR identifier: 473096
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/473096>
METeOR definition: The type of government funding received by an early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: All early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions: Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

- Funding of services primarily for capital works should be excluded.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: State or territory government funded early childhood education and care services.
Nominal definition: Early childhood education and care services that are provided by state and territory governments or are in receipt of state or territory government contributions to assist in the delivery of a preschool program.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	State or territory government funded only
2	Australian government funded only
3	Both state or territory and Australian government funded
4	Neither state or territory nor Australian government funded

Supplementary values:

9	Not stated/inadequately described

2.4.10 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid funding type indicator, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If field is not code 1, 2, 3, 4 or 9.	Provide a valid funding type indicator.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Record whether the early childhood education and care service receives funding to assist the delivery of its preschool program(s) by the state or territory government and/or the Australian Government, or by neither.
- Federal funding received by states and territories through the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education should be classed as state or territory funding.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - State or territory government funded only

Record if the early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program is funded by the state or territory government only (i.e. does not receive any funding from the Australian Government).

CODE 2 - Australian government funded only

Record if the early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program is funded by the Australian Government only (i.e. does not receive any funding from the state or territory government). Australian Government funding refers only to funding for Child Care Benefit (CCB)-approved services that provide a preschool program. These are predominantly Long Day Care services that also provide a preschool program.

CODE 3 - Both state or territory and Australian government funded

Record if the early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program is funded by the state or territory government and funded by the Australian Government. Australian Government funding refers only to funding for the Child Care Benefit (CCB)-approved services that provide a preschool program. These are predominantly Long Day Care services that also provide a preschool program.

CODE 4 - Neither state or territory nor Australian government funded

Record if the early childhood education and care service providing a preschool program is funded neither by the state or territory government nor by the Australian Government.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the funding type of the service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the funding type is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

This item categorises services by funding type to provide contextual information for the Report on Government Services (RoGS).

The presentation of preschool data in RoGS is yet to be determined, but this item will allow preschool data from the Collection to be disaggregated by the service funding type (e.g if reporting the indicator 'children enrolled in a preschool program', data could be disaggregated by those enrolled in a service that is government funded, or those enrolled in a service this is privately funded only).

Related URL data element: *Government funding type*

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CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

MANAGEMENT TYPE

ABS short name: EPR_MANAGTYP

ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column L

METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - management type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]

METeOR identifier: 436087

METeOR link: http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/436087

METeOR definition: The type of legal or social entity responsible for managing the delivery of an early childhood education and care service, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The management type for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.

Exclusions: Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Management type.

Nominal definition: The legal or social entity responsible for managing the delivery of an early childhood education and care service.

Operational definition: Consistent with the nominal definition.

Supporting data elements:

- *Service activity type*
- *Service delivery setting*

Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N[N], for example: 5

Maximum character length: 2

Classification values:

1	Private not for profit - community managed
2	Private not for profit - other organisations
3	State and territory and local government managed
4	Private for profit
5	State and territory government schools
6	Independent schools
7	Catholic schools
8	Other

Supplementary values:

99	Not stated/inadequately described

2.4.11 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid management type, otherwise amend to code '99'.
2.	If management type is not code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 99.	Provide a valid management type. Where jurisdictional management types differ from NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid management type code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Record the legal or social entity responsible for managing the delivery of early childhood education and care services.
- Management responsibilities include the day to day running of early childhood education and care services, including task such as the design and the delivery of the preschool program, the hiring and firing of staff, the care of the children, etc.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Private not for profit - community managed

Includes services that are managed by organisations based in the community through a membership made up of community members (e.g. the parents). The membership elects a management committee and the committee is accountable to the membership. No profit is distributed to the management committee or the members, any surplus funds are redirected to the service.

CODE 2 - Private not for profit - other organisations

Include services that are managed by non-profit organisations such as charity organisations, consortium of charity organisations and church groups. Excludes Independent and Catholic schools which should be recorded at Codes 6 and 7.

CODE 3 - State and territory and local government managed

Include services that are managed by the state, territory or local government. Excludes state and territory government schools which should be recorded at Code 5.

CODE 4 - Private for profit

Includes for-profit services provided or managed by a company or private individual.

CODE 5 - State and territory government schools

Schools that are funded and managed by the respective state government.

CODE 6 - Independent schools

Includes non-government schools that are governed, managed and accountable at the level of the individual school and are not affiliated with the diocesan Catholic Department of Education.

CODE 7 - Catholic schools

Schools affiliated with the diocesan Catholic Department of Education. Catholic schools, as with other classes of non-government schools, receive funding from the Commonwealth Government.

CODE 8 - Other

Includes employer sponsored services.

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the management type of the service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the management type is unknown, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the unknown response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

In conjunction with the data elements Service activity type and Service delivery setting, this data element provides information on the different models of preschool program delivery.

Related URL data element: *Management type.*

Back to aggregate data elements

SERVICE ACTIVITY TYPE

ABS short name: EPR_SERVACTTYP
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column M
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - service activity type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]
METeOR identifier: 506394
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506394>
METeOR definition: The main type of activity available from or provided by an early childhood education and care service provider, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The main service activity type, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:

- Activity types offered by the service provider which are not the service provider's main activity type.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Service activity type.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Supporting data elements:

- *Management type*
- *Service delivery setting*

Conceptual issues:

- 'Main' is defined as the activity type that the service provider spends the majority of time delivering during the reference period.
- The range of activity types in which a preschool program may be delivered are diverse. This data element is used in conjunction with other data elements about service provision to obtain a more detailed appraisal of service availability and how services are provided.

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N[N], for example: 8

Maximum character length: 2

Classification values:

1	Long day care
2	Occasional care
3	Outside school hours care
4	Vacation care
5	Family day care
6	In-home care
7	Preschool

Supplementary values:

99	Not stated/inadequately described

2.4.12 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid activity type code, otherwise amend to code '99'.
2.	If activity type is not code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 99.	Provide a valid activity type code. Where jurisdictional activity types differ from NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to the ABS to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid activity type code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Only one code should be selected to represent the 'main' type of activity available or provided.
- Multiple responses to this data element are not accepted.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Long day care

Long day care is a centre-based form of child care service providing all-day or part-time care for children of working families and the general community (services may cater to specific groups within the general community). For-profit and not-for-profit organisations, local councils, community organisations and employers may run these services.

Long day care primarily provides long day care services for children aged 0–5 years. Some long day care may also provide preschool and kindergarten programs and care for school children outside of school hours and during school holidays, where permitted by state and territory government regulations.. The service may operate from stand-alone or shared premises, including those on school grounds.

CODE 2 - Occasional care

Occasional care services usually provide care at a centre on an hourly or sessional basis for short periods or at irregular intervals for parents who need time to attend appointments, take care of personal matters, undertake casual and part time employment, study or have temporary respite from full time parenting. These services provide developmental activities for children and are aimed primarily at 0–5 year olds. Centres providing these services usually employ a mix of qualified and other staff.

CODE 3 - Outside school hours care

Outside School Hours Care services provide care for school aged children before school, after school, during school holidays, and on pupil free days. Outside school hours care may use stand-alone facilities, share school buildings and grounds and/or share facilities such as community halls.

CODE 4 - Vacation care

Vacation Care comprises services provided for school aged children during school holidays only.

CODE 5 - Family day care

Family day care comprises services providing small group care for children in the home environment of a registered carer. Care is primarily aimed at 0–5 year olds, but primary school children may also receive care before and after school, and during school holidays. Educators work in partnership with scheme management and coordination unit staff.

CODE 6 - In-home care

In-home care comprises services where an approved carer provides care in the child's home. Families eligible for in-home care include families where the parent/s or child has an illness or disability; families in rural or remote areas; parents working shift work or non-standard hours; families with more than two children from a multiple birth and/or more than two children under school age; and families where a breastfeeding mother is working from home.

CODE 7 - Preschool

Preschool comprises of services providing a structured, play based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. The terms most commonly used to describe preschool in states and territories are:
- Kindergarten – Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania.
- Kindergarten or Preschool – Victoria, South Australia.
- Preschool – New South Wales, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory.

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the service activity type of a service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the service activity type is not stated or inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

In conjunction with the data elements Management type and Service delivery setting, this data element provides information on the different models of preschool program delivery.

Related URL data element: *Service activity type.*

Back to aggregate data elements

SERVICE DELIVERY SETTING

ABS short name: EPR_DLIVSET

ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column N

METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - service delivery setting, early childhood education and care, code N

METeOR identifier: 506400

METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506400>

METeOR definition: The type of setting in which early childhood education and care service activities are provided by a service provider, as represented by a code.

Scope

Inclusions: The service delivery setting, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.

Exclusions: Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Service delivery setting.

Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.

Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.

Supporting data elements:

- *Management type*
- *Service activity type*

Conceptual issues:

- The range of service settings in which a preschool program may be delivered are diverse. This data element is used, in conjunction with other data elements about service provision, to obtain a more detailed appraisal of service availability and how services are provided.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Code

Data type: Number

Format: N, for example: 2

Maximum character length: 1

Classification values:

1	Centre-based—school
2	Centre-based—stand-alone
3	Centre-based—other
4	Home-based
5	General community setting

Supplementary values:

9	Not stated/inadequately described

2.4.13 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid delivery setting code, otherwise amend to code '9'.
2.	If delivery setting is not code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 9.	Provide a valid delivery setting code. Where jurisdictional delivery setting types differ from ECEC NMDS categories, the ABS requests that a correspondence be supplied to ABS to verify code mapping.
3.	If field contains text or character length is greater than 1.	Provide a valid delivery setting code.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Only include one response to this data element.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Centre-based—school

Centre-based—school, refers to child care services or preschool programs delivered on school grounds, using school facilities e.g. a building owned by the school.

CODE 2 - Centre-based—stand-alone

Centre-based—stand-alone, refers to child care services or preschool programs delivered in a non-residential building that was purpose-built or renovated (i.e. for the purpose of delivering early childhood education and care services), e.g. child care or early childhood centre, or preschool that is not part of a school (i.e. not co-located).

CODE 3 - Centre-based—other

Centre-based—other, refers to child care services or preschool programs delivered in a non-residential building that was purpose built or renovated (i.e. for the purpose of delivering early childhood education and care services), for which it cannot be determined whether they are co-located or stand-alone (i.e. Code 1 or 2), or where multiple types of early childhood education and care service activities are provided (e.g. preschool co-located with a long day care centre). This could include child care centres or other forms of integrated settings/services.

CODE 4 - Home-based

Home-based, refers to a private residential dwelling where an early childhood education and care service or preschool program is delivered by a child's parents, carers or guardian in their own home, family day care caregiver's house, or via a school of the air or distance education program.

CODE 5 - General community

General community setting, refers to a non-residential community infrastructure, facility or building that was not specifically built or developed for the provision of early childhood education and care services and is not part of a State, Independent or Catholic school, e.g. a park, community or scout hall, public library, etc. Includes locations where mobile services are delivered, if not covered by codes 1 to 4.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the service delivery setting for the service provider is unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the service delivery setting is not stated or inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

In conjunction with the data elements Management type and Service delivery setting this data element provides information on the different models of preschool program delivery.

Related URL data element: *Service delivery setting*

Back to aggregate data elements

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM SERVICE OPERATION WEEKS

ABS short name: EPR_SRVOPPWKS
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column O
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - number of preschool program service operation weeks (calendar year), total NN
METeOR identifier: 450316
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/450316>
METeOR definition: The total number of weeks per calendar year that the service provider organisation is open to provide preschool program services.

Scope

Inclusions: The number of weeks per year that the service provider is open for delivery of a preschool program, for all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program.
Exclusions:
- Weeks per calendar year when the preschool program is not being delivered.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Operation weeks.
Nominal definition: The number of weeks per calendar year that the service provider organisation actually provides a preschool program.
Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.
Supporting data elements:
- *Maximum preschool program hours available*
- *Weekly tuition fee schedule amount*

Conceptual issues:
- The provision of service relates only to the preschool program component. Exclude operational weeks during which a service provider delivers only child care services (i.e. the reported number of service operation weeks must only represent those weeks that the service provider actually delivers a preschool program).

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total
Data type: Number
Format: NN, for example: 40
Maximum character length: 2
Unit of measure: Week
Supplementary values:
  90   No regular pattern of operation through a year
  99   Not stated/inadequately described

2.4.14 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of operation weeks, otherwise amend to code '99' for not stated/inadequately described or code '90' for no regular pattern of operation through a year.
2.	If operation weeks are greater than 52 (excluding code 90 or 99).	Provide a valid number of operation weeks.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Do not include weeks when the preschool program is not being delivered. For example if the preschool program is operated in a school setting, do not count weeks during school holiday periods when the centre is only open for administrative purposes.
- A week is measured from 12:00AM (midnight) Monday morning to 11:59PM the following Sunday. If a preschool program operates within this period then it is counted as having operated during that week. Therefore if a preschool program operates for only a short time for one of the days within a week, it is counted as operating during that week.
- Valid numbers are 0 to 52.
- For service providers which commenced delivering a preschool program part-way into the current calendar year, report the number of weeks from the opening of the preschool program to the end of the calendar year (if the program is likely to continue to the end of the year). Do not derive weeks to an annual equivalent, e.g. if a preschool program commenced on 1 July, report 26 weeks if it is expected the program will continue to the end of the year.

Classification Definitions

CODE 90 - No regular pattern of operation through a year

This category is for use when the preschool program has no regular pattern of operation through a year or is offered on an irregular basis. Where the service operation weeks have no regular pattern of operation through a year, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response, document any follow-up processes undertaken and contact the ABS to discuss this response.

CODE 99 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use when the service operation weeks are unknown, not stated or inadequately described. Where the service operation weeks are not stated or inadequately described, the ABS requests that data providers identify the reason for the response and document any follow-up processes undertaken.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Preschool program service operation weeks*

Back to aggregate data elements

MAXIMUM PRESCHOOL PROGRAM HOURS AVAILABLE

ABS short name: EPR_PREHRSAVBLPW
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column P
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - maximum preschool program hours available per week, total hours N[N]
METeOR identifier: 441232
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/441232>
METeOR definition: The maximum number of hours of a preschool program available to children at this service per week, in total hours.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program:
- The maximum number of hours of the preschool program that was made available to children.

Exclusions:
- Hours available in non-preschool programs offered by the service provider.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Maximum preschool program hours available.
Nominal definition: The maximum number of hours of the preschool program that was made available to children.
Operational definition: The maximum number of hours of the preschool program that was made available to children. As this data element is not able to be reported accurately at an individual child level, for each preschool program, count the highest enrolment hours during the reference period, and record this total for all children enrolled in that preschool program.

Conceptual issues:
- Identifying and recording the maximum hours available per week for the chid to attend the preschool program enables calculation of the proportion of children enrolled in preschool programs that are available at least 15 hours per week.
- The maximum preschool program hours available are the maximum hours for which any one child could enrol in the preschool program in the reference period at that service.
- The maximum preschool program hours available could be impacted by a range of factors such as the structure of the preschool program, resources available at the service, the age and preschool readiness of the children and so on.
- Parents/guardians may choose to enrol children for hours that are equal to or less than the maximum hours the preschool program is available.
- The data element *Maximum preschool program hours available* may be less than or equal to the opening hours of the service.
- The operational definition differs from the nominal definition because maximum hours available to each child may not be recorded by service providers. Maximum hours available may differ for each child and this data element is reported at the aggregate level.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total

Data type: Number

Format: N[N], for example: 20

Maximum character length: 2

Unit of measure: Hour (h)

Supplementary values:

99   Not stated/inadequately described

2.4.15 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of hours available or amend to '0' for nil hours or code '99' for not stated/inadequately described.
2.	If character length is greater than 2.	Provide a valid number of hours available.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Enter the maximum hours available for which children are able to enrol in the preschool program during the reference period.
- Where this data element is not able to be reported accurately to determine the maximum preschool program hours available, enter the total hours enrolled for the child with the highest enrolment hours during the reference period, and record this total as the maximum hours available.
- Non-instructional times such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks should be included if the children will be under the supervision of the service provider.
- The maximum number of hours should be collected for each preschool program available at the service. Data should then be used to determine and report the maximum program length at the service provider level.
- Jurisdictions that adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Maximum preschool program hours available*

Back to aggregate data elements

WEEKLY TUITION FEE SCHEDULE AMOUNT

ABS short name: EPR_FEESCHAMT

ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column Q

METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - preschool program weekly tuition fee schedule amount, total Australian currency N[NNNNN].NN

METeOR identifier: 441286

METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/441286>

METeOR definition: The standard weekly tuition fee schedule amount for a preschool program reported by the service, measured in Australian dollars and cents.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program:

- The standard tuition fee amount charged for the maximum weekly hours that a child can enrol in the preschool program.

Exclusions:

- Fees charged for children to attend other non-preschool programs with the service provider, such as out of school hours care.
- Additional charges, such as levies, meals or separate care services.
- Discounts or fee relief.
- Voluntary contributions.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Tuition fee.

Nominal definition: The standard tuition fee charged for the maximum hours that a child can enrol in the preschool program.

Operational definition: Consistent with nominal definition.

Conceptual issues: N/A

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total

Data type: Currency

Format: N[NNNNN].NN, for example: 5.75

Maximum character length: 8

Unit of measure: Australian currency (AU$)

Unit of measure precision: 2

Supplementary values:

0.00   No fees charged

2.4.16 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid preschool fee, otherwise amend to '0.00' for nil fee charged.
2.	If character length is greater than 8.	Provide a valid preschool fee.
3.	If field does not include a cent value.	Provide a valid preschool fee.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- The standard tuition fee schedule amount for a preschool program should be collected for each preschool program available at the service.
- Jurisdictions which adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.
- If fees are charged on a per day, per term or per year basis, the pro-rata equivalent weekly fee should be derived by taking into account the days per week, weeks per term and/or weeks per year the preschool program operates.

Classification Definitions

CODE 0.00 - No fees charged

This category is for use when there are no fees charged for attendance at the preschool program.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Preschool program fees charged*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN ENROLLED IN A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ABS short name: EPR_INDIGPREENR
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column AH
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - number of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program, total N[NNNN]
METeOR identifier: 506734
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506734>
METeOR definition: The total number of individual preschool program enrolments of Indigenous children at the service.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program:
- The total number of individual enrolments of Indigenous children in the preschool program, cross classified by the single year of age.
- Include Indigenous children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but are enrolled at a preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, an Indigenous child living in Tweed Heads who is enrolled at a preschool in Coolangatta (QLD) would be recorded by the QLD jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.

Exclusions:
- Indigenous children who have only completed enrolment procedures at the service and not yet commenced.
- Indigenous children who have left the service (e.g. have ceased education or changed service providers), or have been absent without explanation for four continuous weeks (excluding school vacations) prior to the reference period.
- Enrolled children that fall within the category 'non-Indigenous'.
- Indigenous children in ECEC services which do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Indigenous children enrolled at a preschool program.
Nominal definition: An Indigenous child that has been offered a place in a preschool program and is actively attending.
Indigenous: According to 'The Commonwealth Definition', 'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives'.
There are three components to the Commonwealth definition:
- descent
- self-identification
- community acceptance.

This definition is in accordance with 'The Commonwealth Definition' which was given in a High Court judgement in the case of *Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 46 ALR 625.
Operational definition: The total number of Indigenous children that are enrolled in a preschool program. Please see data element list earlier in this chapter for specific disaggregation and cross classification of this data element as specified in the data request template.
It must be noted that data collected at the aggregate level will be published as episodes of enrolments, not number of children enrolled. This is because it is not possible to identify duplicate enrolments within aggregate collections, once jurisdictional service provider data are merged.

Supporting data elements: Enrolment must be cross classified and reported by the following data elements:

- *Age*
- *Indigenous status*

Conceptual issues:

- The child must have been offered a place and formally enrolled or registered in a preschool program and actively attending to be counted as enrolled.
- A child is considered to be actively attending if they have attended a preschool program for at least one hour in the reference period or were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave but expected to return.
- The Indigenous status of the child must be the status as identified by the child's parent or guardian. See the data element Indigenous status, for further rules and definitions around identifying a child's Indigenous status.
- The nominal and operational definitions of *Number of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program* differ due to the aggregate data collection methodology.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Count
Data type: Number
Format: N[NNNN], for example: 17
Maximum character length: 5

2.4.17 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of enrolled Indigenous children, otherwise amend to '0' for nil Indigenous children.
2.	If character length is greater than 5.	Provide a valid number of enrolled Indigenous children.
3.	If total number of Indigenous children enrolled is less than total number of Indigenous children attending in a preschool program	Provide a valid number of enrolled and attending Indigenous children. Verify that enrolments are equal to or greater than number of Indigenous children attending.
4.	If total number of Indigenous children enrolled is greater than the total number of all children enrolled in a preschool program.	Provide a valid number of enrolled Indigenous children and correct number of total enrolled children. Verify that total numbers of Indigenous children enrolled are equal to or less than total number of all children enrolled.

Guide for Use

This data element must be cross classified and reported by the supporting data elements listed above.

Counting rules:

- The number of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program should be collected for each preschool program available at the service. Each Indigenous child should be counted once only and data should then be aggregated to the service provider level for reporting purposes.

- The total number of Indigenous children enrolled, cross classified by their age (as of 1 July 2013) should be reported.
- A child should only be counted as being enrolled in a preschool program if they have been offered a place in a preschool program and are actively attending. A child is considered to be actively attending if they have attended a preschool program for at least one hour in the reference period or was absent in the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave but was expected to return.
- Jurisdictions that adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Indigenous status* and *Preschool program enrolment indicator*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

NUMBER OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS

ABS short name: EPR_NUMPREENR
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column AI
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - number of preschool program enrolments, total N[NNNN]
METeOR identifier: 506736
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506736>
METeOR definition: The total number of individual preschool program enrolments recorded at the service.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program:
- The total number of children enrolled in the preschool program, by single year of age.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but are enrolled at a preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Tweed Heads who is enrolled at a preschool in Coolangatta (QLD) would be recorded by the QLD jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.

Exclusions:
- Children who have only completed enrolment procedures at the service and not yet commenced.
- Children who have left the service (e.g. have ceased education or changed service providers), or have been absent without explanation for four continuous weeks (excluding school vacations) prior to the reference period.
- Children in ECEC services which do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program enrolment.
Nominal definition: A child that has been offered a place and formally enrolled or registered in a preschool program and is actively attending.
Operational definition: The number of children that are enrolled in a preschool program. Please see data element list earlier in this chapter for specific disaggregation and cross classification of this data element as specified in the data request template.

It must be noted that data collected at the aggregate level will be published as episodes of enrolments, not number of children enrolled. This is because it is not possible to identify duplicate enrolments within aggregate collections, once jurisdictional service provider data are merged.

Supporting data elements: Enrolment must be cross classified and reported by the following data elements:
- *Age*
- *Indigenous status*

Conceptual issues:
- The child must have been offered a place in a preschool program and actively attending to be counted as enrolled.
- A child is considered to be actively attending if they have attended a preschool program for at least one hour in the reference period or was absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave but was expected to return.
- The nominal and operational definitions of *Number of preschool program enrolments* differ due to the aggregate data collection methodology.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Count

Data type: Number

Format: N[NNNN], for example: 75

Maximum character length: 5

2.4.18 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of enrolled children, otherwise amend to '0' for nil children.
2.	If character length is greater than 5.	Provide a valid number of enrolled children.
3.	If total number of children enrolled is less than total number of children attending in a preschool program.	Provide a valid number of enrolled and attending children and verify that total enrolments are equal to or greater than the number of children attending.

Guide for Use

This data element must be cross classified and reported by the supporting data elements listed above.

Counting rules:

- The number of children enrolled in a preschool program should be collected for each preschool program available at the service. Each child should be counted only once and data should then be aggregated to the service provider level for reporting purposes.
- The total number of children enrolled, cross classified by their age (as at 1 July 2013) should be reported.
- A child should only be counted as being enrolled in a preschool program if they have been offered a place in a preschool program and are actively attending. A child is considered to be actively attending if they have attended a preschool program for at least one hour in the reference period or was absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave but was expected to return.
- Jurisdictions that adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Preschool program enrolment indicator*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN ATTENDING A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ABS short name: EPR_INDIGPREATND
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column AZ
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - number of Indigenous children attending a preschool program, total number N[NNNN]
METeOR identifier: 441249
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/441249>
METeOR definition: The total number of Indigenous children attending a preschool program at the service.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program:
- The total number of individual Indigenous children who attended the preschool program in the reference period, disaggregated by single year of age.
- Include those Indigenous children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend a preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Tweed Heads who attends a preschool in Coolangatta (QLD) would be recorded by the QLD jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.

Exclusions:
- The number of Indigenous children who did not attend the preschool program during the reference period (e.g. Indigenous children who were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave).
- The number of children attending that fall within the category 'non-Indigenous'.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Indigenous children attending preschool program.
Nominal definition: An Indigenous child who is enrolled in a preschool program and has attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period.
Indigenous: 'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives'. There are three components to the Commonwealth definition:
- descent
- self-identification
- community acceptance.

This definition is in accordance with 'The Commonwealth Definition' which was given in a High Court judgement in the case of *Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 46 ALR 625.
Operational definition: The number of Indigenous children that are attending a preschool program. Please see data element list in this chapter for specific disaggregation and cross classification of this data element as specified in the data request template.
It must be noted that data collected at the aggregate level will be published as episodes of attendance, not number of children attending. This is because it is not possible to identify duplicate records within aggregate collections, once jurisdictional service provider data are merged.

Supporting data elements: Attendance must be cross classified and reported by the following data elements:

- *Age*
- *Indigenous status*

Conceptual issues:

- A child is defined as attending a preschool program if they attended for at least one hour during the reference period.
- The Indigenous status of the child must be the status as identified by the child's parent or guardian. See the data element Indigenous status, for further rules and definitions around identifying a child's Indigenous status.
- The nominal and operational definitions of *Number of Indigenous children attending a preschool program* differ due to the aggregate reporting methodology.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Count
Data type: Number
Format: N[NNNN], for example: 36
Maximum character length: 5

2.4.19 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of attending Indigenous children, otherwise amend to '0' for nil Indigenous children.
2.	If character length is greater than 5.	Provide a valid number of attending Indigenous children.
3.	If total number of Indigenous children attending is greater than total number of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program.	Provide a valid number of enrolled and attending Indigenous children. Verify that enrolments are equal to or greater than number of Indigenous children attending.
4.	If total number of Indigenous children attending is greater than the total of all children attending a preschool program.	Provide the correct number of Indigenous children attending and correct number of all attending children. Verify that total number of Indigenous children attending is equal to or less than the number of all children attending.

Guide for Use

This data element must be cross classified and reported by the supporting data elements listed above.

Counting rules:

- The total number of Indigenous children attending must be cross classified by their age (as at 1 July 2013).
- The number of Indigenous children attending a preschool program should be collected for each preschool program available at the service. Each Indigenous child should be counted once only and data should then be aggregated to the service provider level for reporting purposes.
- A child should only be counted as having attended a preschool program if they attended for at least one hour during the reference period.
- Jurisdictions that adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.

Other Information

Related URL data elements: *Indigenous status* and *Preschool program attendance indicator*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

ABS short name: EPR_NUMPREATND
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column BA
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - number of children attending a preschool program, total N[NNNN]
METeOR identifier: 441235
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/441235>
METeOR definition: The total number of children attending a preschool program at the service.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program:
- The total number of children attending a preschool program, disaggregated by single year of age.
- Include those children who live outside of the jurisdiction's borders but attend a preschool within the jurisdiction. For example, a child living in Tweed Heads who attends a preschool in Coolangatta (QLD) would be recorded by the QLD jurisdictional agency, not by NSW.

Exclusions:
- Children who did not attend the preschool program during the reference period (e.g. children who were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave).
- Children not enrolled in a preschool program.
- Early childhood education and care services that do not deliver a preschool program:

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program attendance.
Nominal definition: A child who is enrolled in a preschool program and has attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period.
Operational definition: The number of children who attended a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period. Please see data element list earlier in this chapter for specific disaggregation and cross classification of this data element as specified in the data request template.
It must be noted that data collected at the aggregate level will be published as episodes of attendance, not number of children attending. This is because it is not possible to identify duplicate records within aggregate collections, once jurisdictional service provider data are merged.
Supporting data elements: Attendance must be cross classified and reported by the following data elements:
- *Age*
- *Indigenous status*

Conceptual issues:
- A child is defined as attending a preschool program if they attended for at least one hour during the reference period.
- The nominal and operational definitions of *Number of children attending a preschool program* differ due to the aggregate data collection methodology.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Count
Data type: Number
Format: N[NNNN], for example: 70
Maximum character length: 5

2.4.20 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of attending children, otherwise amend to '0' for nil children.
2.	If character length is greater than 5.	Provide a valid number of attending children.
3.	If total number of children attending is greater than total number of children enrolled in a preschool program.	Provide a valid number of enrolled and attending children. Verify that enrolments are equal to or greater than number of children attending.

Guide for Use

This data element must be cross classified and reported by the supporting data elements listed above.

Counting rules:

- The total number of children attending must be cross classified by their age (as at 1 July 2013).
- The number of children attending a preschool program should be collected for each preschool program available at the service. Each child should be counted once only and data should then be aggregated to the service provider level for reporting purposes.
- A child should only be counted as having attended a preschool program if they attended for at least one hour during the reference period.
- Jurisdictions that adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.

Other Information

Related URL data element: Preschool program attendance indicator

Back to aggregate data elements

NUMBER OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAM HOURS ENROLLED

ABS short name: EPR_PREHRSENRPW
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column BB
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - number of preschool program hours enrolled, total hours N[NNNN]
METeOR identifier: 506738
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/506738>
METeOR definition: The total number of hours of a preschool program that children are enrolled in at this service.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program:
- Total hours that all children are enrolled in the preschool program component of the service, in the reference period.

Exclusions:
- Hours enrolled in non-preschool programs offered by the service provider.
- Enrolled hours of children who have only completed enrolment procedures at the service and not yet commenced.
- Enrolled hours of children who have left the service (e.g. have ceased education or changed service providers), or have been absent without explanation for four continuous weeks (excluding school vacations) prior to the reference period.
- Enrolled hours of children in ECEC services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program hours enrolled.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Supporting data elements: This data element is used by the ABS in conjunction with the total number of children enrolled (enrolment episodes) to derive average weekly hours enrolled per child (per episode) at the service provider level.
- *Number of preschool program enrolments*

Conceptual issues:
- The child must have been offered a place and be formally enrolled or registered in a preschool program and be actively attending, to be counted as enrolled.
- A child is considered to be actively attending if they attended a preschool program for at least one hour in the reference period or they were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave but expected to return.
- The data element *Number of preschool program hours enrolled* may be greater than or equal to the data element Total hours of preschool program attended.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total
Data type: Number
Format: N[NNNN], for example: 640
Maximum character length: 5
Unit of measure: Hour (h)

2.4.21 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of enrolled hours, otherwise amend to '0' for nil hours.
2.	If character length is greater than 5.	Provide a valid number of enrolled hours.
3.	If total number of hours enrolled is less than the total number of hours attended in a preschool program.	Provide a valid number of enrolled and attending hours. Verify that total enrolment hours are equal to or greater than total attendance hours.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- The total number of hours of a preschool program that children are enrolled in a preschool program should be collected for each preschool program available at the service. These data should then be aggregated to the service provider level for reporting purposes.
- Enrolment hours in non-instructional activities such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks should be included if the child was under the supervision of the service provider organisation.
- Where the service provider offers other integrated child care services, the hours associated with these services should be excluded from this data element.
- Jurisdictions that adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Preschool program hours enrolled per week*

Back to aggregate data elements

TOTAL HOURS OF PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ATTENDED

ABS short name: EPR_TOTPREATNDHRS
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Column BC
METeOR Technical name: Service provider organisation - preschool program attendance hours, total hours N[NNNN]
METeOR identifier: 441275
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/441275>
METeOR definition: The total number of hours of a preschool program that children attended at this service.

Scope

Inclusions: For all early childhood education and care services that deliver a preschool program:

- Total hours that all children have attended the preschool program component of the service, in the reference period.

Exclusions:

- Hours attended in non-preschool programs offered by the service provider.
- Hours attended at ECEC services that do not deliver a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Preschool program hours attended.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR definition.
Operational definition:

- *For LDCs:* consistent with METeOR definition.
- *For preschools:* the total number of hours of a preschool program that children have attended, derived from preschool program sessions attended per week.

Supporting data elements:

This data element is used by the ABS in conjunction with the total number of children attending (attendance episodes) to derive average weekly hours attended per child (per episode) at the service provider level.

- *Number of children attending a preschool program*

Conceptual issues:

- A child is defined as having attended a preschool program if they attended for at least one hour during the reference period. Children who were absent during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave should be excluded.
- The data element *Total hours of preschool program attended* may be less than or equal to the data element Number of preschool program hours enrolled.
- The operational definition differs from the nominal definition for stand-alone or school-based preschools due to the preschool program delivery methods used in these services. It may not be possible or practical to record actual hours of attendance.
- Therefore, hours attended may be derived from preschool program sessions attended, which may result in under-reporting of the actual hours attended by children at the service.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

Representation class: Total
Data type: Number
Format: N[NNNN], for example: 570
Maximum character length: 5
Unit of measure: Hour (h)

2.4.22 Legal Value Checks

	Edit specifications	Edit resolution
1.	If field is blank.	Provide a valid number of attending hours, otherwise amend to '0' for nil hours.
2.	If character length is greater than 5.	Provide a valid number of attending hours.
3.	If total number of hours attended is greater than the total number of hours enrolled in a preschool program.	Provide a valid number of enrolled and attending hours. Verify that total attendance hours are less than or equal to total enrolment hours.

Guide for Use

Counting rules:

- Attendance hours for stand-alone preschools or preschools attached to a school should be derived by recording the number of whole sessions attended by the child and deriving hours from the usual length of each session. When a child attends part of a session, this should be recorded and counted as a half session if possible. Alternatively, if recording part session attendances is not possible, a part session attendance should be recorded as an absence for the whole session, with zero attendance hours recorded for this session.
- Attendance hours for a preschool program delivered in a Long Day Care (LDC) should be calculated by recording the child's arrival and departure times from the preschool program. Hours should then be derived from these times.
- The total number of hours of a preschool program children attended should be collected for each preschool program available at the service. These data should then be aggregated to the service provider level for reporting purposes.
- Attendance hours in non-instructional activities such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks should be included if the child was under the supervision of the service provider organisation.
- Where the service provider offers other integrated child care services, the hours associated with these services should be excluded from this data element.
- Jurisdictions that adopt a two week reference period are required to derive their data to a representative week.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Preschool program hours attended per week*

Back to aggregate data elements

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

STATISTICAL ENTITY: CHILD

Children are considered in scope of the Collection if they are enrolled in a preschool program at an in scope service provider, are aged between 3-6 years old inclusive and have been actively attending a preschool program. Child data collected using an aggregate methodology will be presented as episodes of enrolments and attendance.

The following descriptions outline the 2013 aggregate child level data element collection instructions. These data elements are cross classified variables, sought in conjunction with Number of preschool program enrolments and Number of children attending a preschool program.

AGE

ABS short name: not applicable
ABS Aggregate Template reference: Columns R-AG(episodes of children enrolled);
                                          Columns AJ-AY (episodes of children attending)
METeOR Technical name: Person - age, total years N[NN]
METeOR identifier: 303794
METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/303794>
METeOR definition: The age of the person in (completed) years at a specific point in time.

Scope

Inclusions: The age of the child, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.
Exclusions: Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Age.
Nominal definition: Consistent with METeOR.
Operational definition: The number of children that are enrolled in a preschool program, disaggregated by enrolments, attendances and single year of age.
Please see the data element list in this chapter for specific disaggregation and cross classification of this data element as specified in the data request template.
It must be noted that data collected at the aggregate level will be published as episodes of enrolments or attendance, not number of children enrolled or attending. This is because it is not possible to identify duplicate records within aggregate collections, once jurisdictional service provider data are merged.
Supporting data elements: *Age* is not provided as an individual data element and must be cross classified and reported in conjunction with the following data elements:
- *Number of preschool program enrolments*
- *Number of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program*
- *Number of Indigenous children attending a preschool program*
- *Number of children attending a preschool program*
- *Indigenous status*

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

Conceptual issues:

- Age disaggregations will provide contextual information on enrolment and attendance data.
- The child's age should be collected in completed years as at 1 July in the collection year.
- The nominal and operational definitions of *Age* differ due to the aggregate collection and reporting methodology.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

The following output instructions refer to the format in which the data should be provided to the ABS. This differs to what is presented in METeOR 'Value domain attributes'. What is presented in METeOR represents the way the data element would be collected if it was in URL form. The following outlines the format of the data as it should be provided to the ABS at aggregate level.

Representation class: Total
Data type: Number
Format: N[NNNN], for example: 113
Maximum character length: 3
Supplementary value:

    999   Unknown/not stated

Guide for Use

This data element must be cross classified and reported by the supporting data elements listed above.

Counting rules:

- Collate the numbers of children, cross classified by single year of age and Indigenous status, for total enrolments and total attendances at each service provider.
- Calculate the age of each child in completed years. For example, if a child is aged 4 years and 9 months as at 1 July of the collection year, the child would be recorded as being aged 4 years for the purposes of this collection.

Classification Definitions

CODE 999 – Unknown/not stated

For use as a response in instances where the age of the child is unknown.

Other Information

Related URL data element: [Date of birth](#)

[Back to aggregate data elements](#)

CHAPTER 2: DATA ELEMENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – AGGREGATE

INDIGENOUS STATUS

ABS short name: not applicable

ABS Aggregate Template reference: Columns R-AG(episodes of children enrolled);

Columns AJ-AY(episodes of children attending)

METeOR Technical name: Person - Indigenous status, code N

METeOR identifier: 291036

METeOR link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/291036>

METeOR definition: Whether a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, as represented by a code. This is in accord with the first two of three components of the Commonwealth definition.

Scope

Inclusions: The Indigenous status of the child, for all children enrolled in a preschool program.

Exclusions: Children not enrolled in a preschool program.

Underlying Concepts

Concept: Indigenous status.

Nominal definition: 'According to the 'The Commonwealth Definition', 'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives'. There are three components to the Commonwealth definition:

- descent
- self-identification
- community acceptance.

This definition is in accordance with 'The Commonwealth Definition' which was given in a High Court judgement in the case of *Commonwealth v Tasmania* (1983) 46 ALR 625.

Operational definition: The number of children that are enrolled in a preschool program, disaggregated by enrolments, attendances and Indigenous status. Children are considered 'Indigenous' based on parental/guardian reporting.

Please see the data element list earlier in this chapter for specific disaggregation and cross classification of this data element as specified in the data request template.

It must be noted that data collected at the aggregate level will be published as episodes of enrolments, not number of children enrolled. This is because it is not possible to identify duplicate enrolments within aggregate collections, once jurisdictional service provider data are merged.

Supporting data elements: *Indigenous status* is not provided as an individual data element and must be cross classified and reported by the following data elements:

- *Number of preschool program enrolments*
- *Number of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program*
- *Number of Indigenous children attending a preschool program*
- *Number of children attending a preschool program*
- *Age*

Conceptual issues:

- The nominal and operational definitions of *Indigenous status* differ due to the aggregate data collection methodology.

- The definitions also differ as it is infeasible for children in scope of this collection to self-report. It is also infeasible to collect information on the community acceptance aspect of this definition. Therefore, the child's parent or guardian must be asked to identify the child's Indigenous status on the child's behalf.

Standard Jurisdictional Output Categories

The following output instructions refer to the format in which the data should be provided to the ABS. This format differs to the format presented in METeOR 'Value domain attributes'. The format presented in METeOR is the format that the data element would be collected if it was collected in URL form. The following outlines the format of the data as it should be provided to the ABS at aggregate level.

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N, for example: 2
Maximum character length: 1
Classification values:

1	Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
2	Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
3	Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
4	Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin

Supplementary values:

9	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for Use

This data element must be cross classified and reported by the supporting data elements listed above.

Counting rules:

- Record the total number of children for each Indigenous classification, for the enrolment and attendance data elements.

Classification Definitions

CODE 1 - Aboriginal, but not Torres Strait Islander origin

This code should be used when the child's parent or guardian identifies the child as being of Aboriginal, but not Torres Strait Islander origin.

CODE 2 - Torres Strait Islander, but not Aboriginal origin

This code should be used when the child's parent or guardian identifies the child as being of Torres Strait Islander, but not Aboriginal origin.

CODE 3 - Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin

This code should be used when the child's parent or guardian identifies the child as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

CODE 4 - Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin

This code should be used when the child's parent or guardian identifies the child as being of neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander origin.

CODE 9 - Not stated/inadequately described

For use where the child's Indigenous Status is not stated or inadequately described.

Other Information

Related URL data element: *Indigenous status*

Back to aggregate data elements

OVERVIEW

The ABS protects and maintains the confidentiality of all information received from data providers, and this is assured by provisions of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (Cwlth). In accordance with the Census and Statistics Act, the ABS is bound not to disclose information in a manner which would enable the identification of a particular person or organisation to which it relates. The dissemination of data under the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection (the Collection) fully complies with all legal and legislative obligations, and will not be disseminated in such a way as to enable individuals to be identified.

Under clause 5.4 of the National Information Agreement for Early Childhood Education and Care (NIA ECEC):

5.4.1   All Parties will respect the rights to privacy of any person or organisation named or otherwise identified in any information source.

5.4.2   Information will be collected, disseminated, used and secured in such a way as to protect the privacy and confidentiality of any individual and/or organisation to which it may refer. In particular, all state/territory and Commonwealth privacy and confidentiality legislation and established ethical guidelines and practices will be complied with under this Agreement.

5.4.3   The Parties acknowledge that data holders will comply with the provision of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth) as amended, and any other Commonwealth, state or territory legislation relevant to the confidentiality or privacy of the data. The ABS will collect, compile and disseminate statistical information in accordance with the provisions of the Census and Statistics Act.

COLLECTION OF DATA BY JURISDICTIONS

The Privacy Act does not regulate state or territory agencies, except for the Australian Capital Territory. The remaining states and territories operate under their own privacy requirements that are based on the National Privacy Principles, which is contained in schedule 3 of the Privacy Act. Data collected by jurisdictions for the Collection is subject to state, territory and Commonwealth legislation, which applies to the collection and on-provision of data to the ABS.

All data providers need to guarantee that relevant state, territory and Commonwealth legislation requirements have been acknowledged and addressed to ensure that correct procedures and protocols are followed in collecting unit record level information.

ON-PROVIDING DATA TO THE ABS

Under the NIA ECEC (Schedule C, clause 5.1), each jurisdiction is required to forward their data collections to the ABS. All data providers acknowledge that they are aware of the implications of sharing data with the ABS in terms of relevant jurisdictional privacy and confidentiality legislation requirements, and have investigated whether permission is required to be obtained from parents or guardians. The provision of data to the ABS by data providers is authorised by the Census and Statistics Act, however data may also be covered by other relevant state and territory legislation.

CHAPTER 3: PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

As the ABS will be receiving the information under the Census and Statistics Act, the ABS will comply with the requirements of the Act in all interactions with the data. Section 19 of the Census and Statistics Act imposes obligations on the Statistician and ABS officers in relation to the protection of the confidentiality of data. In publishing and disseminating the results of analyses of statistical information, section 12 ensures that the ABS will not publish information in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of a person or organisation.

In accordance with the requirements of the Census and Statistics Act, the ABS guarantees to:
- Remove all directly identifying information prior to release. This includes name, date of birth, address and any other information that identifies particular persons or organisations.
- Release information only in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of the particular person or organisation to which it relates.

As a Commonwealth agency, the ABS must also comply with the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) as set out in section 14 of the Privacy Act. The IPPs give protection to the confidentiality of a range of personal material and impose obligations regarding the storage and use of personal information. All ABS practices in relation to the care and control of personal information must, as a minimum, comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act.

APPENDIX: OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO THE ECEC NMDS

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO THE ECEC NMDS

The differences between the 2013 and 2012 Early Childhood Education and Care National Minimum Data Standards (the NMDS) are summarised in the following table. These changes are minimal and include retired data elements, new data elements, revised definitions, changed classifications and codes.

UPDATES TO THE 2013 URL NMDS

METeOR Technical name	METeOR identifier	Contents changed
Child - preschool program enrolment indicator, yes/no code N	506727 (changed from 436126)	Guide for use revised for minor changes to the definition of 'active enrolment'.
Child - preschool program hours enrolled (per week), total hours N[N]	506729 (changed from 436130)	Guide for use revised for minor changes to the definition of 'active enrolment'.
Child preschool program received from a qualified teacher indicator, yes/no/not stated code N	506731 (changed from 436683)	Guide for use revised to: • Incorporate the concept of 'usual' • Enable interaction and consistency with new ECEC contact worker and ECEC teacher Glossary items • Included distance education preschool programs.
Person (employed) – paid employment indicator, code N	314813	Retired from 2013 NMDS Based on revisions made to the worker cluster and the addition of two new Glossary items (ECEC Worker and ECEC Teacher) this data element is no longer required in 2013.
Person (employed) - preschool program delivery indicator, yes/no/not stated, code N	441674	Retired from 2013 NMDS Based on revisions made to the worker cluster and the addition of two new Glossary items (ECEC Worker and ECEC Teacher) this data element is no longer required in 2013.
Person (employed) - hours worked in preschool program delivery, total hours NNN	437558	Retired from 2013 NMDS In 2013, the ABS requests this item as an additional data element.
Service provider organisation- management type ECEC, code N	436087	Guide for use added to note relationship between this data element and the data elements *Service activity type* and *Service delivery setting*.
Service provider organisation- service activity type ECEC, code N	506394 (changed from 436094)	Revised Permissible Values and Guide for Use: Combined classification values 7 and 8 (Preschool program: stand-alone and Preschool program: as part of a school) into one classification value 7 – Preschool. Retired classification value 8. Guide for use revised to reflect this change and to note the relationship between this data element and the data elements *Management type* and *Service delivery setting*.

APPENDIX: OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO THE ECEC NMDS

Service provider organisation-service delivery setting, ECEC, code N	506400 (changed from 436100)	Revised Permissible Values and Guide for Use: Revised classification value 2 from Centre-based– other to Centre-based – stand-alone. Revised classification value 3 from Centre-based – child's home to Centre-based – other. Revised classification value 4 from Home-based-other to Home-based. Retired classification value 8 – Other setting Guide for use has been revised to reflect these changes, include instructions for mobile services and to note the relationship between this data element and the data elements *Service activity type* and *Management type*.
Early childhood education and care worker cluster	503083	A new NMDS Glossary item created to help define the worker collection scope. The ECEC worker cluster data items should be used in conjunction with each other to describe the contact workers employed in early childhood and education and care services.
Early childhood education and care contact worker	493450	A new NMDS Glossary item created to define a contact worker in ECEC. i.e. a contact worker who has paid employment with an ECEC service provider; has a role of principal/director/coordinator/teacher-in-charge or group leader/teacher; and delivered a preschool program in the reference period.
Early childhood education and care teacher	493482	A new NMDS Glossary item created to define a teacher in ECEC i.e. an early childhood education and care worker who has completed at least a three year university qualification in early childhood education.
Person - person identifier, XXXXXX[X(14)]	290046	New for 2013. A data element to identify unique contact workers/teachers within a service provider (if data providers are able to provide it). Format XXXXXX[X(14)]
Record- linkage key, code 581 XXXXXDDMMYYYYN	349895	New for 2013. A data element to accurately identify, connect and count ECEC contact workers/teachers (if data providers are able to provide it). This can assist in identification of ECEC contact workers/teachers who work at more than one preschool service provider and minimising the potential for double-counting ECEC contact workers/teachers.

APPENDIX: OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO THE ECEC NMDS

UPDATES TO THE 2013 AGGREGATE ECEC NMDS

METeOR Technical name	METeOR identifier	Contents changed
Service provider organisation-management type ECEC, code N	436087	Guide for use added to note relationship between this data element and the data elements *Service activity type* and *Service delivery setting*.
Service provider organisation-service activity type ECEC, code N	506394 (changed from 436094)	Revised Permissible Values and Guide for Use: Combined classification values 7 and 8 (Preschool program – stand-alone and Preschool program: as part of a school) into one classification value 7 – Preschool. Retired classification value 8. Guide for use revised to reflect this change and to note the relationship between this data element and the data elements *Management type* and *Service delivery setting*.
Service provider organisation-service delivery setting, ECEC, code N	506400 (changed from 436100)	Revised Permissible Values and Guide for Use: Revised classification value 2 from Centre-based–other to Centre-based–stand-alone. Revised classification value 3 from Centre-based–child's home to Centre–based-other. Revised classification value 4 from Home-based – other to Home-based. Retired classification value 8 – Other setting Guide for use has been revised to reflect these changes, include instructions for mobile services and to note the relationship between this data element and the data elements *Service activity type* and *Management type*.
Service provider organisation-number of Indigenous children enrolled in a preschool program, total N[NNNN]	506734 (changed from 441259)	Guide for use revised for minor changes to the definition of 'active enrolment'.
Service provider organisation-number of preschool program enrolments, total	506736 (changed from 441268)	Guide for use revised for minor changes to the definition of 'active enrolment'.
Service provider organisation-number of preschool program hours enrolled, total hours N[NNNN]	506738 (changed from 441282)	Guide for use revised for minor changes to the definition of 'active enrolment'.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

www.abs.gov.au the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

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