

CHILD CARE

AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Eric Morris on Sydney 02 9268 4551.

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication contains results from the Child Care Survey conducted throughout Australia in June 1999. It is a continuation of a series of surveys on this topic conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in March 1996. The major aim of the survey was to collect data on the supply of, and demand for, child care for children under 12 years of age. Information was also collected on the use of the Childcare Rebate and the working arrangements of parents with children under 12.

ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of component items and totals. Unless otherwise stated, proportions are based on stated or classifiable responses.



ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- CR Childcare Rebate
- MPS Monthly Population Survey
- RSE Relative standard error
- SE Standard error

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

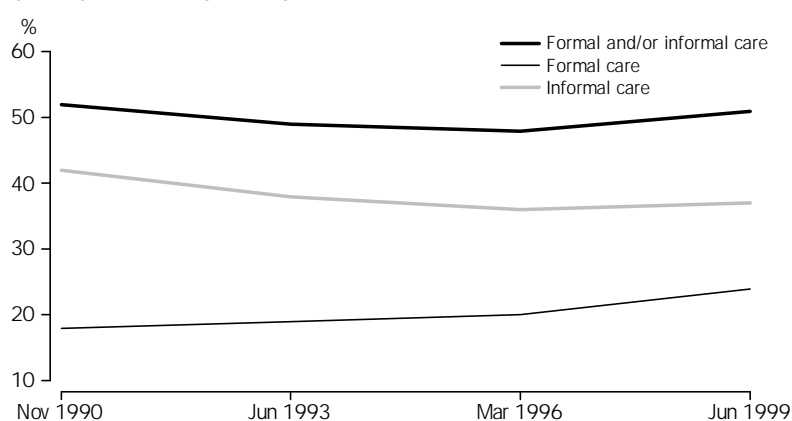
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

Child care refers to arrangements (other than parental care) made for the care of children under 12 years of age. Formal child care is regulated care which takes place away from the child's home and includes attendance at preschool, a child care centre, family day care and occasional care. Informal care is care which is non-regulated and can take place in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by family members, friends, neighbours and paid babysitters. Parents often use a combination of formal and informal arrangements to provide for children's care needs.

In June 1999, 1,599,300 (51%) children aged less than 12 years used some type of child care (table 1). Informal care, either alone or in combination with formal care, was used by 37% (1,162,100) of children under 12 years. This was almost unchanged from 36% of children in 1996. Formal care (alone or in combination) was used by 23% (733,200) of children, an increase from 20% in 1996 and continuing the upward trend observed over the decade.

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS



USE OF CHILD CARE

Types of care

The most commonly used types of formal care were long day care and preschool, attended by 33% and 32% respectively of children in formal care (table 2). These were followed by before and after school care programs (21%), family day care (12%) and occasional care (6%).

Among children receiving informal care, 57% (662,700) were looked after by grandparent(s), 6% by siblings and 19% by other relatives. Other (unrelated) people provided care to 25% of children in informal care.

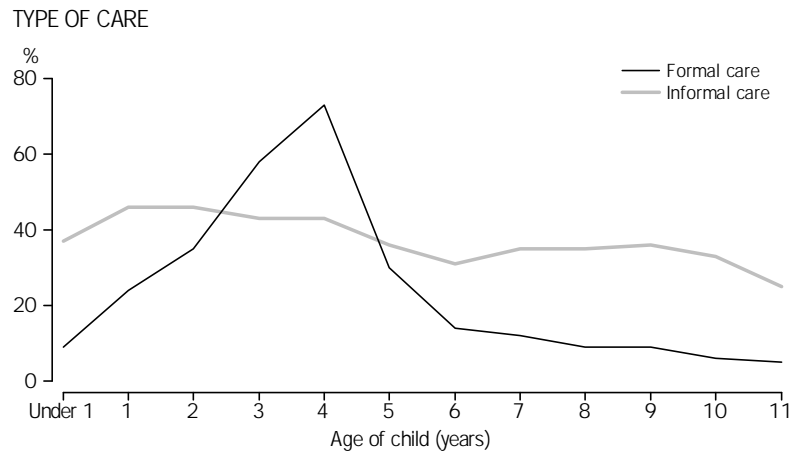
Age of children in care

Child care usage varied with age particularly for formal care. The use of formal care by very young children was low (9% of children under one year), but increased rapidly from age one (24%) up to age four (73%) (table 3). The increase in use of formal care by age reflects preschool attendance of three and four year old children. From age five, when most children have started school, the proportion of children using formal care dropped sharply, with 30% of five year old children and 7% of 9–11 year old children in formal care. Use of formal care among four and five year olds has increased considerably from 1996 when 62% of four year olds and 12% of five year olds used formal care.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

USE OF CHILD CARE *continued*

Use of informal care generally decreased as the age of children increased. Overall, 43% of children under five years used informal care compared to 33% of children aged 5–11 years.

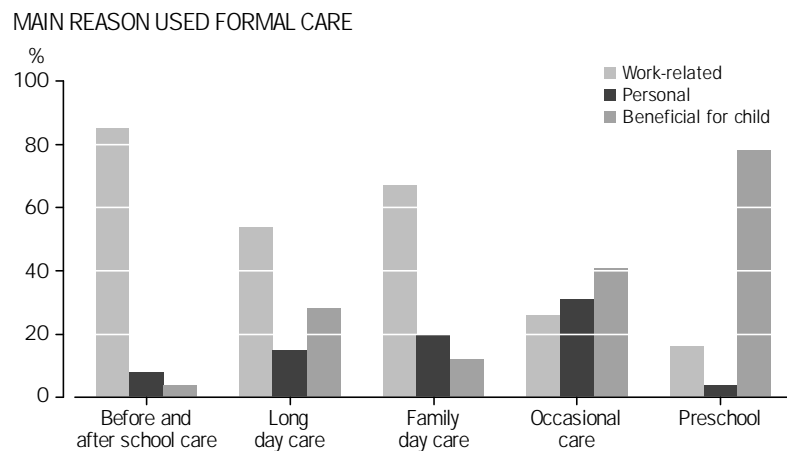


Hours of care

Of the children who used formal care, 19% (141,400) used it for less than five hours per week, 60% (439,600) used it for 5–19 hours and 3% (19,600) for 45 hours or more per week (table 6). This pattern contrasts sharply with that for children who used informal care. In this group, 37% (432,100) used informal care for less than five hours per week, 43% (498,700) for 5–19 hours and 6% (68,700) for 45 hours or more.

Reason for using care

Reasons for using child care varied with the type of care used. Of children using formal care, 48% (338,900) did so mainly because of work-related reasons of their parents (table 8). This reason accounted for 85% of children at before and after school care programs, 67% of those attending family day care and 55% of children attending long day care. The most common main reason given for attendance at preschool (78%) and occasional care (41%) was that it was beneficial for the child.

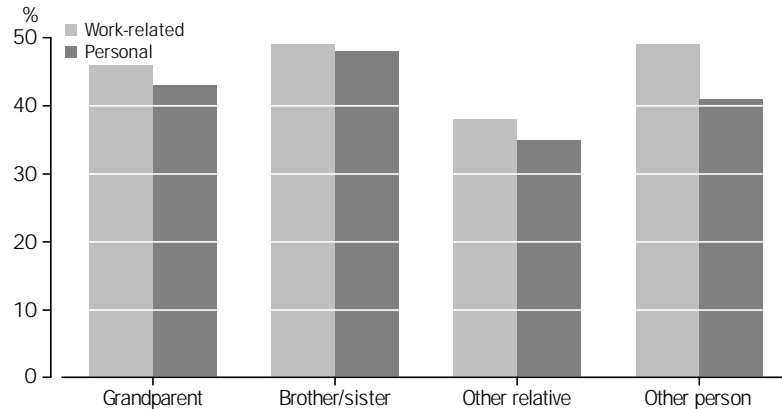


For children using informal care, the main reason given was also related to parents' work with 45% using informal care for this reason (table 9). Parents' personal reasons were given for 42% of children in informal care. There was little variation by type of care.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

USE OF CHILD CARE *continued*

MAIN REASON USED INFORMAL CARE



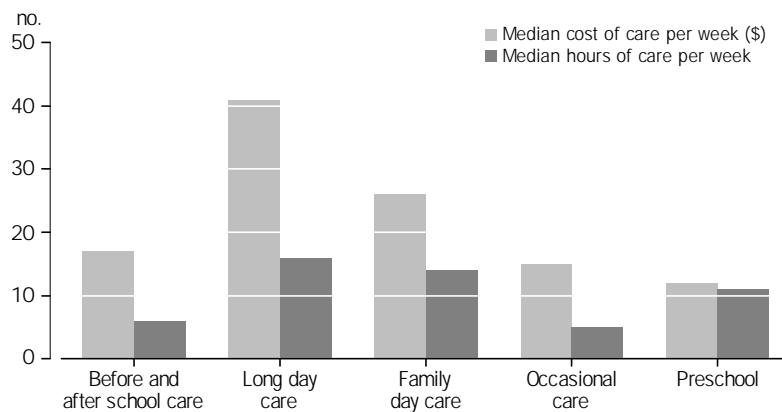
Change in child care arrangements

Questions on reasons for changing the overall amount of formal and informal child care used in the past 12 months were included for the first time in 1999. Use of formal care increased for 252,500 children and decreased for 142,200 children (table 11). Similarly, use of informal care increased for 251,300 children and decreased for 125,400. In all cases, the most common main reason for change was parental work.

COST OF CARE

While the cost of care was related to the hours of care used, it also varied considerably depending on the type. Of the children who used informal care, 89% (1,032,300) did so at no cost (table 12). For 45% (328,700) of the children who used formal care, the cost was less than \$20 per week but it was \$100 or more for 9%. Long day care was the most expensive with a median cost of \$41 per week, followed by family day care at \$26 per week. These types of care also had the highest median hours of attendance.

COST AND HOURS OF CARE



Family income

In general, as family income increased, the proportion of children who used care increased, reflecting the higher proportion of families with both parents employed. Of children in families with weekly income less than \$400, 46% attended some type of child care compared to 61% of children in families with weekly income \$2,000 or more (table 13).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

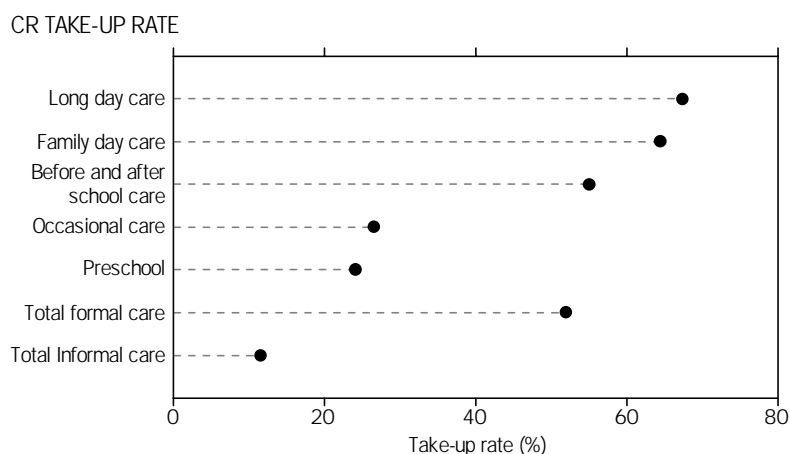
COST OF CARE *continued*

Of children who used some type of care, the proportion who used formal care generally rose with family income, from 44% in families with weekly income less than \$400 to 52% in families with weekly income \$2,000 or more. In contrast, the proportion of children who used informal care was a little over 70% regardless of family income.

Childcare Rebate

The Childcare Rebate (CR) is a Federal Government funded payment to families for work-related child care costs that exceed \$20.50 per week. The CR was claimed for 307,400 children using formal and/or informal care, representing a take-up rate (proportion of those eligible) of 47% (table 15).

The proportion of children for whom the CR was claimed varied depending on the type of care. The take-up rate was over 60% for children using long day care or family day care, and about 25% for those using occasional care or preschool. In contrast, the take-up rate for children in informal care was 12% reflecting the high proportion of children believed to be ineligible because, for example, the carer was not registered or the family income was too high.



The CR was not claimed for 275,100 children in formal care and 99,200 children in informal care (table 16). For a high proportion of these children (39% in formal care and 22% in informal care), the main reason the rebate was not claimed was an assumption of ineligibility because family income was too high or the family was already in receipt of other assistance. For 33% of children in formal care the rebate was not claimed due to lack of awareness while for 33% of children in informal care, the carer was not registered.

DEMAND FOR (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CHILD CARE

The survey also sought information from parents as to whether their child care requirements were met. Those families not using formal child care were asked if they would have liked to use it if it were available. Those families already using formal child care were asked about their interest in additional care.

For the majority of children (94%), no (additional) formal care needs were identified (table 17). This was the case regardless of whether the children were currently using any form of care. The 6% (201,100) of children identified as requiring (additional) formal care represented a continuation of the downward trend in need for (additional) formal

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

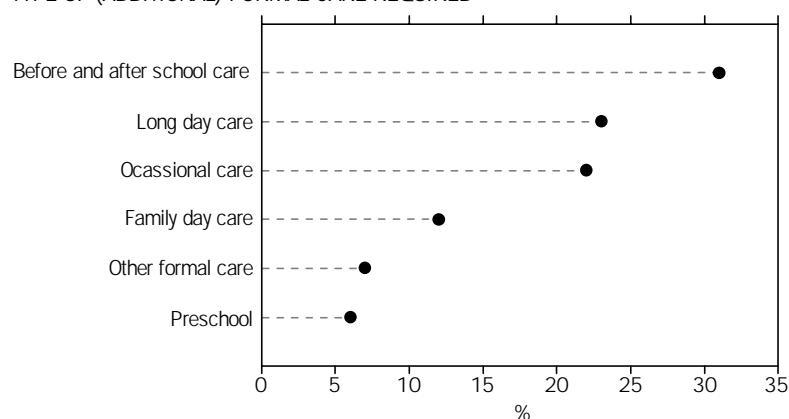
DEMAND FOR (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CHILD CARE *continued*

care observed over the decade. Most of this reduction took place between 1993 (16%) and 1996 (8%).

Type of (additional) formal care required

The main types of (additional) formal care required were before and after school care (62,600 children), long day care (45,400) and occasional care (43,700), representing 31%, 23% and 22% respectively of the demand (table 18). The proportion requiring (additional) long day care grew from 15% in 1996, offsetting a decrease in the proportion requiring (additional) occasional care (31% in 1996). This reflects an increasing proportion of families with both parents working full-time. The proportion requiring (additional) before and after school care was almost unchanged from 1996.

TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED



Demand for (additional) formal care was highest in the 0–4 years age group. In this group, 9% (114,100) required (additional) formal care (table 17). Of these children, 36% (40,700) required long day care and 31% (35,900) required occasional care (table 18). Among children aged 5–11, 5% (87,000) required (additional) formal care. Of these, 69% (60,200) required before and after school care.

Main reason (additional) formal care required

Parental work was the single largest reason for requiring (additional) formal care with 32% (64,000) of children requiring (additional) care for this reason (table 19). A further 5% of children required (additional) formal care because their parent(s) were looking for work or undertaking work-related study or training.

Of children aged 0–4 years requiring (additional) formal care, 48% required it for parents' personal reasons and 29% for parents' work-related reasons. For children aged 5–11 years, 48% required (additional) formal care for parents' work-related reasons and 43% for parents' personal reasons.

WORK AND CHILD CARE

Use of care by employed parents

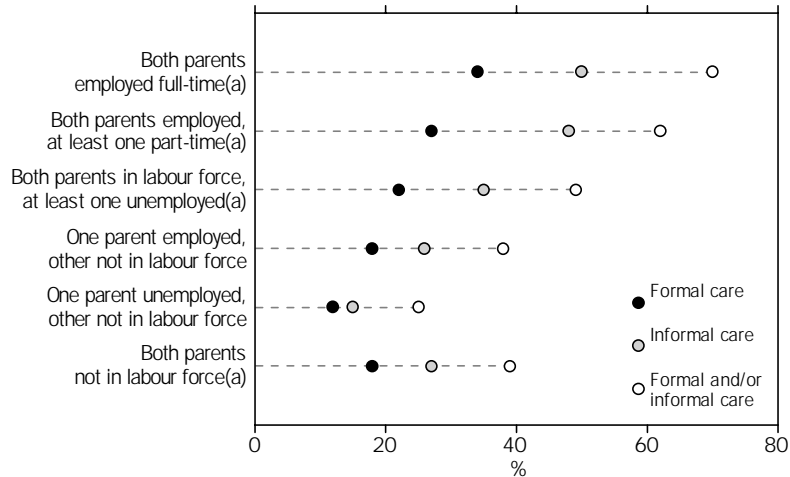
Use of child care is often linked to work commitments of parents, particularly mothers. In 1999, 48% of children were in families with both parents, or the lone parent, employed either full-time or part-time (table 25). The proportion of children using child care was 70% where both parents (or the lone parent) worked full-time and 62% where

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

WORK AND CHILD CARE *continued*

at least one parent worked part-time. The lowest level of usage (25%) was by children in couple families where one parent was unemployed and the other not in the labour force.

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS



(a) Includes one-parent families

Balancing work and family responsibility

Increasingly, employers and workplaces acknowledge the need for workers to balance work and family responsibilities. A range of provisions has been introduced over the years which assists families to do this. The provisions include flexitime, permanent part-time work, home-based work and job sharing.

Of the families with at least one parent employed, 53% indicated that they used one or more work arrangements to assist them to care for their children (table 30). Most frequently used were flexible working hours (32%) and permanent part-time work (23%).

Overall, employed mothers were considerably more likely to make use of work arrangements (68%) than employed fathers (27%). Of those who used work arrangements, mothers were seven times more likely than fathers to opt for permanent part-time work, and three times more likely to opt for job sharing. Fathers were slightly more likely than mothers to use shiftwork, flexible working hours and work at home.

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CARE ARRANGEMENTS, Time series

	JUNE 1987 Number	NOVEMBER 1990 Number	JUNE 1993 Number	MARCH 1996 Number	JUNE 1999 Number	... Proportion
<i>Child care arrangements</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS						
Children who used formal and/or informal care						
Formal care only	200.9	177.1	245.9	276.8	288.5	22.6
Informal care only	379.0	408.9	341.7	321.4	327.9	25.7
Formal and informal care	147.0	170.1	193.3	196.5	221.1	17.3
<i>Total</i>	726.9	756.2	780.9	794.7	837.5	65.7
<i>Total formal care</i>	347.8	347.3	439.2	473.3	509.6	40.0
<i>Total informal care</i>	580.3	579.1	535.0	517.9	549.0	43.1
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	487.4	494.9	512.7	497.7	436.8	34.3
<i>Total children</i>	1 214.3	1 251.1	1 293.5	1 292.4	1 274.2	100.0
CHILDREN AGED 5-11 YEARS						
Children who used formal and/or informal care						
Formal care only	63.1	100.9	92.8	96.7	148.6	8.0
Informal care only	536.1	609.1	567.0	556.1	538.2	29.1
Formal and informal care	44.3	82.3	64.2	54.4	74.9	4.1
<i>Total</i>	643.4	792.3	724.1	707.2	761.8	41.2
<i>Total formal care</i>	107.4	183.2	157.0	151.1	223.6	12.1
<i>Total informal care</i>	526.0	691.4	631.2	610.5	613.2	33.2
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	1 030.1	960.3	1 068.3	1 103.3	1 086.9	58.8
<i>Total children</i>	1 673.6	1 752.6	1 792.4	1 810.5	1 848.7	100.0
ALL CHILDREN						
Children who used formal and/or informal care						
Formal care only	264.0	278.0	338.7	373.5	437.2	14.0
Informal care only	915.1	1 018.1	908.7	877.5	866.1	27.7
Formal and informal care	191.3	252.5	257.5	250.9	296.0	9.5
<i>Total</i>	1 370.3	1 548.5	1 504.9	1 501.8	1 599.3	51.2
<i>Total formal care</i>	455.2	530.4	596.2	624.4	733.2	23.5
<i>Total informal care</i>	1 106.4	1 270.5	1 166.2	1 128.3	1 162.1	37.2
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	1 517.6	1 455.2	1 581.0	1 601.0	1 523.7	48.8
Total children	2 887.9	3 003.7	3 085.9	3 102.8	3 122.9	100.0

Type of care	NOVEMBER 1990 . . .			JUNE 1993			MARCH 1996			JUNE 1999		
	0-4 years	5-11 years	Total	0-4 years	5-11 years	Total	0-4 years	5-11 years	Total	0-4 years	5-11 years	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)												
Formal care												
Before and after school care program	—	44.0	44.0	*1.8	84.0	85.8	*4.4	107.4	111.7	*1.6	152.5	154.1
Long day care centre	99.4	13.7	113.1	137.0	9.7	146.7	170.8	6.9	177.7	225.9	16.1	242.0
Family day care	57.1	21.0	78.1	61.9	18.8	80.7	74.6	21.6	96.2	72.1	15.0	87.1
Occasional care(a)	..	..	..	44.5	5.4	50.0	47.5	*4.9	52.4	41.5	*1.4	42.9
Pre-school	160.7	106.5	267.2	194.4	42.5	236.9	188.2	12.3	200.6	186.0	45.7	231.6
Other formal care	49.3	8.1	57.4	27.6	*2.4	30.0	17.9	*4.3	22.2	24.2	5.2	29.4
<i>Total children who used formal care(b)</i>	<i>347.3</i>	<i>183.2</i>	<i>530.4</i>	<i>439.2</i>	<i>157.0</i>	<i>596.2</i>	<i>473.3</i>	<i>151.1</i>	<i>624.4</i>	<i>509.6</i>	<i>223.6</i>	<i>733.2</i>
Total children who used formal care only	177.1	100.9	278.0	245.9	92.8	338.7	276.8	96.7	373.5	288.5	148.6	437.2
Informal care												
Grandparent(c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	376.6	286.1	662.7
Brother/sister	23.4	173.1	196.5	21.9	137.2	159.1	22.8	142.3	165.1	12.3	61.9	74.2
Other relative	420.2	360.8	781.0	384.8	322.3	707.1	391.0	335.0	726.0	94.7	127.4	222.2
Other person	179.6	232.6	412.2	163.9	225.1	389.1	128.9	189.1	318.0	104.7	189.3	294.0
<i>Total children who used informal care(b)</i>	<i>579.1</i>	<i>691.4</i>	<i>1 270.5</i>	<i>535.0</i>	<i>631.2</i>	<i>1 166.2</i>	<i>517.9</i>	<i>610.5</i>	<i>1 128.3</i>	<i>549.0</i>	<i>613.2</i>	<i>1 162.1</i>
Total children who used informal care only	408.9	609.1	1 018.1	341.7	567.0	908.7	321.4	556.1	877.5	327.9	538.2	866.1
<i>Total children who used formal and/or informal care</i>	<i>756.2</i>	<i>792.3</i>	<i>1 548.5</i>	<i>780.9</i>	<i>724.0</i>	<i>1 504.9</i>	<i>794.7</i>	<i>707.2</i>	<i>1 501.8</i>	<i>837.5</i>	<i>761.8</i>	<i>1 599.3</i>
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	494.9	960.3	1 455.2	512.7	1 068.3	1 581.0	497.7	1 103.3	1 601.0	436.8	1 086.9	1 523.7
Total children	1 251.1	1 752.6	3 003.7	1 293.5	1 792.4	3 085.9	1 292.4	1 810.5	3 102.8	1 274.2	1 848.7	3 122.9

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) Included in other formal care prior to 1993.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(c) Included in other relative care prior to 1999.

TYPE OF CARE, Age

Type of care	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)								Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	9-11	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	—	—	np	np	*1.6	22.0	83.6	46.9	154.1
Long day care centre	11.3	37.0	54.2	66.6	56.9	13.2	np	np	242.0
Family day care	4.7	13.2	19.6	21.6	13.1	5.0	7.5	*2.5	87.1
Occasional care	5.5	7.8	10.5	9.7	7.9	*1.4	np	np	42.9
Preschool	—	np	np	56.8	129.2	45.7	—	—	231.6
Other formal care	*1.1	*2.0	7.4	6.6	7.1	*1.8	*1.4	*2.0	29.4
<i>Total children who used formal care(a)</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>58.4</i>	<i>88.6</i>	<i>148.8</i>	<i>192.2</i>	<i>78.4</i>	<i>93.5</i>	<i>51.8</i>	<i>733.2</i>
Total children who used formal care only	13.0	35.4	51.3	83.9	104.8	51.5	63.3	33.8	437.2
Informal care									
Grandparent	71.2	79.8	82.9	75.2	67.6	54.9	128.5	102.7	662.7
Brother/sister	*2.0	*3.6	*2.8	**0.8	*3.1	4.0	18.7	39.2	74.2
Other relative	13.1	18.3	19.8	20.9	22.7	21.0	58.8	47.6	222.2
Other person	13.4	19.1	18.5	23.7	30.0	24.9	81.1	83.2	294.0
<i>Total children who used informal care(a)</i>	<i>93.8</i>	<i>113.4</i>	<i>117.6</i>	<i>111.0</i>	<i>113.1</i>	<i>95.1</i>	<i>267.6</i>	<i>250.5</i>	<i>1 162.1</i>
Total children who used informal care only	85.3	90.4	80.3	46.2	25.7	68.2	237.4	232.6	866.1
<i>Total children who used formal and/or informal care</i>	<i>106.8</i>	<i>148.9</i>	<i>168.9</i>	<i>195.0</i>	<i>217.9</i>	<i>146.6</i>	<i>330.9</i>	<i>284.3</i>	<i>1 599.3</i>
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	145.0	99.5	86.0	61.8	44.5	116.4	465.3	505.3	1 523.7
Total children	251.8	248.4	254.9	256.7	262.4	263.0	796.2	789.6	3 122.9
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Total children who used formal care	8.5	23.5	34.8	57.9	73.3	29.8	11.7	6.6	23.5
Total children who used informal care	37.2	45.7	46.1	43.2	43.1	36.2	33.6	31.7	37.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	42.4	59.9	66.3	75.9	83.1	55.7	41.6	36.0	51.2
<i>Total children</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

TYPE OF CARE, States and Territories

Type of care	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	52.0	40.2	30.2	15.2	7.1	*2.9	*2.7	*3.8	154.1
Long day care centre	80.6	44.4	72.0	17.9	16.2	4.3	*2.5	4.0	242.0
Family day care	25.0	20.4	17.1	7.8	9.5	*3.6	*1.6	*2.2	87.1
Occasional care	11.6	11.8	5.1	5.2	4.8	*1.7	**0.9	*1.8	42.9
Preschool	71.0	71.3	50.9	19.6	10.2	*2.7	*2.6	*3.3	231.6
Other formal care	6.3	7.5	5.5	*1.5	6.5	np	np	*1.1	29.4
Total children who used formal care(a)	238.7	181.1	166.3	59.3	48.4	14.8	9.5	15.0	733.2
Total children who used formal care only	147.6	93.0	111.5	30.0	28.0	9.9	7.2	9.9	437.2
Informal care									
Grandparent	215.2	182.7	113.2	61.3	61.6	17.4	*2.8	8.6	662.7
Brother/sister	26.7	21.7	9.4	3.9	8.5	*1.6	**0.9	*1.7	74.2
Other relative	62.6	60.9	38.2	22.4	27.2	5.3	*2.4	*3.2	222.2
Other person	91.4	73.8	54.8	25.7	31.6	6.1	4.9	5.8	294.0
Total children who used informal care(a)	373.1	314.9	201.7	101.4	115.6	28.1	9.8	17.5	1 162.1
Total children who used informal care only	282.0	226.8	146.9	72.1	95.2	23.1	7.5	12.4	866.1
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	520.7	407.9	313.2	131.4	143.6	38.0	17.1	27.4	1 599.3
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	535.6	353.3	282.6	101.5	171.1	41.0	14.4	24.3	1 523.7
Total children	1 056.3	761.1	595.7	232.9	314.7	79.0	31.5	51.7	3 122.9

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	4.9	5.3	5.1	6.5	2.2	*3.7	*8.7	*7.3	4.9
Long day care centre	7.6	5.8	12.1	7.7	5.2	5.4	*8.0	7.8	7.7
Family day care	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.0	*4.5	*5.1	*4.2	2.8
Occasional care	1.1	1.6	0.9	2.2	1.5	*2.1	**2.8	*3.5	1.4
Preschool	6.7	9.4	8.5	8.4	3.2	*3.4	*8.3	*6.3	7.4
Other formal care	0.6	1.0	0.9	*0.7	2.1	np	np	*2.2	0.9
Total children who used formal care(a)	22.6	23.8	27.9	25.5	15.4	18.8	30.3	29.0	23.5
Total children who used formal care only	14.0	12.2	18.7	12.9	8.9	12.5	22.9	19.2	14.0
Informal care									
Grandparent	20.4	24.0	19.0	26.3	19.6	22.0	*8.8	16.6	21.2
Brother/sister	2.5	2.8	1.6	1.7	2.7	*2.0	**2.7	*3.2	2.4
Other relative	5.9	8.0	6.4	9.6	8.6	6.7	*7.5	*6.3	7.1
Other person	8.6	9.7	9.2	11.0	10.1	7.7	15.5	11.1	9.4
Total children who used informal care(a)	35.3	41.4	33.9	43.6	36.7	35.6	31.3	33.9	37.2
Total children who used informal care only	26.7	29.8	24.7	31.0	30.2	29.3	23.9	24.1	27.7
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	49.3	53.6	52.6	56.4	45.6	48.1	54.2	53.0	51.2
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	50.7	46.4	47.4	43.6	54.4	51.9	45.8	47.0	48.8
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

TYPE OF CARE, Selected Demographic Characteristics

Type of care	FAMILY TYPE ..		MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME		AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE ...		Total
	Couple family	One-parent family	English	Other	State capital cities	Balance of Australia	
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	113.3	40.7	146.0	8.1	117.1	36.9	154.1
Long day care centre	189.5	52.5	230.8	11.1	152.6	89.4	242.0
Family day care	65.6	21.5	83.6	*3.5	38.3	48.8	87.1
Occasional care	35.8	7.2	39.2	*3.7	30.7	12.2	42.9
Preschool	196.1	35.6	218.1	13.5	123.4	108.3	231.6
Other formal care	24.4	4.9	28.7	**0.7	17.3	12.1	29.4
Total children who used formal care(a)	583.1	150.0	693.7	39.5	447.3	285.9	733.2
Total children who used formal care only	356.6	80.6	408.4	28.8	266.1	171.1	437.2
Informal care							
Grandparent	558.7	104.0	615.8	46.9	423.6	239.2	662.7
Brother/sister	57.6	16.6	68.9	5.3	43.3	30.9	74.2
Other relative	110.6	111.5	212.0	10.2	129.4	92.7	222.2
Other person	231.2	62.7	287.2	6.8	155.4	138.6	294.0
Total children who used informal care(a)	904.8	257.3	1 094.6	67.5	695.3	466.8	1 162.1
Total children who used informal care only	678.3	187.8	809.3	56.8	514.1	352.0	866.1
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	1 261.4	337.8	1 503.0	96.3	961.4	637.9	1 599.3
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	1 287.7	236.0	1 354.8	168.9	889.0	634.6	1 523.7
Total children	2 549.1	573.9	2 857.8	265.1	1 850.4	1 272.5	3 122.9
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)							
Total children who used formal care	22.9	26.1	24.3	14.9	24.2	22.5	23.5
Total children who used informal care	35.5	44.8	38.3	25.5	37.6	36.7	37.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	49.5	58.9	52.6	36.3	52.0	50.1	51.2
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

TYPE OF CARE, Weekly Hours of Care

Type of care	Less than 5	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 or more	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	68.9	52.9	25.8	6.0	np	np	—	—	154.1
Long day care centre	6.8	65.1	82.1	38.9	12.9	12.2	10.6	13.4	242.0
Family day care	11.7	21.4	25.4	14.2	*2.8	*3.6	4.0	4.0	87.1
Occasional care	22.8	15.4	4.3	**0.5	—	—	—	—	42.9
Preschool	36.8	62.7	120.8	6.9	*3.1	np	—	np	231.6
Other formal care	16.3	7.5	4.3	np	—	—	—	np	29.4
Total children who used formal care(a)(b)	141.4	196.3	243.3	74.6	23.5	17.8	16.6	19.6	733.2
Total children who used formal care only(b)	76.1	117.3	146.0	43.3	13.5	10.4	14.6	15.8	437.2
Informal care									
Grandparent	242.3	162.9	131.0	60.4	16.3	10.4	9.4	29.9	662.7
Brother/sister	45.8	15.7	9.7	*2.0	np	np	np	—	74.2
Other relative	71.4	47.9	35.5	20.9	4.4	7.6	4.6	30.0	222.2
Other person	148.8	75.8	43.6	11.6	4.5	*1.6	*2.3	5.9	294.0
Total children who used informal care(a)(b)	432.1	286.7	212.0	100.1	27.2	19.2	16.1	68.7	1 162.1
Total children who used informal care only(b)	338.3	200.4	162.9	69.4	16.0	12.8	12.6	53.7	866.1
Total children who used formal and/or informal care(b)	422.7	353.6	406.1	176.2	48.3	41.8	41.5	109.1	1 599.3
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Total children who used formal care	19.3	26.8	33.2	10.2	3.2	2.4	2.3	2.7	100.0
Total children who used informal care	37.2	24.7	18.2	8.6	2.3	1.7	1.4	5.9	100.0
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	26.4	22.1	25.4	11.0	3.0	2.6	2.6	6.8	100.0

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(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(b) Where a child attended more than one type of care, the hours have been added together.

TYPE OF CARE, Number of Weekdays Care Used(a)

Type of care	Weekends only	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	—	31.9	33.6	38.1	14.9	35.6	154.1
Long day care centre	np	66.8	77.5	40.5	np	37.1	242.0
Family day care	np	25.0	21.3	15.0	np	13.5	87.1
Occasional care	—	25.9	10.3	5.5	np	np	42.9
Preschool	—	50.8	71.7	70.0	24.4	14.7	231.6
Other formal care	np	15.5	8.7	*3.8	np	*1.0	29.4
<i>Total children who used formal care(b)</i>	np	183.2	200.8	159.6	np	111.1	733.2
Total children who used formal care only	**0.7	101.0	108.8	97.8	44.2	84.7	437.2
Informal care							
Grandparent	112.9	276.0	114.4	59.8	24.3	75.2	662.7
Brother/sister	12.4	33.6	9.7	4.2	3.8	10.5	74.2
Other relative	51.9	87.8	36.0	17.1	10.3	19.1	222.2
Other person	51.9	141.6	52.2	20.4	12.5	15.4	294.0
<i>Total children who used informal care(b)</i>	198.0	474.3	204.4	106.4	54.0	125.1	1 162.1
Total children who used informal care only	141.7	347.6	148.9	76.7	43.0	108.2	866.1
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	142.4	464.3	323.1	253.1	143.5	272.9	1 599.3
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)							
Total children who used formal care	np	25.0	27.4	21.8	np	15.2	100.0
Total children who used informal care	17.0	40.8	17.6	9.2	4.6	10.8	100.0
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	8.9	29.0	20.2	15.8	9.0	17.1	100.0

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(a) Where a child used care on both weekdays and weekends, this was recorded only under the relevant number of weekdays.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

REASONS USED FORMAL CARE

Type of formal care	MAIN REASON USED FORMAL CARE					ALL REASONS USED FORMAL CARE . . .			
	Work-related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other(a)	Total	Work-related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other(a)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS									
Before and after school care program	*0.9	np	—	np	*1.6	*1.1	**0.2	—	**0.4
Long day care centre	124.6	33.3	61.4	6.6	225.9	138.9	58.1	88.4	13.4
Family day care	45.6	15.9	np	np	72.1	47.1	23.9	14.6	*1.9
Occasional care	9.5	12.4	16.0	*3.7	41.5	10.6	17.4	17.2	4.7
Preschool	27.0	6.6	135.0	17.3	186.0	37.0	21.8	146.3	26.1
Other formal care	np	7.5	10.6	np	24.2	7.4	11.6	12.6	*2.3
Total children who used formal care(b)	189.0	69.7	222.5	28.4	509.6	214.6	117.4	261.6	47.1
ALL CHILDREN (c)									
Before and after school care program	129.6	12.1	5.6	6.8	154.1	131.0	15.9	8.3	11.4
Long day care centre	131.7	35.2	67.1	8.0	242.0	147.7	62.6	94.8	15.8
Family day care	57.7	17.4	10.5	*1.5	87.1	60.0	25.4	15.4	*3.7
Occasional care	10.4	12.4	16.5	*3.7	42.9	11.5	17.8	17.7	4.7
Preschool	33.3	8.1	164.6	25.6	231.6	46.0	26.3	178.5	35.3
Other formal care	7.0	8.4	12.1	*1.9	29.4	8.9	12.4	14.6	*3.7
Total children who used formal care(b)	338.9	86.0	263.1	45.1	733.2	369.7	142.3	308.1	70.7

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(a) Includes reason unknown.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of formal care.

(c) Includes children aged 5-11 years.

REASONS USED INFORMAL CARE

Type of informal care	MAIN REASON USED INFORMAL CARE					ALL REASONS USED INFORMAL CARE			
	Work-related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other	Total	Work-related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS									
Grandparent	154.6	185.1	13.0	23.9	376.6	166.0	208.7	20.1	32.3
Brother/sister	4.8	7.5	—	—	12.3	4.8	9.0	**0.4	**0.6
Other relative	29.8	43.6	*1.3	20.0	94.7	34.0	53.5	4.4	25.0
Other person	45.2	48.1	4.7	6.6	104.7	49.7	53.7	6.3	9.4
Total children who used informal care(a)	218.9	268.7	18.6	42.7	549.0	233.6	299.8	28.4	55.3
CHILDREN AGED 5-11 YEARS									
Grandparent	150.8	99.2	13.1	23.0	286.1	157.3	113.2	17.6	34.1
Brother/sister	31.6	28.3	np	np	61.9	32.6	31.1	*0.9	*1.7
Other relative	53.7	33.7	*3.3	36.7	127.4	57.9	41.4	6.7	48.1
Other person	100.0	73.5	6.6	9.3	189.3	103.0	81.6	8.9	17.5
Total children who used informal care(a)	303.2	222.6	22.2	65.2	613.2	315.9	249.4	30.6	88.2
ALL CHILDREN									
Grandparent	305.3	284.4	26.1	46.9	662.7	323.3	321.9	37.7	66.4
Brother/sister	36.4	35.8	np	np	74.2	37.5	40.1	*1.3	*2.3
Other relative	83.5	77.4	4.6	56.7	222.2	91.9	94.9	11.1	73.2
Other person	145.2	121.6	11.4	15.8	294.0	152.7	135.3	15.2	26.9
Total children who used informal care(a)	522.1	491.3	40.8	107.9	1 162.1	549.5	549.1	59.0	143.4

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(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of informal care.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING LONG DAY CARE OR PRESCHOOL

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS

	<i>Both parents employed working full-time(a)</i>	<i>Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)</i>	<i>One parent employed, other not in the labour force</i>	<i>Other(a)</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000

MAIN REASON CHOSE LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

Cost/availability/hours of operation	12.3	12.5	4.6	8.2	37.5
Quality/reputation	24.3	45.3	27.4	15.9	113.0
Close to home	11.3	20.7	10.0	7.4	49.4
Convenient to work/school	9.4	6.4	*3.0	*0.9	19.7
Other	4.3	6.9	4.8	6.4	22.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>61.6</i>	<i>91.7</i>	<i>49.8</i>	<i>38.9</i>	<i>242.0</i>

MAIN REASON CHOSE PRESCHOOL

Cost/availability/hours of operation	*1.3	14.9	8.0	8.4	32.6
Quality/reputation	6.8	25.9	35.0	8.4	76.1
Close to home	9.3	21.2	28.4	19.9	78.8
Convenient to work/school	*2.3	5.2	5.0	5.0	17.5
Other	*3.3	11.4	7.7	4.2	26.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>78.6</i>	<i>84.1</i>	<i>45.8</i>	<i>231.6</i>

ALL REASONS CHOSE LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

Cost/availability/hours of operation	22.4	26.4	11.7	13.7	74.2
Quality/reputation	34.9	57.4	32.9	21.8	147.0
Close to home	24.3	41.2	21.4	12.1	99.0
Convenient to work/school	16.5	21.9	6.5	*1.5	46.4
Other	4.6	7.7	5.8	7.4	25.5

ALL REASONS CHOSE PRESCHOOL

Cost/availability/hours of operation	4.2	24.4	17.0	11.9	57.5
Quality/reputation	10.3	36.1	42.4	14.6	103.4
Close to home	12.7	35.0	43.9	23.9	115.5
Convenient to work/school	5.0	9.1	10.9	5.8	30.7
Other	4.6	14.6	11.1	4.9	35.2

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(a) Includes one-parent families.

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)			Total
	0-2	3-5	6-11	
<i>Main reason child care use changed</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000

FORMAL CARE: INCREASED

Work/study reasons	38.7	33.1	34.0	105.9
Availability of alternative care	*1.0	*1.6	*1.6	4.2
Other parent-related reason	7.6	4.8	*2.8	15.2
Preparation for/started school	np	65.7	np	66.8
Child only born in the last year	7.7	—	—	7.7
Other child-related reason	17.2	29.4	*1.9	48.5
<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>74.5</i>	<i>136.4</i>	<i>41.6</i>	<i>252.5</i>

FORMAL CARE: DECREASED

Work/study reasons	8.0	14.9	25.2	48.2
Availability of alternative care	*1.2	5.0	7.0	13.2
Other parent-related reason	6.4	16.9	8.1	31.4
Preparation for/started school	—	24.7	6.3	31.0
Child only born in the last year	—	—	—	—
Other child-related reason	np	np	8.1	11.0
<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>67.8</i>	<i>57.7</i>	<i>142.2</i>

INFORMAL CARE: INCREASED

Work/study reasons	35.8	36.1	55.5	127.3
Availability of alternative care	*3.4	*2.6	7.2	13.1
Other parent-related reason	12.6	12.0	19.3	43.9
Preparation for/started school	np	*3.5	np	*3.8
Child only born in the last year	24.8	—	—	24.8
Other child-related reason	6.6	8.4	7.4	22.4
<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>88.7</i>	<i>66.6</i>	<i>96.0</i>	<i>251.3</i>

INFORMAL CARE: DECREASED

Work/study reasons	6.9	8.0	20.1	35.0
Availability of alternative care	*2.6	3.9	7.1	13.5
Other parent-related reason	6.1	11.0	9.5	26.7
Preparation for/started school	np	17.3	np	21.5
Child only born in the last year	np	—	—	np
Other child-related reason	**0.9	*1.9	8.9	11.7
<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>46.4</i>	<i>56.6</i>	<i>125.4</i>

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(a) Includes Other reasons.

WEEKLY COST OF CARE, Type of Care

Type of care	No cost	\$1-\$9	\$10-\$19	\$20-\$39	\$40-\$59	\$60-\$79	\$80-\$99	\$100 or more	Total(a)
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	6.3	35.6	45.3	41.0	15.4	6.0	*1.4	*2.0	154.1
Long day care centre	*2.7	10.4	41.9	57.9	39.2	28.5	13.7	46.6	242.0
Family day care	*1.7	15.4	15.4	23.7	10.3	6.6	*3.7	10.1	87.1
Occasional care	*3.5	9.2	15.2	12.7	*1.7	—	**0.4	np	42.9
Pre-school	39.9	56.9	58.7	36.8	14.5	13.3	*3.6	7.9	231.6
Other formal care	*3.7	12.7	5.0	6.9	np	np	np	np	29.4
<i>Total children who used formal care(b)(c)</i>	<i>44.8</i>	<i>115.4</i>	<i>168.5</i>	<i>174.2</i>	<i>81.3</i>	<i>54.6</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>68.7</i>	<i>733.2</i>
Total children who used formal care only(c)	28.6	63.1	98.6	106.3	49.8	29.1	13.8	46.6	437.2
Informal care									
Grandparent	649.1	*2.0	*1.7	4.4	*2.2	np	—	*1.3	662.7
Brother/sister care	70.7	np	*1.4	np	np	—	—	—	74.2
Other relative	212.7	*1.3	*3.6	np	*3.1	np	np	—	222.2
Other person	189.3	11.6	22.9	29.2	16.2	8.4	6.1	10.3	294.0
<i>Total children who used informal care(b)(c)</i>	<i>1 032.3</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>34.5</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>6.1</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>1 162.1</i>
Total children who used informal care only(c)	771.5	12.6	20.9	24.8	14.5	6.6	5.7	8.9	866.1
Total children who used formal and/or informal care(c)	815.5	121.6	180.3	199.9	100.6	64.4	30.3	83.1	1 599.3
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)									
Total children who used formal care	6.1	15.7	23.0	23.8	11.1	7.4	3.2	9.4	100.0
Total children who used informal care	88.8	1.4	2.5	3.0	1.8	0.9	0.5	1.0	100.0
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	51.0	7.6	11.3	12.5	6.3	4.0	1.9	5.2	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes weekly cost of care not stated.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

(c) Where a child attended more than one type of care the weekly cost relates to the total cost of all care in this category.

Type of care	Less than \$400	\$400– \$599	\$600– \$799	\$800– \$999	\$1000– \$1199	\$1200– \$1399	\$1400– \$1999	\$2000 or more	Don't know/not stated	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)										
Formal care										
Before and after school care program	15.0	16.3	12.0	13.4	16.7	18.9	29.7	19.6	12.4	154.1
Long day care centre	32.7	30.6	30.1	31.8	29.1	21.6	33.2	11.2	21.6	242.0
Family day care	14.4	12.7	8.4	9.1	8.9	6.4	10.6	8.1	8.6	87.1
Occasional care	6.7	4.0	4.7	4.8	7.3	*2.1	5.2	*3.2	4.9	42.9
Preschool	32.3	28.2	34.7	31.1	24.6	16.1	21.3	9.7	33.8	231.6
Other formal care	*3.6	*2.8	*2.2	*3.6	*2.9	*1.9	4.0	*2.6	5.8	29.4
<i>Total children who used formal care(a)</i>	<i>99.0</i>	<i>88.4</i>	<i>88.1</i>	<i>88.0</i>	<i>80.3</i>	<i>63.0</i>	<i>97.8</i>	<i>49.7</i>	<i>78.9</i>	<i>733.2</i>
Total children who used formal care only	61.3	53.4	55.1	51.5	48.8	37.2	54.2	28.2	47.5	437.2
Informal care										
Grandparent	74.3	77.5	102.7	85.6	65.2	58.0	86.4	28.4	84.6	662.7
Brother/sister	7.7	11.9	8.0	7.3	8.1	6.3	10.2	7.9	6.9	74.2
Other relative	61.8	33.9	23.9	23.2	22.6	12.9	15.4	6.3	22.2	222.2
Other person	38.2	28.8	28.2	34.0	33.1	26.0	40.3	29.6	35.8	294.0
<i>Total children who used informal care(a)</i>	<i>165.1</i>	<i>141.2</i>	<i>152.7</i>	<i>139.9</i>	<i>118.4</i>	<i>96.3</i>	<i>141.8</i>	<i>67.0</i>	<i>139.8</i>	<i>1 162.1</i>
Total children who used informal care only	127.4	106.1	119.7	103.4	86.8	70.5	98.2	45.6	108.4	866.1
<i>Total children who used formal and/or informal care</i>	<i>226.4</i>	<i>194.5</i>	<i>207.8</i>	<i>191.4</i>	<i>167.1</i>	<i>133.5</i>	<i>196.0</i>	<i>95.3</i>	<i>187.3</i>	<i>1 599.3</i>
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	261.9	238.2	200.3	195.7	126.3	87.1	103.0	59.7	251.4	1 523.7
Total children	488.3	432.8	408.1	387.1	293.4	220.7	298.9	155.0	438.7	3 122.9
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)										
Total children who used formal care	20.3	20.4	21.6	22.7	27.4	28.5	32.7	32.1	18.0	23.5
Total children who used informal care	33.8	32.6	37.4	36.1	40.3	43.6	47.4	43.3	31.9	37.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	46.4	45.0	50.9	49.4	57.0	60.5	65.6	61.5	42.7	51.2
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

WEEKLY COST OF CARE, Weekly Family Income

Weekly family income	WEEKLY COST OF CARE							Total(a)
	No cost	\$1-\$9	\$10-\$19	\$20-\$39	\$40-\$59	\$60-\$99	\$100 or more	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	
FORMAL CARE								
Less than \$400	6.8	13.8	18.4	18.8	5.9	6.2	*1.7	72.1
\$400-\$599	*3.7	11.3	16.0	18.7	7.6	4.0	4.0	65.4
\$600-\$799	5.6	11.0	14.5	17.2	6.3	6.1	*3.7	64.7
\$800-\$999	*3.5	8.6	12.2	16.5	9.5	8.9	6.6	65.9
\$1000-\$1199	*2.2	5.3	10.3	13.6	8.2	7.7	9.5	56.9
\$1200-\$1399	*1.5	*3.2	7.1	9.0	6.5	9.0	9.3	45.6
\$1400-\$1999	*2.2	4.9	10.1	13.1	9.0	11.3	20.1	70.6
\$2000 and over	np	*1.4	*2.1	7.9	4.7	5.4	13.0	35.2
Don't know/not stated	np	8.0	13.6	12.5	7.0	7.0	6.4	57.5
Total families	28.1	67.6	104.4	127.3	64.6	65.6	74.4	533.9
TOTAL FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CARE								
Less than \$400	85.3	14.8	19.8	19.7	6.8	6.6	*2.0	155.4
\$400-\$599	60.8	11.0	16.5	21.3	9.2	4.4	4.0	127.3
\$600-\$799	65.0	11.1	14.5	18.9	8.0	7.2	4.1	129.0
\$800-\$999	59.1	8.1	12.0	17.5	10.7	10.3	7.7	125.6
\$1000-\$1199	45.7	5.1	9.3	15.9	10.0	9.0	11.5	106.5
\$1200-\$1399	35.6	*3.0	8.4	10.3	8.2	9.3	10.8	85.6
\$1400-\$1999	49.3	*3.5	11.1	13.5	12.0	13.4	24.9	127.6
\$2000 and over	20.9	*1.9	*1.6	7.3	5.1	8.1	16.5	61.4
Don't know/not stated	60.8	7.1	13.5	13.9	7.9	8.6	8.0	121.4
Total families	482.5	65.6	106.7	138.2	77.8	76.9	89.6	1 039.8

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
 np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
 (a) Includes weekly cost of care not stated.

Type of care	WEEKLY FAMILY INCOME								Total(a)
	Less than \$400	\$400– \$599	\$600– \$799	\$800– \$999	\$1000– \$1199	\$1200– \$1399	\$1400– \$1999	\$2000 or more	
CLAIMED OR INTENDED TO CLAIM ('000)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	*3.4	5.7	4.4	7.8	7.4	11.1	15.1	10.2	71.0
Long day care centre	10.2	13.8	15.8	24.8	19.2	13.3	25.5	6.4	140.9
Family day care	5.4	4.6	5.6	6.3	6.2	*3.4	7.9	5.4	47.3
Occasional care	np	np	*1.0	np	np	np	*1.1	np	8.1
Preschool	4.6	*1.8	4.0	5.0	*2.9	4.7	*3.4	*3.3	35.0
Total formal care(b)(c)	24.5	26.0	29.4	45.0	34.9	32.6	52.7	25.3	296.9
Informal care	*1.3	—	np	*2.9	*1.1	*1.9	*1.9	*0.9	13.0
Total children for whom the CR was claimed(c)	25.9	26.0	29.7	47.0	36.0	34.4	54.3	25.7	307.4
ELIGIBLE ('000) (d)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	10.3	10.4	8.9	12.0	13.1	17.5	28.7	17.0	129.0
Long day care centre	24.5	23.9	23.0	29.0	26.1	20.0	32.1	10.3	209.5
Family day care	11.0	9.5	6.4	7.9	8.3	5.1	10.1	7.6	73.4
Occasional care	4.5	*2.6	*2.6	*3.6	4.8	*2.1	4.2	*2.9	30.6
Preschool	16.0	17.5	21.7	20.6	15.2	10.8	13.3	9.0	145.4
Total formal care(b)(c)	66.7	61.1	60.6	70.8	63.3	53.8	86.8	45.9	571.9
Informal care	7.2	8.4	7.9	10.2	13.5	13.1	20.7	17.9	112.1
Total eligible children(c)	73.3	67.8	67.5	78.2	72.7	65.3	103.3	57.6	657.5
TAKE-UP RATE (%) (e)									
Formal care									
Before and after school care program	*33.4	55.1	49.4	65.3	56.8	63.7	52.6	59.9	55.0
Long day care centre	41.4	57.7	68.7	85.6	73.5	66.6	79.6	62.2	67.2
Family day care	48.6	49.0	86.5	80.5	74.8	*66.3	78.0	72.0	64.4
Occasional care	np	np	*40.5	np	np	np	*26.4	np	26.4
Preschool	28.6	*10.5	18.5	24.3	*19.1	43.8	*25.7	*36.4	24.1
Total formal care(b)	36.8	42.4	48.6	63.6	55.2	60.5	60.7	55.1	51.9
Informal care	*18.3	—	np	*28.7	*8.1	*14.3	*9.4	*5.1	11.6
Total eligible children	35.3	38.3	44.0	60.0	49.5	52.7	52.5	44.7	46.8

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np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes weekly family income not known or not stated.

(b) Includes other formal care.

(c) Components do not add to total as the CR could be claimed for more than one type of care per child.

(d) Children who used work-related care for which their parents paid, where the family had not already received the maximum rebate allowable.

(e) Children for whom the parent claimed or intended to claim the CR as a proportion of eligible children.

MAIN REASON CHILDCARE REBATE NOT CLAIMED

<i>Main reason CR not claimed</i>	FORMAL CARE(a)		INFORMAL CARE	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	'000	%	'000	%
Not aware of rebate	90.8	33.0	17.7	17.8
Assumed not eligible	107.4	39.1	21.6	21.8
Carer not registered	6.2	2.2	32.6	32.9
Not worth the trouble	43.7	15.9	12.9	13.0
Other	29.0	10.5	14.3	14.5
Total eligible children for whom the CR was not claimed	275.1	100.0	99.2	100.0

(a) Where a child attended more than one type of formal care, main reason was collected for each type of care for which the CR was not claimed. Therefore components do not add to total.

<i>Whether (additional) formal care required</i>	JUNE 1993 . . .		MARCH 1996 . .		JUNE 1999 . . .	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4						
(Additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	99.4	7.7	57.6	4.5	53.0	4.2
Currently use informal care only	86.7	6.7	44.0	3.4	30.6	2.4
Use neither formal nor informal care	93.1	7.2	41.4	3.2	30.5	2.4
<i>Total, (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>279.2</i>	<i>21.6</i>	<i>143.0</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>114.1</i>	<i>9.0</i>
No (additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	339.7	26.3	415.7	32.2	456.6	35.8
Currently use informal care only	255.0	19.7	277.4	21.5	297.3	23.3
Use neither formal nor informal care	419.6	32.4	456.3	35.3	406.2	31.9
<i>Total, no (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>1 014.4</i>	<i>78.4</i>	<i>1 149.4</i>	<i>88.9</i>	<i>1 160.2</i>	<i>91.0</i>
<i>Total children</i>	<i>1 293.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1 292.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1 274.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
CHILDREN AGED 5-11						
(Additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	25.9	1.4	11.8	0.7	16.7	0.9
Currently use informal care only	88.6	4.9	57.7	3.2	40.8	2.2
Use neither formal nor informal care	95.5	5.3	49.3	2.7	29.5	1.6
<i>Total, (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>210.1</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>118.8</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>87.0</i>	<i>4.7</i>
No (additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	131.1	7.3	139.3	7.7	206.9	11.2
Currently use informal care only	478.4	26.7	498.4	27.5	497.4	26.9
Use neither formal nor informal care	972.8	54.3	1 054.0	58.2	1 057.4	57.2
<i>Total, no (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>1 582.3</i>	<i>88.3</i>	<i>1 691.7</i>	<i>93.4</i>	<i>1 761.7</i>	<i>95.3</i>
<i>Total children</i>	<i>1 792.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1 810.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1 848.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>
ALL CHILDREN						
(Additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	125.4	4.1	69.4	2.2	69.7	2.2
Currently use informal care only	175.3	5.7	101.7	3.3	71.4	2.3
Use neither formal nor informal care	188.6	6.1	90.7	2.9	60.0	1.9
<i>Total, (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>489.2</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>261.7</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>201.1</i>	<i>6.4</i>
No (additional) formal care required						
Currently use formal care	470.8	15.3	555.0	17.9	663.5	21.2
Currently use informal care only	733.4	23.8	775.8	25.0	794.7	25.4
Use neither formal nor informal care	1 392.4	45.1	1 510.3	48.7	1 463.6	46.9
<i>Total, no (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>2 596.7</i>	<i>84.1</i>	<i>2 841.1</i>	<i>91.6</i>	<i>2 921.8</i>	<i>93.6</i>
Total children	3 085.9	100.0	3 102.8	100.0	3 122.9	100.0

Main type of (additional) formal care required	JUNE 1993 . . .		MARCH 1996 . . .		JUNE 1999 . . .	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4						
Before and/or after school care program	*2.9	*1.0	*3.3	*2.3	*2.4	*2.1
Long day care centre	56.4	20.2	np	np	40.7	35.7
Family day care	41.9	15.0	22.7	15.9	18.4	16.2
Occasional care	141.4	50.6	57.3	40.0	35.9	31.5
Preschool	27.9	10.0	np	np	np	np
Other formal care	8.7	3.1	*3.6	*2.5	np	np
Total children who required (additional) formal care	279.2	100.0	143.0	100.0	114.1	100.0
CHILDREN AGED 5-11						
Before and/or after school care program	122.2	58.2	81.6	68.7	60.2	69.1
Long day care centre	7.4	3.5	np	np	4.7	5.4
Family day care	18.3	8.7	6.3	5.3	6.1	7.0
Occasional care	50.4	24.0	24.8	20.9	7.8	8.9
Preschool	*2.2	*1.0	np	np	np	np
Other formal care	9.6	4.6	*2.8	*2.4	np	np
Total children who required (additional) formal care	210.1	100.0	118.8	100.0	87.0	100.0
ALL CHILDREN						
Before and/or after school care program	125.1	25.6	84.9	32.4	62.6	31.1
Long day care centre	63.8	13.0	39.0	14.9	45.4	22.6
Family day care	60.2	12.3	29.0	11.1	24.5	12.2
Occasional care	191.8	39.2	82.1	31.4	43.7	21.7
Preschool	30.0	6.1	20.3	7.8	11.2	5.6
Other formal care	18.3	3.7	6.4	2.4	13.7	6.8
Total children who required (additional) formal care	489.2	100.0	261.7	100.0	201.1	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

MAIN REASON (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, Time series

Main reason (additional) formal care required	JUNE 1993 . . .		MARCH 1996 . .		JUNE 1999 . . .	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
CHILDREN AGED 0-4						
Work-related						
Work	56.9	20.4	37.1	25.9	26.0	22.8
Looking for work	5.2	1.9	5.8	4.0	6.1	5.3
Work-related study/training	10.4	3.7	*4.1	*2.8	*1.0	*0.9
Total work-related reasons	72.5	26.0	46.9	32.8	33.2	29.1
Personal						
Other study/training(a)	..	..	*3.3	*2.3	*3.6	*3.2
Sport	9.7	3.5	*4.2	*3.0	*1.2	*1.0
Shopping	38.9	13.9	10.4	7.3	4.1	3.6
Entertainment/social activity	5.7	2.0	*3.9	*2.7	4.3	3.8
Give parents a break/time alone	72.5	26.0	30.0	21.0	27.2	23.8
Ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist	15.7	5.6	7.4	5.1	7.3	6.4
Other	6.3	2.3	7.8	5.5	6.8	6.0
Total personal reasons	148.8	53.3	67.0	46.8	54.4	47.7
Beneficial for child						
Good for child	np	np	np	np	np	np
Prepare for school	np	np	np	np	np	np
Total beneficial for child reasons	52.9	18.9	24.0	16.8	22.9	20.0
Other reason	5.0	1.8	*5.1	*3.6	*3.6	*3.2
Total	279.2	100.0	143.0	100.0	114.1	100.0

CHILDREN AGED 5-11

Work-related						
Work	99.7	47.5	60.9	51.3	37.9	43.6
Looking for work	*4.4	*2.1	*4.9	*4.1	*2.4	*2.8
Work-related study/training	9.6	4.5	*4.9	*4.2	*1.7	*1.9
Total work-related reasons	113.7	54.1	70.8	59.6	42.0	48.2
Personal						
Other study/training(a)	..	..	*4.3	*3.6	4.1	4.7
Sport	5.3	2.5	*2.2	*1.8	—	—
Shopping	11.5	5.5	*2.9	*2.4	*3.3	*3.8
Entertainment/social activity	6.9	3.3	*1.6	*1.3	*2.6	*3.0
Give parents a break/time alone	29.9	14.2	11.9	10.1	14.9	17.1
Ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist	14.8	7.1	*5.0	*4.2	7.1	8.2
Other	8.5	4.0	7.5	6.3	5.7	6.6
Total personal reasons	76.8	36.6	35.4	29.8	37.7	43.3
Beneficial for child						
Good for child	np	np	np	np	np	np
Prepare for school	np	np	np	np	np	np
Total beneficial for child reasons	15.5	7.4	7.2	6.1	*3.5	*4.0
Other reason	*4.1	*2.0	*5.4	*4.5	3.9	4.5
Total	210.1	100.0	118.8	100.0	87.0	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Prior to 1996, all study/training was classified as work-related.

<i>Main reason (additional) formal care required</i>	JUNE 1993 . . .		MARCH 1996 . .		JUNE 1999 . . .	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
ALL CHILDREN						
Work-related						
Work	156.6	32.0	98.0	37.4	64.0	31.8
Looking for work	9.6	2.0	10.7	4.1	8.5	4.2
Work-related study/training	19.9	4.1	9.0	3.4	*2.7	*1.3
<i>Total work-related reasons</i>	186.2	38.1	117.7	44.9	75.2	37.4
Personal						
Other study/training(a)	..	..	7.6	2.9	7.7	3.8
Sport	14.9	3.0	6.4	2.5	*1.2	*0.6
Shopping	50.4	10.3	13.3	5.1	7.4	3.7
Entertainment/social activity	12.5	2.6	*5.5	*2.1	6.9	3.4
Give parents a break/time alone	102.4	20.9	41.9	16.0	42.1	20.9
Ill/in hospital/visited doctor/dentist	30.6	6.2	12.4	4.7	14.4	7.1
Other	14.7	3.0	15.3	5.8	12.5	6.2
<i>Total personal reasons</i>	225.6	46.1	102.4	39.1	92.1	45.8
Beneficial for child						
Good for child	59.0	12.1	24.9	9.5	21.9	10.9
Prepare for school	9.3	1.9	6.3	2.4	4.5	2.2
<i>Total beneficial for child reasons</i>	68.4	14.0	31.2	11.9	26.4	13.1
Other reason	9.1	1.9	10.5	4.0	7.5	3.7
Total children who required (additional) formal care	489.2	100.0	261.7	100.0	201.1	100.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

.. not applicable

(a) Prior to 1996, all study/training was classified as work-related.

MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, Labour Force Status of Parents

Main type of (additional) formal care required	Both parents employed working full-time(a)	Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)	Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(a)	One parent employed, other not in the labour force	One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	Both parents not in the labour force(a)	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
(Additional) formal care required							
Before and/or after school care program	17.4	21.7	np	9.2	np	7.0	62.6
Long day care centre	4.5	13.6	5.4	14.9	—	7.0	45.4
Family day care	5.7	9.4	*2.6	*3.5	—	*3.3	24.5
Occasional care centre	4.4	9.9	*1.3	18.0	*1.2	8.9	43.7
Preschool	*2.0	np	np	*3.3	np	4.4	11.2
Other formal care	*1.8	np	np	5.0	np	*2.3	13.7
<i>Total children who required (additional) formal care</i>	35.8	59.1	16.6	53.9	*2.9	32.8	201.1
(Additional) formal care not required	478.9	928.6	138.2	909.8	82.5	383.7	2 921.8
Total children	514.7	987.7	154.8	963.7	85.5	416.5	3 122.9

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes one-parent families.

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MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, States and Territories

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<i>(Additional) formal care requirements</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....									
(Additional) formal care required									
Before and/or after school care program	23.3	12.5	12.8	6.1	4.4	*2.1	np	np	62.6
Long day care centre	15.6	8.7	11.5	*3.1	5.1	*1.0	np	np	45.4
Family day care	5.6	6.4	4.9	*2.7	4.5	np	np	—	24.5
Occasional care	14.0	13.3	7.3	*3.2	4.1	*1.4	—	**0.4	43.7
Preschool	7.5	*2.1	np	np	—	np	—	—	11.2
<i>Total children who required (additional) formal care(a)</i>	70.6	48.1	39.2	16.6	18.5	4.9	**0.8	*2.5	201.1
(Additional) formal care not required	985.8	713.1	556.5	216.3	296.2	74.0	30.7	49.2	2 921.8
Total children	1 056.3	761.1	595.7	232.9	314.7	79.0	31.5	51.7	3 122.9

-
- * estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
 - np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
 - nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
 - ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
 - (a) Includes children who required (additional) other formal care.

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MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, Age

<i>(Additional) formal care requirements</i>	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)				
	Under 3	3-5	6-8	9-11	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....					
(Additional) formal care required					
Before and/or after school care program	np	np	32.6	20.6	62.6
Long day care centre	23.4	19.1	*1.9	*1.0	45.4
Family day care	11.1	9.7	*2.4	*1.4	24.5
Occasional care centre	20.0	18.6	*2.2	*2.8	43.7
Preschool	*1.9	8.9	np	np	11.2
<i>Total children who required (additional) formal care(a)</i>	59.6	69.3	42.6	29.6	201.1
(Additional) formal care not required	695.6	712.7	753.5	760.0	2 921.8
Total children	755.2	782.0	796.2	789.6	3 122.9

-
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 - * estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
 - (a) Includes children who required (additional) other formal care.

MAIN REASON REQUIRED (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE NOT USED

<i>Main reason required (additional) formal care not used</i>	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Under 3</i>	<i>3-5</i>	<i>6-8</i>	<i>9-11</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
None exists in area/don't know of any in area	3.9	6.5	9.4	*3.7	23.6
Child too young/old	*3.5	np	np	*1.0	6.3
Cost/too expensive	16.4	23.5	15.4	10.8	66.1
Booked out/no places	10.7	12.6	*2.4	*1.7	27.4
Time/days available not suitable	*2.1	4.6	*1.7	**0.8	9.2
Not flexible enough/not available at short notice	*3.0	*1.2	*2.2	*1.3	7.6
Had not yet applied	*3.0	*2.0	np	np	6.2
Made other arrangements	*1.3	np	*2.1	np	6.2
Other reason	9.4	8.4	4.1	5.4	27.3
Not known whether care available	6.2	7.8	3.8	*3.4	21.2
Total children who required (additional) formal care	59.6	69.3	42.6	29.6	201.1

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np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

MAIN REASON (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE NOT REQUIRED

<i>Main reason (additional) formal care not required</i>	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Under 3</i>	<i>3-5</i>	<i>6-8</i>	<i>9-11</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Child too young/old	102.3	20.5	10.3	37.4	170.6
Other child-related reason	6.1	7.4	6.4	10.6	30.4
Transport/distance	*3.1	4.3	4.8	*2.7	15.0
Cost/too expensive	39.7	47.4	36.9	35.4	159.4
Prefer/available to look after child	415.0	475.8	536.1	515.3	1 942.3
Prefer other type of care	54.4	53.5	52.2	55.8	215.9
Not available when required	4.5	6.3	4.1	4.3	19.2
Parent unhappy with service/carers	*2.5	5.7	*3.7	*3.0	14.9
Other reason	16.1	17.7	20.4	22.8	77.1
No reason	51.8	74.1	78.5	72.7	277.0
Total children who did not require (additional) formal care	695.6	712.7	753.5	760.0	2 921.8

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

Type of care	Both parents employed working full-time(a)	Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)	Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(a)	One parent employed, other not in the labour force	One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	Both parents not in the labour force(a)	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	74.8	62.4	4.9	np	np	6.9	154.1
Long day care centre	61.6	91.7	11.1	49.8	*1.8	26.0	242.0
Family day care	24.2	35.4	np	10.8	np	11.0	87.1
Occasional care	*2.8	13.8	np	19.2	np	4.6	42.9
Preschool	23.0	78.6	11.0	84.1	5.9	28.9	231.6
Other formal care	*1.4	12.4	np	10.2	np	4.1	29.4
<i>Total children who used formal care(b)</i>	<i>173.5</i>	<i>268.4</i>	<i>33.3</i>	<i>172.5</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>75.2</i>	<i>733.2</i>
Total children who used formal care only	101.8	133.5	21.4	119.7	9.3	51.5	437.2
Informal care							
Grandparent	140.3	273.9	30.9	163.4	6.5	47.7	662.7
Brother/sister	21.0	31.6	*1.1	10.2	*2.0	8.2	74.2
Other relative	54.3	75.2	14.5	31.1	*3.5	43.6	222.2
Other person	69.0	135.6	np	55.6	np	21.4	294.0
<i>Total children who used informal care(b)</i>	<i>257.5</i>	<i>476.4</i>	<i>53.7</i>	<i>249.4</i>	<i>12.4</i>	<i>112.7</i>	<i>1 162.1</i>
Total children who used informal care only	185.7	341.5	41.8	196.6	11.5	89.0	866.1
<i>Total children who used formal and/or informal care</i>	<i>359.2</i>	<i>609.9</i>	<i>75.1</i>	<i>369.1</i>	<i>21.7</i>	<i>164.2</i>	<i>1 599.3</i>
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	155.5	377.8	79.7	594.6	63.8	252.3	1 523.7
Total children	514.7	987.7	154.8	963.7	85.5	416.5	3 122.9
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)							
Total children who used formal care	33.7	27.2	21.5	17.9	11.9	18.1	23.5
Total children who used informal care	50.0	48.2	34.7	25.9	14.5	27.1	37.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	69.8	61.7	48.5	38.3	25.4	39.4	51.2
<i>Total children</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

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* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes one-parent families.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care	Employed working full time	Employed working part time	Total employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Total not employed	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	*1.4	—	*1.4	—	—	—	*1.4
Long day care centre	156.7	10.2	166.9	*3.6	8.5	12.1	179.0
Family day care	48.5	*2.3	50.9	*3.1	*2.4	5.4	56.3
Occasional care	np	np	32.4	np	np	*2.3	34.7
Preschool	138.0	6.6	144.6	7.6	9.6	17.2	161.7
<i>Total children who used formal care(a)(b)</i>	<i>366.3</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>384.7</i>	<i>14.6</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>36.7</i>	<i>421.4</i>
Total children who used formal care only	206.1	9.0	215.1	12.8	13.6	26.4	241.5
Informal care							
Grandparent	290.8	23.8	314.6	6.8	11.6	18.5	333.1
Brother/sister	7.4	—	7.4	np	np	**0.7	8.1
Other relative	41.2	*2.9	44.1	*3.7	*2.9	6.6	50.7
Other person	81.1	*2.9	84.0	*1.0	4.8	5.9	89.8
<i>Total children who used informal care(b)</i>	<i>397.1</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>425.3</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>456.3</i>
Total children who used informal care only	236.8	18.9	255.7	9.9	10.8	20.8	276.4
<i>Total children who used formal and/or informal care</i>	<i>603.1</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>640.4</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>33.0</i>	<i>57.5</i>	<i>697.8</i>
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	289.9	18.0	307.9	29.1	31.6	60.7	368.7
<i>Total children</i>	<i>893.0</i>	<i>55.3</i>	<i>948.3</i>	<i>53.7</i>	<i>64.6</i>	<i>118.2</i>	<i>1 066.5</i>

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— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes other formal care.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care	Employed working full time '000	Employed working part time '000	Total employed '000	Unemployed '000	Not in the labour force '000	Total not employed '000	Total '000
ALL CHILDREN (a)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	105.5	6.4	111.9	*2.2	*2.5	4.7	116.5
Long day care centre	166.2	10.5	176.7	*3.6	10.5	14.0	190.8
Family day care	56.9	*2.7	59.6	4.2	*2.4	6.6	66.2
Occasional care	np	np	33.5	np	np	*2.3	35.8
Preschool	169.2	8.1	177.3	9.3	12.0	21.2	198.6
Total children who used formal care(b)(c)	515.2	26.9	542.1	19.6	29.2	48.8	590.8
Total children who used formal care only	306.7	14.8	321.5	17.3	20.1	37.3	358.8
Informal care							
Grandparent	505.9	31.3	537.1	13.9	17.4	31.3	568.4
Brother/sister	52.2	*3.3	55.5	*2.0	*1.4	*3.4	58.9
Other relative	99.5	6.2	105.7	5.4	7.2	12.6	118.3
Other person	215.6	9.6	225.2	*3.7	7.4	11.1	236.3
Total children who used informal care(c)	821.1	47.2	868.2	24.0	32.9	56.9	925.2
Total children who used informal care only	612.6	35.0	647.6	21.8	23.8	45.5	693.1
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	1 127.8	61.9	1 189.7	41.3	53.0	94.3	1 284.0
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	1 028.2	71.7	1 100.0	83.5	118.6	202.1	1 302.1
Total children	2 156.0	133.7	2 289.7	124.9	171.6	296.4	2 586.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Includes children aged 5-11 years.

(b) Includes other formal care.

(c) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

<i>Type of care</i>	<i>Employed working full time</i>	<i>Employed working part time</i>	<i>Total employed</i>	<i>Unemployed</i>	<i>Not in the labour force</i>	<i>Total not employed</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	np	np	*1.6	—	—	—	*1.6
Long day care centre	62.3	85.7	148.0	9.0	67.6	76.7	224.7
Family day care	20.2	29.4	49.6	*2.2	19.8	22.0	71.6
Occasional care	*2.6	14.4	17.0	*2.0	22.5	24.5	41.5
Pre-school	20.3	59.9	80.1	7.5	97.0	104.5	184.6
<i>Total children who used formal care(a)(b)</i>	<i>96.2</i>	<i>181.2</i>	<i>277.4</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>208.2</i>	<i>228.9</i>	<i>506.3</i>
Total children who used formal care only	50.7	83.1	133.7	11.2	142.4	153.6	287.4
Informal care							
Grandparent	64.1	142.8	206.9	18.3	148.8	167.1	374.1
Brother/sister	*2.8	*3.1	6.0	np	np	6.3	12.3
Other relative	13.9	29.8	43.7	7.5	42.0	49.5	93.2
Other person	18.2	45.7	64.0	*2.9	36.2	39.1	103.1
<i>Total children who used informal care(b)</i>	<i>91.7</i>	<i>204.5</i>	<i>296.3</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>221.4</i>	<i>247.8</i>	<i>544.1</i>
Total children who used informal care only(b)	46.3	106.4	152.6	16.9	155.6	172.5	325.2
<i>Total children who used formal and/or informal care</i>	<i>142.4</i>	<i>287.6</i>	<i>430.0</i>	<i>37.7</i>	<i>363.8</i>	<i>401.5</i>	<i>831.5</i>
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	29.2	51.2	80.4	14.8	338.9	353.7	434.1
<i>Total children</i>	<i>171.7</i>	<i>338.8</i>	<i>510.4</i>	<i>52.5</i>	<i>702.7</i>	<i>755.2</i>	<i>1 265.6</i>

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 * estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
 (a) Includes other formal care.
 (b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

Type of care	Employed working full time '000	Employed working part time '000	Total employed '000	Unemployed '000	Not in the labour force '000	Total not employed '000	Total '000
ALL CHILDREN (a)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	77.7	59.8	137.5	*3.5	9.9	13.3	150.9
Long day care centre	67.1	91.0	158.2	10.2	72.3	82.5	240.7
Family day care	27.2	35.7	62.8	*2.2	21.5	23.7	86.6
Occasional care	*2.8	15.2	18.1	*2.0	22.9	24.9	42.9
Pre-school	25.4	78.2	103.6	9.3	116.3	125.5	229.1
<i>Total children who used formal care(b)(c)</i>	<i>186.0</i>	<i>267.8</i>	<i>453.8</i>	<i>26.9</i>	<i>244.8</i>	<i>271.7</i>	<i>725.5</i>
Total children who used formal care only	112.2	135.5	247.7	15.6	171.6	187.2	435.0
Informal care							
Grandparent	144.6	270.5	415.1	27.4	210.5	237.9	653.0
Brother/sister	21.2	30.9	52.0	*1.1	19.8	20.9	73.0
Other relative	53.4	73.1	126.5	13.4	74.6	88.0	214.5
Other person	71.5	134.0	205.5	9.4	74.0	83.4	288.9
<i>Total children who used informal care(c)</i>	<i>263.8</i>	<i>471.0</i>	<i>734.7</i>	<i>47.4</i>	<i>359.6</i>	<i>407.0</i>	<i>1 141.7</i>
Total children who used informal care only(c)	189.9	338.7	528.6	36.2	286.4	322.6	851.2
<i>Total children who used formal and/or informal care</i>	<i>376.0</i>	<i>606.4</i>	<i>982.4</i>	<i>63.1</i>	<i>531.2</i>	<i>594.3</i>	<i>1 576.7</i>
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	174.9	388.5	563.4	71.1	874.8	945.9	1 509.2
Total children	550.9	994.9	1 545.8	134.2	1 406.0	1 540.1	3 085.9

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes children aged 5-11 years.

(b) Includes other formal care.

(c) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

	November 1990	June 1993	March 1996	June 1999
<i>Labour force status of parents</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....				
CHILDREN WHO USED FORMAL CARE				
Both parents employed working full-time(a)	113.8	122.5	148.5	173.5
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)	195.9	207.1	231.8	268.4
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(a)	20.2	29.4	29.3	33.3
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	150.3	161.1	151.3	172.5
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	13.2	22.0	15.8	10.2
Both parents not in the labour force(a)	37.0	54.1	47.6	75.2
<i>Total</i>	530.4	596.2	624.4	733.2
.....				
CHILDREN WHO USED INFORMAL CARE				
Both parents employed working full-time(a)	276.4	263.3	270.1	257.5
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)	514.7	433.6	450.8	476.4
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(a)	47.9	67.8	52.6	53.7
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	314.9	261.0	245.3	249.4
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	21.7	36.4	19.4	12.4
Both parents not in the labour force(a)	94.9	104.1	90.2	112.7
<i>Total</i>	1 270.5	1 166.2	1 128.3	1 162.1
.....				
CHILDREN WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CARE				
Both parents employed working full-time(a)	336.2	328.9	352.0	359.2
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)	594.5	532.3	570.0	609.9
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(a)	62.2	85.7	74.5	75.1
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	408.3	367.0	349.0	369.1
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	32.2	51.1	32.2	21.7
Both parents not in the labour force	115.1	139.9	124.2	164.2
Total	1 548.5	1 504.9	1 501.8	1 599.3
.....				
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (%) (b)				
Males	75.1	73.6	73.8	72.5
Females	52.1	51.5	54.1	53.8
.....				
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%) (b)				
Males	7.7	11.3	9.1	6.9
Females	7.0	9.7	8.6	6.8

(a) Includes one-parent families.

(b) Estimates for November 1990 and June 1993 obtained from Labour Force, Australia 1978-95 (Cat. no. 6204.0). Estimates for March 1996 and June 1999 obtained from Labour Force Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0).

	Less than \$400	\$400- \$599	\$600- \$799	\$800- \$999	\$1000- \$1399	\$1400- \$1999	\$2000 or more	Total(a)
<i>Labour force status of parents</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
CHILDREN WHO USED FORMAL CARE								
Both parents employed working full-time(b)	3.8	12.5	17.0	18.0	45.2	43.3	17.9	173.5
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(b)	20.8	26.4	26.4	37.9	64.6	39.6	22.8	268.4
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(b)	13.4	6.8	5.6	*3.2	*1.1	np	np	33.3
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	5.3	24.2	36.4	28.2	31.4	13.6	8.7	172.5
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	5.0	4.5	—	np	np	—	—	10.2
Both parents not in the labour force(b)	50.7	14.0	*2.7	np	np	np	np	75.2
Total	99.0	88.4	88.1	88.0	143.3	97.8	49.7	733.2
CHILDREN WHO USED INFORMAL CARE								
Both parents employed working full-time(b)	7.2	20.2	27.6	28.0	67.9	56.4	21.3	257.5
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(b)	44.8	49.2	59.1	63.9	107.5	61.0	32.6	476.4
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(b)	22.8	11.4	6.9	4.7	*3.4	np	np	53.7
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	6.4	31.2	58.2	42.7	34.6	23.4	12.1	249.4
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	*2.8	8.4	—	np	—	—	—	12.4
Both parents not in the labour force(b)	81.2	20.9	**0.9	np	*1.2	np	np	112.7
Total	165.1	141.2	152.7	139.9	214.7	141.8	67.0	1 162.1
CHILDREN WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CARE								
Both parents employed working full-time(b)	9.0	27.0	36.3	38.2	95.7	82.9	31.7	359.2
Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(b)	53.6	62.4	72.2	81.8	141.4	80.2	44.4	609.9
Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(b)	30.0	16.3	11.5	6.6	3.8	*1.1	*1.0	75.1
One parent employed, other not in the labour force	10.2	45.4	84.2	64.0	58.2	31.3	17.9	369.1
One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	7.7	12.0	—	—	**0.2	—	—	21.7
Both parents not in the labour force(b)	115.9	31.5	*3.5	**0.7	*1.3	**0.4	**0.4	164.2
Total	226.4	194.5	207.8	191.4	300.6	196.0	95.3	1 599.3

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes weekly family income not known or not stated.

(b) Includes one-parent families.

TYPE OF CARE(a), Weekly Hours Worked by Parent

Type of care	WEEKLY HOURS WORKED BY PARENT							Total
	Less than 16	16-24	25-34	35-39	40 or more	Total employed	Total not employed	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FATHER								
Formal care								
Before and after school care program	5.1	*2.8	11.3	15.9	73.8	108.9	4.4	113.3
Long day care centre	7.8	5.5	14.1	23.2	125.0	175.6	13.9	189.5
Family day care	4.7	*1.7	*3.3	7.3	42.5	59.6	6.0	65.6
Occasional care	np	np	*1.7	5.3	25.5	33.5	*2.3	35.8
Preschool	7.9	7.1	9.6	29.0	121.9	175.5	20.6	196.1
Other formal care	*1.6	*1.5	4.4	*2.3	13.4	23.1	*1.3	24.4
Total children who used formal care(b)	25.9	17.8	40.8	76.1	375.5	536.1	47.0	583.1
Total children who used formal care only	18.5	10.8	25.0	43.1	222.7	320.1	36.5	356.6
Informal care								
Grandparent	22.1	19.4	41.7	83.8	363.9	530.8	27.9	558.7
Brother/sister	5.9	np	np	6.7	38.2	54.8	*2.8	57.6
Other relative	7.4	5.0	*3.3	13.0	72.2	100.8	9.8	110.6
Other person	7.1	7.3	15.2	26.9	165.1	221.5	9.8	231.2
Total children who used informal care(b)	39.9	28.2	62.1	124.7	600.3	855.3	49.6	904.8
Total children who used informal care only	32.5	21.2	46.3	91.7	447.5	639.2	39.0	678.3
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	58.4	39.0	87.2	167.8	823.0	1 175.3	86.1	1 261.4
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	75.0	42.6	82.8	150.0	745.6	1 096.0	191.7	1 287.7
Total children in couple families	133.4	81.6	170.0	317.8	1 568.6	2 271.3	277.8	2 549.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Children in couple families only.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

TYPE OF CARE(a), Weekly Hours Worked by Parent *continued*

Type of care	WEEKLY HOURS WORKED BY PARENT					Total employed	Total not employed	Total
	Less than 16	16-24	25-34	35-39	40 or more			
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MOTHER								
Formal care								
Before and after school care program	11.4	26.5	18.0	22.2	29.7	107.7	5.6	113.3
Long day care centre	30.1	32.0	19.3	21.7	30.2	133.3	56.2	189.5
Family day care	11.7	13.5	7.4	8.2	11.8	52.7	13.0	65.6
Occasional care	5.9	5.3	*3.2	np	np	16.3	19.5	35.8
Preschool	40.4	22.1	9.6	6.9	13.3	92.2	103.8	196.1
Other formal care	6.3	*3.7	*2.1	np	np	13.0	11.5	24.4
Total children who used formal care(b)	96.9	96.2	55.0	54.1	78.6	380.8	202.4	583.1
Total children who used formal care only	50.4	52.9	26.6	36.1	48.5	214.4	142.2	356.6
Informal care								
Grandparent	117.3	87.8	49.7	44.9	63.3	363.0	195.8	558.7
Brother/sister	13.5	8.5	6.8	4.6	11.1	44.5	13.1	57.6
Other relative	20.9	10.1	11.2	11.0	17.0	70.3	40.3	110.6
Other person	47.9	43.9	29.4	13.6	35.9	170.6	60.6	231.2
Total children who used informal care(b)	190.0	142.1	89.2	70.6	115.1	607.0	297.8	904.8
Total children who used informal care only	143.5	98.7	60.7	52.7	85.0	440.7	237.6	678.3
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	240.4	194.9	115.8	106.7	163.6	821.5	439.9	1 261.4
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	207.3	116.0	72.9	50.9	76.8	523.9	763.7	1 287.7
Total children in couple families	447.7	311.0	188.7	157.7	240.4	1 345.4	1 203.7	2 549.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Children in couple families only.

(b) Components do not add to total as children could use more than one type of care.

WORK ARRANGEMENTS USED TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Type of work arrangement used	June 1993. . . .		March 1996. . . .		June 1999. . . .	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
FAMILIES WITH AN EMPLOYED FATHER						
Work arrangements used by father						
Flexible working hours	199.4	15.6	214.2	16.4	232.0	18.0
Permanent part-time work	9.5	0.7	17.6	1.3	23.9	1.9
Shiftwork	58.0	4.5	70.8	5.4	68.5	5.3
Work at home	84.5	6.6	88.4	6.8	94.9	7.4
Job sharing	7.4	0.6	10.5	0.8	6.7	0.5
Other	10.8	0.8	16.7	1.3	16.0	1.2
<i>Total families where father used work arrangements(a)</i>	312.2	24.4	340.9	26.1	343.5	26.7
Total families where father did not use work arrangements	967.5	75.6	965.4	73.9	943.2	73.3
<i>Total families with father employed</i>	1 279.7	100.0	1 306.3	100.0	1 286.7	100.0
FAMILIES WITH AN EMPLOYED MOTHER						
Work arrangements used by mother						
Flexible working hours	249.9	29.8	281.2	31.3	340.9	36.8
Permanent part-time work	236.6	28.2	260.4	29.0	312.1	33.7
Shiftwork	54.5	6.5	57.8	6.4	79.1	8.5
Work at home	156.8	18.7	164.7	18.3	142.9	15.4
Job sharing	24.9	3.0	36.0	4.0	36.2	3.9
Other	12.6	1.5	23.8	2.6	32.6	3.5
<i>Total families where mother used work arrangements(a)</i>	572.4	68.3	617.6	68.7	627.3	67.8
Total families where mother did not use work arrangements	265.9	31.7	281.4	31.3	298.2	32.2
<i>Total families with mother employed</i>	838.3	100.0	898.9	100.0	925.5	100.0
ALL FAMILIES WITH AT LEAST ONE PARENT EMPLOYED						
Work arrangements used by either parent						
Flexible working hours	385.2	27.4	412.7	28.5	474.7	32.5
Permanent part-time work	248.6	17.7	275.0	19.0	336.0	23.0
Shiftwork	104.7	7.4	118.7	8.2	135.7	9.3
Work at home	202.3	14.4	216.0	14.9	198.1	13.5
Job sharing	28.6	2.0	41.1	2.8	40.0	2.7
Other	21.8	1.5	40.4	2.8	46.0	3.1
<i>Total families where either parent used work arrangements(a)</i>	710.4	50.5	756.7	52.3	773.2	52.9
Total families where neither parent used work arrangements	697.2	49.5	689.8	47.7	689.4	47.1
Total families with at least one parent employed	1 407.6	100.0	1 446.6	100.0	1 462.6	100.0

(a) Components do not add to total as parents could use more than one type of work arrangement.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from the Child Care Survey conducted throughout Australia in June 1999. It is a continuation of a series of surveys on this topic, conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in March 1996. The major aim of the survey was to collect data on the use of, and demand for, child care for children aged less than 12 years. Information was also collected on the use and non-use of the Childcare Rebate and the working arrangements and income of parents with children under 12.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 The Child Care Survey was conducted as a supplement to the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The survey covered rural and urban areas of all States and Territories of Australia. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats etc.) and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels etc.). The MPS is described more fully in *Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). The survey excluded:

- members of the Australian permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia.

3 It also excluded persons living in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia. The exclusion of these persons will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual States and Territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such persons account for about 20% of the population.

4 Information for the Child Care Survey was collected only from private dwellings with children under 12 years of age resident in the selected dwelling. Visiting children were excluded. Children residing in non-private dwellings such as hospitals, motels and gaols were also excluded from the Child Care Survey but included in the MPS.

COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

5 Information was obtained through interviews conducted over a two-week period between 12 and 24 June 1999. Data collected on the use of child care related to the week prior to interview.

6 The full range of child care information was collected for a maximum of two children in each household. Information was obtained from an adult who permanently resided in the selected household and was either the child's parent, step-parent or guardian.

7 In households with more than two children aged under 12, two children were randomly selected and the complete set of child care information was collected for them. A reduced set of information was collected for any 3rd, 4th and 5th children in the households. For the 6th and subsequent children (if any) only age and sex data were collected. This sampling methodology differs from previous surveys where a complete set of child care information was collected for all children resident in a selected household.

8 The complete set of child care information was collected for approximately 10,100 children (after removing non-respondents). The reduced data set was collected for a further 1,200 children.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

CHANGES BETWEEN SURVEYS

- 9** Some changes were made in the survey content between 1996 and 1999.
- New questions were asked about location of the child's long day care centre or preschool. These questions covered where the service was located, whether this was the preferred location and if not, what was the preferred location.
 - New questions were asked about the reason/s for increasing/decreasing the amount of care used.
 - The 1999 survey separately identified an expanded range of informal care providers. This included grandparents and parents living elsewhere, both of whom were previously included in the category other relative.
 - In 1996 questions were asked about care arrangements used to look after sick children. These questions were not asked in 1999.
- 10** In addition, some minor changes were made to questionnaire layout and wording.

CHILDCARE REBATE

- 11** The Childcare Rebate (CR), formerly the Childcare Cash Rebate, scheme pays families a percentage of their work-related child care costs regardless of income and assets. The amount payable depends on the number of children receiving care for work-related purposes, the total cost of that care net of any Childcare Assistance the family may have received, and family income. For families with a taxable income of \$70,000 or less (plus \$3,000 for each child after the first), the weekly rebate is 30% of child care costs in excess of \$20.50, up to a maximum of \$28.95 for one child and \$64.05 for more than one child. If taxable family income is more than \$70,000 (plus \$3,000 for each child after the first), the rebate is 20% of child care costs in excess of \$20.50, up to a maximum of \$19.30 for one child and \$42.70 for more than one child.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- 12** Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:
- Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0)
 - Australian Social Trends* (4102.0)
 - Child Care, Australia, March 1996* (4402.0)
 - Children, Australia: A Social Report, 1999* (4119.0)
 - Household and Family Projections, Australia, 1996–2021* (3236.0)
 - State Young Persons publications, 1996* (4123.1–4123.8)
- 13** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA RELIABILITY

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

1 Estimates obtained from the survey were derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure which ensures that they conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex and State. Estimates of the distribution of households by State and number of persons were also used to improve the estimation procedure.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

2 Estimates provided in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

Non-sampling error

3 Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. These errors can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire, non-response, inaccurate reporting by respondents, errors in the application of survey procedures, incorrect recording of answers, and errors in data entry and processing.

4 It is difficult to measure the size of non-sampling errors and the extent of these errors could vary considerably in significance from survey to survey and from question to question. However, every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effects of these errors.

Sampling error

5 Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

STANDARD ERROR OF ESTIMATES

6 One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of sampling is the *standard error* (SE). This measures the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of households was included. There are about two chances in three that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 that it is within two standard errors. That is, there are 19 chances in 20 that the true estimate is in the range:

$$x - 2SE(x) \text{ to } x + 2SE(x)$$

(where x is the estimate)

7 The SE of an estimate may be obtained from the tables below.

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS

8 The SE can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the *relative standard error* (RSE). While the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases, the RSE will decrease so that larger estimates are relatively more reliable than smaller ones.

9 The RSE is determined by dividing the SE of an estimate $SE(x)$ by the estimate x and expressing it as a percentage. That is:

$$RSE(x) = SE(x) \times (100/x)$$

10 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the RSE of a proportion or percentage is:

$$RSE(x/\gamma) = \sqrt{\{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(\gamma)]^2\}}$$

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA RELIABILITY *continued*

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

11 Only estimates with RSE less than 25% are regarded as sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with larger RSE have been included in this publication, preceded by * (RSE between 25% and 50%) or ** (RSE greater than 50%) to indicate that they should only be used with caution.

STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATES OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN, Standard Error

Estimate ('000)	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5
2	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7
3	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8
4	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.0
5	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.1
10	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.5
15	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.2	1.4	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.9
20	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.3	1.6	0.7	0.6	1.1	2.1
30	2.8	2.5	2.4	1.5	1.8	0.8	0.7	1.4	2.6
50	3.4	3.1	2.9	1.8	2.2	0.9	0.8	1.8	3.3
100	4.5	4.1	3.8	2.2	2.8	1.0	0.9	2.5	4.5
150	5.2	4.8	4.4	2.5	3.2	1.1	0.9	3.0	5.4
200	5.8	5.5	4.9	2.7	3.5	1.2			6.2
300	6.7	6.5	5.7	3.1	4.0	1.2			7.4
500	8.0	8.0	6.8	3.5	4.6	1.3			9.2
1000	10.1	10.6	8.5						12.3
2000	12.6	14.0	10.6						16.3

STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATES OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN, Relative standard error

Estimate ('000)	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1	62.3	55.9	52.7	39.8	44.7	26.3	26.7	27.2	47.7
2	43.2	38.0	36.6	26.7	30.6	17.3	16.9	18.7	34.2
3	34.7	30.3	29.4	21.1	24.3	13.4	12.8	15.1	28.1
4	29.6	25.8	25.1	17.7	20.6	11.1	10.5	12.9	24.3
5	26.2	22.7	22.2	15.5	18.1	9.6	8.9	11.5	21.8
10	17.7	15.3	15.0	10.1	12.0	6.0	5.4	8.0	15.3
15	14.0	12.2	11.9	7.8	9.4	4.5	4.0	6.5	12.4
20	11.9	10.3	10.1	6.5	7.9	3.6	3.2	5.6	10.7
30	9.3	8.2	7.9	5.0	6.1	2.7	2.3	4.5	8.7
50	6.9	6.1	5.8	3.6	4.4	1.8	1.5	3.5	6.6
100	4.5	4.1	3.8	2.2	2.8	1.0	0.9	2.5	4.5
150	3.5	3.2	2.9	1.7	2.1	0.7	0.6	2.0	3.6
200	2.9	2.7	2.5	1.4	1.8	0.6			3.1
300	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.0	1.3	0.4			2.5
500	1.6	1.6	1.4	0.7	0.9	0.3			1.8
1000	1.0	1.1	0.9						1.2
2000	0.6	0.7	0.5						0.8

GLOSSARY

(Additional) formal care	Additional formal care required in the last four weeks for children already using formal care, and formal care required in the last four weeks for children who did not currently use any.
Area of usual residence	<i>State Capital Cities</i> comprises the Statistical Divisions of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. Note that Darwin and Canberra are <i>excluded</i> from this category. <i>Balance of Australia</i> comprises all areas outside the capital cities mentioned above, plus Canberra and Darwin.
Before and after school care program	A type of formal care available to school-aged children before and/or after school hours.
Brother/sister care	Informal care by the child's brothers or sisters, including step brothers or sisters.
Child care arrangements	Relates to those types of care described as formal and informal.
Childcare Rebate (CR)	The Childcare Rebate, formerly the Childcare Cash Rebate, scheme pays families a percentage of their work-related child care costs. It is funded by the Department of Health and Family Services and paid through Medicare offices.
Children	All children under 12 years of age in scope for the survey.
Cost of care	Money paid by parent(s) for a child to attend child care (including no cost) in the reference week.
Eligible children for the CR	Children who used work-related care for which their parent(s) paid, where the total fees for work-related care for the family were at least \$20.50 per week and the family had not already received the maximum weekly rebate allowable.
Family	For the purpose of this publication, a family consists of one or two parents and one or more children under 12 years of age, regardless of whether older children or other relatives are also usually resident.
Family day care	A type of formal care offered in private homes by registered carers, available for a full day to children of all ages.
Family type	Refers to one-parent or couple families.
Family income	Total income received from all sources by the child's parent/guardian and his/her spouse/partner (if any).
Father	A usual resident in the household who is the natural, adopted or step father of the child; or the male legal guardian of the child; or the spouse or de facto partner of the mother.
Formal care	Regulated care away from the child's home. The main types of formal care are before and after school care, long day care, family day care, occasional care and preschool. Total formal care comprises formal care only and combinations of formal and informal care.
Full-time/part-time workers	<i>Full-time workers</i> are employed persons who usually work 35 hours or more a week and others who, although they usually work less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week. <i>Part-time workers</i> are employed persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week.
Grandparent care	Informal care by the child's grandmother or grandfather.
Hours of care	Number of hours a child attended child care in the reference week.
Hours worked	Number of hours actually worked by the child's parent(s) in the reference week.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Informal care	Non-regulated care, arranged by a child's parent/guardian, either in the child's home or elsewhere. It comprises care by (step) brothers or sisters, care by grandparents, care by other relatives (including a parent living elsewhere) and care by other (unrelated) people such as friends, neighbours, nannies or babysitters. It may be paid or unpaid. Total informal care comprises informal care only and combinations of informal and formal care.
Long day care centre	Regulated, centre-based care which is available to children between birth and school age for the full day. Centres are usually open for most of the year.
Median	The value which divides the population into two equal parts, one falling below the value and one above.
Mother	A usual resident in the household who is the natural, adopted or step mother of the child; or the female legal guardian of the child; or the spouse or de facto partner of the father.
Occasional care	Regulated care which is generally available to children between birth and school age for short periods of time to allow parents to shop, attend appointments, or to take brief breaks from parenting.
Other formal care	Any other non-home-based formal care whose primary function is the care of children for short periods of time eg facilities available at a fitness centre to care for the child while the parent participates in the centre's activities.
Other person care	Informal care by people who are not related to the child such as family friends, babysitters, nannies or neighbours.
Other relative care	Informal care by relatives of the child excluding (step) brothers and sisters, and grandparents. It includes care by the child's other parent living elsewhere as well as care by in-laws and ex-wives/husbands of the parent interviewed.
Preschool	A type of formal care generally available in school hours during school terms for children from three years of age (younger children are sometimes accepted) up to the school starting age. Children usually have fixed attendance times. Also known as kindergarten in some States.
Reason CR not claimed	The main reason parent(s) had not claimed or did not intend to claim the Childcare Rebate for eligible children. Such reasons included not aware of the rebate, carer not registered, not worth the trouble and assumed ineligible, for example because income was thought to be too high or received other government assistance.
Reason used care/reason required (additional) formal care	<p>Respondents were asked to identify all reasons and the main reason.</p> <p><i>Work-related reasons</i> include working, looking for work and studying/training for work.</p> <p><i>Personal reasons</i> include study or training not related to work, shopping, entertainment, social or sporting activities, giving parents a break/time alone, caring for relatives, visiting doctor, or undertaking voluntary/community activities.</p> <p><i>Beneficial for child</i> reasons include good for child and preparation for school.</p>
Take-up rate (for CR)	The proportion of eligible children whose parent(s) claimed or intended to claim the Childcare Rebate.
Work arrangements	Arrangements, such as flexible working hours, permanent part-time work, shiftwork, job sharing or working at home, normally used by employed parents to assist them to care for their child(ren).

DO YOU NEED ADDITIONAL DATA?

In addition to the statistics provided in this publication, the ABS can produce upon request customised tables presenting any of the following information included in the survey. Inquiries should be made to the contact person shown on the front cover of this publication. Information collected in the survey included:

DEMOGRAPHIC ITEMS

Number of children aged under 12 in family
Sex of child
Age of child
Country of birth of child
Year of arrival of child
Whether language other than English spoken at home
Main language spoken at home
School attendance
Labour force status of each parent and both parents combined
Weekly hours worked by each parent
Total income of each parent and both parents combined
Main source of income
Family type
Area of usual residence

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Type of child care arrangements used in the past week
Days of attendance in the past week
Hours of child care in the past week
Time of day in the past week (before and after school care only)
Location of care in the past week (before and after school care only)
Provision of out of hours and school holiday care (long day care and preschool only)
Reasons for choice of care centre (long day care and preschool only)
Preferred location of care centre (long day care and preschool only)
Cost of child care in the past week
Reasons for use of child care in the past week
Change in use of child care in the past 12 months
Main reason for change in use of child care in the past 12 months
Attendance at vacation care program in the past 12 months (children attending school only)
Work arrangements normally used to assist with care of children
Whether assistance received from the Childcare Assistance Scheme

CHILDCARE REBATE (CR)

Whether CR was claimed
Main reason for not claiming
Type of child care for which CR was claimed

DEMAND FOR (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE

Type of (additional) formal care required
Number of days (additional) formal care required
Main reason for requiring/not requiring (additional) formal care
Main reason (additional) formal care not available
Main reason for not using (additional) formal care if available

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INFORMATION SERVICE

Data which have been published and can be provided within five minutes are free of charge. Our information consultants can also help you to access the full range of ABS information—ABS user pays services can be tailored to your needs, time frame and budget. Publications may be purchased. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

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