# Child Care, Australia, Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File, Technical Manual

## Australia

### June 2005 (Reissue)

# Child Care, Australia, Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File, Technical Manual

## Australia

## June 2005 (Reissue)

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## INQUIRIES

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

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| **ABS** | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| **CCB** | Child Care Benefit |
| **CCS** | Child Care Survey |
| **CURF** | confidentialised unit record file |
| **ERP** | estimated resident population |
| **LFS** | Labour Force Survey |
| **RADL** | Remote Access Data Laboratory |
| **RSE** | relative standard error |
| **SE** | standard error |

CHAPTER **1**               **INTRODUCTION** ....................................

INTRODUCTION

*Overview*

This Technical Manual provides information on the release of microdata from the 2005 Child Care Survey (CCS). The data are available through an Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The 2005 Child Care Survey CURF is accessible through the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). This Expanded CURF option provides access to more detailed information than would otherwise be available from a standard CURF product, which has not been produced.

The RADL is an on-line database query system, to which users submit programs to interrogate and analyse data, and access the results. Further information about this facility is available on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (see Services We Provide, CURFS).

The CURF enables purchasers to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their own specifications.

*About the Survey*

The CCS was conducted throughout Australia in June 2005 as a supplement to the *Australian Bureau of Statistics* (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The 2005 CCS is a continuation of a series of surveys on the topic of child care conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in June 2002.

Child care refers to arrangements (other than care by resident parents) made for the care of children aged 0–12 years. The CCS collected information about formal and informal child care. Formal child care refers to regulated care that takes place away from the child's home, for example long day care, before and/or after school care and family day care. Informal care refers to non-regulated care that takes place in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by family members, friends, neighbours, babysitters and nannies. Parents often use a combination of formal and informal child care for their children.

The results from the 2005 CCS are published in *Child Care, Australia, June 2005* (cat. 4402.0).

CHAPTER **2**       SURVEY METHODOLOGY ............................

SURVEY METHODOLOGY          The 2005 CCS was conducted as a supplement to the ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS).
*Scope and Coverage*        The LFS is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.)
                            and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels etc.).

                            Information was collected in relation to children aged 0–12 years living in private
                            dwellings. In 2005, this was a change in scope compared with previous surveys, which
                            covered children aged 0–11 years only.

                            The survey excluded children visiting the dwelling and students at boarding school.
                            Persons excluded form the LFS are:
                            ■ members of the Australian permanent defence forces
                            ■ certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from
                              censuses and surveys
                            ■ overseas residents in Australia
                            ■ members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in
                              Australia.

                            The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but
                            excluded persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been
                            within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor
                            impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories,
                            except in the Northern Territory where such persons account for around 23% of the
                            population.

                            In households where all adults were out of scope of the LFS, no information was
                            obtained for the CCS. However, as long as at least one adult in the household was in
                            scope for the LFS, information about children aged 0–12 years and some information
                            about their parents were able to be included in the CCS. See 'Using flag items' in
                            Chapter 3.

                            In the LFS, coverage rules are applied that aim to ensure that each person is associated
                            with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a
                            person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be
                            negligible.

                            Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of the
                            interview are enumerated at their usual residence (relevant information may be obtained
                            from other usual residents present at the time of the survey).

                            The LFS is described more fully in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

*Data Collection
Methodology*

Information was obtained through interviews conducted over a two-week period between 6–18 June 2005. Data collected on the use of child care related to the week prior to the interview, with the exception of Tasmania where it related to 23–29 May 2005 to avoid Tasmanian school holidays.

In each selected household, detailed information about the child care arrangements for each child was collected for a maximum of two children. Information was obtained from an adult who permanently resided in the selected household and was always either the child's parent, step-parent or guardian. In selected households with more than two children aged 0–12 years, two children were randomly selected and the complete set of child care information was collected for them. Summary information was collected for the additional children including: number attending child care; Child Care Benefit (CCB) arrangements; and the cost of formal and informal care.

This sampling methodology is the same as that for 2002. Different sampling methodologies were used in previous surveys. In 1999, a small set of information was collected for each of the 3rd, 4th and 5th children in the household and in the 1996 survey and earlier, a complete set of child care information was collected for all children resident in a selected household.

More survey-specific information, including changes in the survey since 2002, the CCB and Child Care Tax Rebate or any other issues, can be found in the Explanatory Notes of *Child Care, Australia* (cat. no. 4402.0), which can be accessed online from the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>.

*Weighting, Estimation and
Benchmarking*

WEIGHTING AND ESTIMATION

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to take account of the probability of children being selected in the sample when deriving estimates from the CURF. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varied depending on the State or Territory or, in some cases, area of State or Territory in which they lived.

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from the sample survey to infer results for the total in scope population: in the case of the CCS, children aged 0–12 years and families with children aged 0–12 years. To do this, a weight is allocated to each sample unit i.e. each child or each family. The weight is the value that indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

The first step in calculating weights for each child or each family is to assign an initial weight which is equal to the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a child being selected in the survey was one in 600, then the selected child would have an initial weight of 600 (that is, they represent 600 children in the population).

The initial weights are calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than to the distribution within the sample itself.

The weighting methodology for family estimates differs slightly from that used for the 2002 Child Care Survey. In both 2002 and 2005, the method for determining the family

*Weighting, Estimation and*
*Benchmarking continued*

WEIGHTING AND ESTIMATION *continued*

level weights for the Child Care Survey initially involved household composition benchmarks which take account of the number of adults and children under 15 in each household. The household composition benchmarks need to be further refined to the age scope of children in the Child Care Survey ie children aged under 13 years. For the June 2002 Child Care Survey this refinement to the benchmarks used sample count proportions from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in June 2002. However, the June 2005 Child Care Survey used the weighted proportions from the June 2005 LFS for this refinement. Further, in 2005, person level benchmarks were used in addition to the household composition benchmarks in deriving the family weights.

Information about using weights is included in Chapter 3.

BENCHMARKING

The 2005 CCS was benchmarked to the estimated resident population (ERP) living in private dwellings in each State and the Australian Capital Territory and for the ERP living in non-sparsely settled areas of the Northern Territory at 30 June 2005. The ERP estimates for 2005 were based on results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. The CCS estimates do not (and are not intended to) match population estimates for the total Australian resident population of children aged 0– 12 years, which also include estimates of persons and households living in non-private dwellings, such as hotels and boarding houses.

SAMPLING ERROR

Since the estimates for the CCS are based on information obtained from a sample of persons, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey.

One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.
$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y \times 100\%$

where

y = the estimate of interest

Generally, only estimates (numbers, percentages, means and medians) with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes.

To assist users to ascertain the approximate levels of reliability of estimates, the tables of SEs and RSEs for both child and family estimates obtained from the CCS are provided in

*Weighting, Estimation and*
*Benchmarking* continued

SAMPLING ERROR *continued*

Appendix 2. The values given in the tables do not give a precise measure of the SE and RSE for a particular estimate, but will provide an indication of their magnitude.

Additional information about the calculation of standard errors is provided in the Technical Notes of *Child Care, Australia* (cat. no. 4402.0), which can be accessed online from the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>.

Each record on the CURF contains 30 sets of replicate weights. The purpose of these replicate weights is to enable the calculation of SEs for each estimate produced using the "30-Group Jack-Knife" method. The SE calculated for a particular estimate using the replicate weights should be more precise than the SE calculated from the SE Table in Appendix 2. This is because the SE Table is derived from a modelling procedure which used a large number of estimates in the CCS publication.

The 30-Group Jack-knife method is an example of a replicate method for estimating sampling error. The basic idea of such methods is to select subsamples from the full sample and estimate the statistic of interest for each subsample. The sampling error of the full sample statistic is estimated using the variability among the replicate estimates calculated from the subsamples.

The formula for calculationg the 30 Group Jack-knife SE is:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(29/30)\Sigma_g (y_{(g)} - y)^2}$$

where

g = 1 to 30, the number of the replicate group

y = the weighted estimate of interest from the full sample

$y_{(g)}$ = the weighted estimate of interest, having applied the weights for replicate group g or $y_{(g)}$ = the weighted estimate of interest from replicate group g

The replicate weights can also be used to estimate the SE of estimates of parameters which are derived from modelling the unit record data (e.g. a regression coefficient). In modelling, the full sample would be used to estimate the parameter of interest, and the replicate groups are used to provide 30 replicate estimates of the parameter. The SE of the estimate of the parameter from the full sample is then approximated, as above, by the variability of the replicate estimates.

*Weighting, Estimation and Benchmarking* continued

NON-SAMPLING ERROR

Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that can occur due to many reasons, such as imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full estimation of the population or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient processing procedures.

USING THE CURF DATA
*About the Microdata*

The 2005 CCS Expanded CURF contains five separate files, which are explained in detail below under 'File Structure'. The CURF enables users to manipulate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

The 2005 CCS microdata are released under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, which has provision for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the CURF, and other steps have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents. These include removing some items from the CURF, reducing the level of detail shown on the CURF for some other items, changing some characteristics such as state or area for some records and dropping some records. Data on the 2005 CCS Expanded CURF will therefore not exactly match published data.

Steps to confidentialise the datasets made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the dataset and optimise its content, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. Intending purchasers should ensure that the data they require, at the level of detail they require are available on the CURF; data obtained in the survey but not contained on the CURF may be available as statistics in tabulated form on request. A full list of all the data items on the CURF is provided in Appendix 1.

*File Structure and Use*

The 2005 CCS Expanded CURF contains a set of five files with confidentialised records. These files provide records for the following counting units.

    A. Income unit
    B. Income unit care
    C. Child
    D. Child care
    E. Day care

NATURE OF THE LEVELS *continued*

NATURE OF THE LEVELS

Some of the levels for the CCS are in a hierarchical relationship. That is, each child at the Child Level of the survey is a member of an Income Unit. For the CCS, information was collected from income units comprising parent(s) and up to two children per family aged 0–12 years. While the word 'family' is often used interchangeably with 'income unit' in the CCS, the income unit may not include all members of a family e.g. an older child with an income.

Each income unit has records for the child care used by all children in the income unit for the week (the income unit care level). This does include some information on children in the family, not selected for the survey, as parents were asked for aggregated cost of care and use of care data for other children in the family.

Each selected child then has records both for child care use for the week (Child care level) and for their child care use on individual days (Day care level).

Diagram 1: Levels in the 2005 Child Care Survey
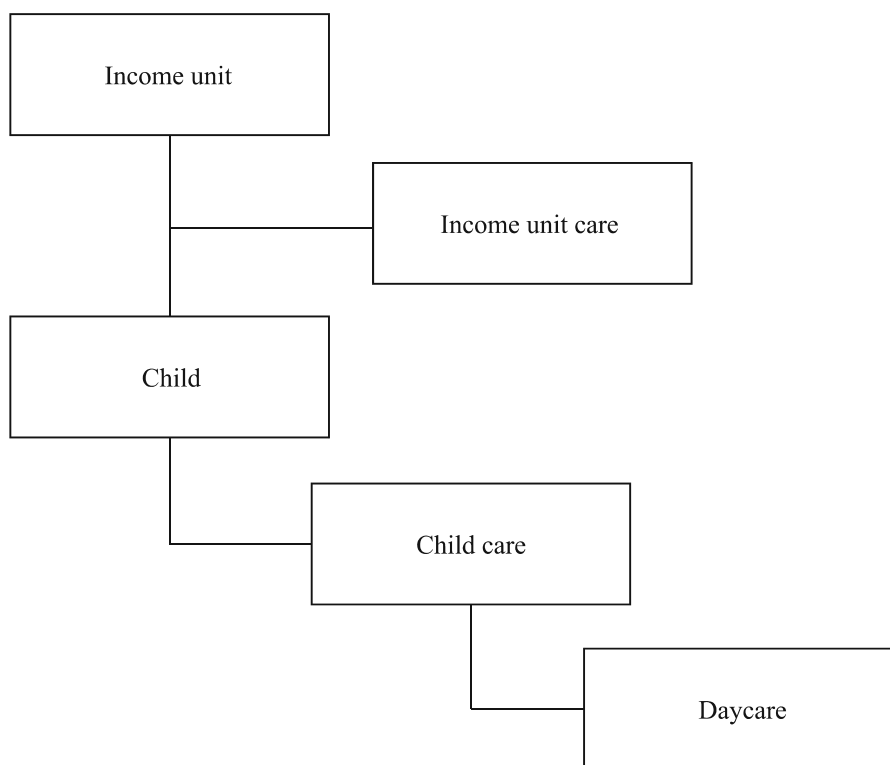


The income unit level contains information about parental income, labour force status, work arrangements and the geographical location of the income unit. There are 6,630 records at the income unit level.

The income unit care level contains information about whether the income unit used care and whether they claimed or intended to claim the Child Care Benefit. There are 15,304 records at the income unit care level.

*File Structure and Use*
*continued*

NATURE OF THE LEVELS *continued*

The child level contains information about selected characteristics of each selected child and the main reasons for their use/non-use of certain child care services. The child level file contains 10,228 records.

The child care level contains information about child care use for the reference week e.g. Weekly cost of care after the CCB, Whether CCB was claimed for care and Main reason intends or does not intend to claim the CCB. The child care level file contains 43,911 records.

The daycare level contains information about daily use of child care eg. Days of care and hours of care used. The daycare level file contains 105,097 records.

USING REPEATING DATASETS

The income unit and child level are counting units, whereas the income unit care, childcare and daycare levels are repeating datasets. The repeating datasets in the CCS are a set of data with a counting unit which may be repeated for a child or an income unit. For example, a child may have more than one instance of child care. Also, the child will have summary records in addition to base records.

Consider a child who attended long day care and family day care and also received care from a grandparent. At the childcare level this child would have three base childcare records (long day care, family day care and grandparent care) because they attended three separate instances of childcare. This child would also have summary records that are aggregates of care information (for example a record summarising all formal care child attended).

Repeating datasets are only useful when common information is collected for each instance of a counting unit. For example, each child in a family has several instances of care (TCAREFLG) with a cost of care (ADJCOST) associated with it. Therefore, each child care unit has a cost of care (ADJCOST) associated with it. This enables a table to be run on all instances of care.

Table 1: Example of 'Child care cost' repeating dataset

| *ABSFID* | *CHILDPNO* | *TCAREFLG* | *ADJCOST* |
|---|---|---|---|
| CC05001003 | 5 | 2 (long day care) | $38 |
| CC05001003 | 5 | 3 (family day care) | $10 |
| CC05001003 | 5 | 7 (grandparent care) | $1 |
| CC05001003 | 5 | 21 (all care) | $49 |
| CC05001003 | 5 | 22 (formal care) | $48 |
| CC05001003 | 5 | 23 (informal care) | $1 |
| CC05001003 | 5 | 24 (both formal and informal care) | $49 |

To run a table on the dataset outlined above, the following SAS code (or equivalent) can be used. This will give you output that shows the frequency of each cost (dollar value) for each type of care used by the single child:

```
PROC FREQ DATA=SASDB.CC05CC; TABLES TCAREFLG*ADJCOST;

RUN;
```

*File Structure and Use*
*continued*

USING REPEATING DATASETS *continued*

The following output would be produced for the example dataset:

| TCAREFLG (Type of care and/or preschool used) | ADJCOST (WEEKLY COST OF CARE) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | $1 | $10 | $38 | $48 | $49 |
| Long day care | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Family day care | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grandparent | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Children who used care | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Children who used formal care | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Children who used informal care | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Children who used both formal and informal care | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Note that although the output above only relates to a single child, the totals are a count of all conditions for that child. That is, the table above shows the frequency of different costs for each type of care for an individual child.

As with the child level file, some data items in a repeating dataset are only applicable to a particular sub-population of the dataset. For instance, the item "Main reason intends to claim rather than pay to provider" from the child care level is only applicable for formal care. Records outside the sub-population will appear as a "Not applicable" e.g. children with just informal care or no care.

COUNTING UNITS AND WEIGHTS

There are two fields on each record on the CURF containing 'weights', a child weight (FINPRSWT) and a family weight (FINHHWT). The child weight reflects a child's probability of selection in the sample and the estimation procedure used. The family weight reflects the probability of selection in the sample of the child's family, and the estimation procedure. The weights indicate how many population units are represented by the sample unit. See discussion in Chapter 2.

Where estimates are derived from the CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by using the weights associated with each record in a particular category and not just by counting the number of records in a particular category. If each child or family's 'weight' were to be ignored, then no account would be taken of the fact that a child or family's chance of being selected in the survey varied from region to region, and the resulting estimates may therefore be biased.

The application of weights ensures that:
- person estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory and section of state, and
- household estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of households by certain household characteristics (e.g. By number of adults and children), rather than to the distributions within the sample itself.

*Identifiers*

There are a series of unique identifiers on records at each level of the file. Families have a family identifier (ABSFID) and children have a child identifier (CHILDPNO). Repeating datasets also have identifiers to identify the type of care used by the income unit (CARUSEFM), the child (TCAREFLG) and the day of care (DAYCARE).

FILE LEVEL IDENTIFIERS

The following are the identifiers on each file level:

1. Income unit = ABSFID
2. Income unit care = ABSFID, CARUSEFM
3. Child = ABSFID, CHILDPNO
4. Child care = ABSFID, CHILDPNO, TCAREFLG
5. Day care = ABSFID, CHILDPNO, TCAREFLG, DAYCARE

As well as uniquely identifying all units, the identifiers are vital to copying attributes from one type of counting unit to another, for associated units. For example, an income unit variable such as the labour force status of parents can be copied to all the children within the family. The means by which this might be done in SAS is illustrated below:

SAS CODE

```
PROC SORT DATA=SASDB.CC05IU; BY ABSFID;
PROC SORT DATA = SASDB.CC05CH; BY ABSFID CHILDPNO;
DATA MERGFILE (KEEP=ABSFID CHILDPNO LFPAR);
MERGE SASDB.CC05IU SASBD.CC05CH;
BY ABSFID;
RUN;
```

SPSS CODE

```
GET
FILE=CC05IU.
SORT CASES BY ABSFID
SAVE OUTFILE=SORTEDIU.
GET
FILE=CC05CH.
/KEEP=ABSFID CHILDPNO.
SORT CASES BY ABSFID CHILDPNO.
SAVE OUTFILE=SORTEDCH.
MATCH FILES FILE=SORTEDIU.
MATCH FILES FILE=SORTEDCH.
/TABLE=SORTEDIU.
/BY ABSFID.
SAVE OUTFILE=MERGFILE.
```

This merge will match one income unit to two child care records. Note that the data items copied from the income unit level will now have the counting unit for the level they have been added to, i.e. the child level in this example.

The following is an example of an income unit where the data item LFPAR has been copied from the income unit level onto the child level.

*Identifiers continued*

FILE LEVEL IDENTIFIERS *continued*

| ABSFID | CHILDPNO | LFPAR |
|---|---|---|
| CC05000001 | 1 | Couple family - one parent employed |
| CC05000001 | 2 | Couple family - one parent employed |
| CC05000002 | 1 | Couple family - both parents employed |
| CC05000002 | 2 | Couple family - both parents employed |

*Using flag items*

There are preschool flags that allow users to include or exclude preschool from formal care. These flags are PSFLAGA or Preschool Flag A (use to include preschool in formal care) and PSFLAGB or Preschool Flag B (use to exclude preschool in formal care).

There is also a labour force flag, LFSFLAG, to indicate where one of the members of an income unit is out of scope of the LFS. Where one parent in a couple income unit was out of scope of the LFS, data for this parent is missing, and therefore the entire income unit has been classified to code '0' ('Not applicable') for the following data items at the income unit level:

- Age of mother
- Age of father
- Full-time/part-time employment status of mother
- Full-time/part-time employment status of father
- Full-time/part-time employment status of parents
- Labour force status of mother
- Labour force status of father
- Labour force status of parents
- Weekly hours worked by mother
- Weekly hours worked by father

*Special Codes*

For income, number of (additional) days, and cost data items (containing dollar values), certain values are reserved as special codes and must not be added as if they were quantitative values. The values of these codes are as follows:

*Weekly cost of child care and/or preschool to the family*

9998 = Not determined (where there were other children and the family intended to claim the CCB for the cost of the care and the CCB could not be properly determined)

*Special Codes* continued

*Weekly income of mother (continuous)*

999996 = Not applicable (same-sex couple families/no source of income)

999997 = Nil

999998 = Don't know

999999 = Not stated

0 = No mother

*Weekly income of father (continuous)*

999996 = Not applicable (same-sex couple families/no source of income)

999997 = Nil

999998 = Don't know

999999 = Not stated

0 = No father

*Weekly income of parent(s) (continuous)*

999996 = Not applicable (for same-sex couple families/no source of income)

999998 = Don't know

999999 = Not stated

(0 = Nil)

*Number of days e.g. (additional) formal care required in previous four weeks*

99 = Don't know

*Geography*

USER NOTE

To enable users greater flexibility in their analysis, the ABS has included two sub-state geographic items on the Expanded 2005 CCS CURF. These are: 'area of usual residence' (AREAUR) and 'Australian Standard Geographic Classification remoteness structure / ARIA' (AREAREMC). Simultaneous cross-tabulations of these two variables will produce cells relating to some small geographic regions. Tables showing multiple data items, cross-tabulated by more than one sub-state geography at a time are not permitted due to the detailed information about people in some small geographic regions that could be presented. Users are advised that this condition is monitored through the RADL audit process.

While recognising the above, users are also advised that a cross-classification that simply shows total population counts using the two sub-state geographic variables may be of interest to some clients and such output is permitted. Cross-tabulations of multiple data items by state and territory together with one of the two sub-state geographic variables referred to above is also permitted.

FILE CONTENT .........................................

FILE CONTENT

The 2005 CCS Expanded CURF contains the files listed below and is available through RADL.

*Expanded CURF files*

CC05IU.SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF income unit level file in SAS for Windows format.
CC05IC. SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF income unit care level file in SAS for Windows format.
CC05CH. SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF child level file in SAS for Windows format.
CC05CC. SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF child care level file in SAS for Windows format.
CC05DC. SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF daycare level file in SAS for Windows format.

Formats. SAS7BCAT - the format file that provides labels for associated codes in the SAS version of the CCS CURF.

CC05IU.SAV - the CCS CURF income unit level file in SPSS format.
CC05IC. SAV - the CCS CURF income unit care level file in SPSS format.
CC05CH. SAV - the CCS CURF child level file in SPSS format.
CC05CC. SAV - the CCS CURF child care level file in SPSS format.
CC05DC. SAV - the CCS CURF daycare level file in SPSS format.

CC05IU.DTA - the CCS CURF income unit level file in STATA format.
CC05IC. DTA - the CCS CURF income unit care level file in STATA format.
CC05CH. DTA - the CCS CURF child level file in STATA format.
CC05CC. DTA - the CCS CURF child care level file in STATA format.
CC05DC. DTA - the CCS CURF daycare level file in STATA format.

INFORMATION FILES

4402055002 Data Item List.xls - contains documentation relating to all levels of the file, including lengths and data item labels. The file is in an Excel spreadsheet format and is available from the ABS website.

44020_2005.pdf - the complete publication, Child Care, Australia 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0) available on the ABS website.

4402055002_2005.pdf - the Child Care Australia Expanded Unit Record File Technical Manual Jun 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0.55.002) available on the ABS website.

FREQUENCIES_CC05IU.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted and unweighted income unit frequencies of each code value at the income unit level. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_CC05IC.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted and unweighted income unit care frequencies of each code value at the income unit care level. The file is in plain text format.

*Expanded CURF files*
*continued*

INFORMATION FILES *continued*

FREQUENCIES_CC05CH.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted and unweighted person frequencies of each code value at the child level. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_CC05CC.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted and unweighted person frequencies of each code value at the child care level. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES_CC05DC.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted and unweighted person frequencies of each code value at the daycare level. The file is in plain text format.

*Expanded CURF test files*

The test files mirror the actual data files, but have random data. The test files can be utilised to trouble shoot SAS, SPSS or STATA code or to solve any syntax problems prior to submitting RADL jobs. The test files can also test code without the restrictions imposed by RADL. Data from the test files will not match data from the actual CCS CURF files.

CC05IU.SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF income unit level file in SAS for Windows format.
CC05IC. SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF income unit care level file in SAS for Windows format.
CC05CH. SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF child level file in SAS for Windows format.
CC05CC. SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF child care level file in SAS for Windows format.
CC05DC. SAS7BDAT - the CCS CURF daycare level file in SAS for Windows format.

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CC05CC. SAV - the CCS CURF child care level file in SPSS format.
CC05DC. SAV - the CCS CURF daycare level file in SPSS format.

CC05IU.DTA - the CCS CURF income unit level file in STATA format.
CC05IC. DTA - the CCS CURF income unit care level file in STATA format.
CC05CH. DTA - the CCS CURF child level file in STATA format.
CC05CC. DTA - the CCS CURF child care level file in STATA format.
CC05DC. DTA - the CCS CURF daycare level file in STATA format.

CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

*Release of CURF*

The 2005 CCS Expanded CURF is released in accordance with a Ministerial Determination (Clause 7, Statutory Rules 1983, No.19) in pursuance of section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. As required by the Determination, the CURF has been designed so that the information on the file is not likely to enable the identification of the particular person to which the data relates.

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each release of the CURF. In addition, the ABS requires all organisations and individuals within organisations seeking to use the CURF, to sign an undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on use, before access to the CURF will be granted. Organisations and individuals who seek access to use data from the 2005 CCS Expanded CURF are required to give an undertaking which includes, among other conditions, that they will:

- use the information only for the statistical purposes specified in the Schedule to the Undertaking.
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations.
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the information to any other person or organisation other than members of this organisation who have been approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information.
- not attempt to match, with or without using identifiers, the information with any other list of persons or organisations.
- comply with any other direction or requirement specified in the ABS Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual.
- not attempt to access the information after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation.

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use of the information contained in the CURF to produce information of a statistical nature, i.e. the arrangement and classification of numerical facts or data, including statistical analyses or statistical aggregates. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures.
- estimation of population characteristics.
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis).
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the "*Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual*" available on the ABS web site <http://www.abs.gov.au> (see Services We Provide, CURFs).

*Release of CURF*
*continued*

Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice on the propriety of any particular intended use of the data is available from curf.management@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 5853.

*Conditions of Sale*

All ABS products and services are provided under conditions of sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

The price of the 2005 Child Care Survey Expanded CURF, as at July 2006 is $1,320, including GST.

ACCESSING THE CURF

All clients wishing to access the 2005 Child Care Survey Expanded CURF should complete the Application and Undertaking available on the ABS website, <http://www.abs.gov.au> (see Services We Provide, CURFs). Before completing the application form clients should read the 'Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual', and related information which is also available from the ABS website (again see Services We Provide, CURFs).

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The 2005 CCS CURF can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/Australian Vice Chancellors Committee CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes.

# DATA ITEM LIST .............................

DATA ITEM LIST

For data items and structure, see the Excel spreadsheet entitled *4402055002 Data Item List* associated with this Technical Manual.

**STANDARD ERRORS** ............................

## T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF CHILD ESTIMATES

| Size of Estimate | STANDARD ERROR | | | | | | | | | RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NSW | Vic. | Qld. | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | SE | RSE |
| | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | % |
| 100 | 150 | 150 | 130 | 130 | 110 | 120 | 120 | 90 | 150 | 150.0 |
| 200 | 240 | 240 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 180 | 150 | 230 | 115.0 |
| 300 | 320 | 310 | 270 | 250 | 230 | 210 | 230 | 190 | 300 | 100.0 |
| 500 | 440 | 430 | 380 | 330 | 320 | 270 | 310 | 260 | 410 | 82.0 |
| 700 | 540 | 530 | 470 | 400 | 390 | 320 | 380 | 320 | 500 | 71.4 |
| 1,000 | 670 | 660 | 590 | 490 | 480 | 390 | 470 | 390 | 620 | 62.0 |
| 1,500 | 850 | 830 | 760 | 620 | 620 | 480 | 590 | 480 | 780 | 52.0 |
| 2,000 | 1 010 | 970 | 900 | 720 | 730 | 560 | 700 | 560 | 920 | 46.0 |
| 2,500 | 1 150 | 1 100 | 1 000 | 800 | 850 | 650 | 800 | 600 | 1 050 | 42.0 |
| 3,000 | 1 250 | 1 200 | 1 150 | 900 | 900 | 700 | 900 | 650 | 1 150 | 38.3 |
| 3,500 | 1 400 | 1 300 | 1 250 | 950 | 1 000 | 750 | 950 | 700 | 1 250 | 35.7 |
| 4,000 | 1 500 | 1 400 | 1 350 | 1 050 | 1 100 | 800 | 1 050 | 750 | 1 350 | 33.8 |
| 5,000 | 1 700 | 1 600 | 1 500 | 1 150 | 1 200 | 900 | 1 150 | 850 | 1 550 | 31.0 |
| 7,000 | 2 000 | 1 900 | 1 800 | 1 400 | 1 450 | 1 100 | 1 400 | 950 | 1 850 | 26.4 |
| 10,000 | 2 400 | 2 250 | 2 150 | 1 650 | 1 750 | 1 350 | 1 700 | 1 050 | 2 200 | 22.0 |
| 15,000 | 2 950 | 2 700 | 2 650 | 2 000 | 2 200 | 1 700 | 2 150 | 1 200 | 2 750 | 18.3 |
| 20,000 | 3 400 | 3 100 | 3 050 | 2 300 | 2 550 | 2 000 | 2 500 | 1 350 | 3 200 | 16.0 |
| 30,000 | 4 100 | 3 700 | 3 650 | 2 800 | 3 100 | 2 500 | 3 100 | 1 500 | 3 900 | 13.0 |
| 40,000 | 4 700 | 4 200 | 4 150 | 3 200 | 3 550 | 2 950 | 3 600 | 1 600 | 4 500 | 11.3 |
| 50,000 | 5 200 | 4 600 | 4 600 | 3 550 | 4 000 | 3 350 | 4 050 | 1 650 | 5 050 | 10.1 |
| 100,000 | 7 000 | 6 050 | 6 100 | 4 800 | 5 500 | 5 000 | 5 800 | 1 850 | 7 050 | 7.1 |
| 150,000 | 8 200 | 7 050 | 7 150 | 5 700 | 6 550 | 6 350 | 7 150 | 1 950 | 8 500 | 5.7 |
| 200,000 | 9 200 | 7 800 | 7 950 | 6 450 | 7 450 | 7 550 | 8 250 | 2 000 | 9 700 | 4.9 |
| 300,000 | 10 700 | 8 950 | 9 150 | 7 600 | 8 850 | 9 600 | . . | 2 050 | 11 650 | 3.9 |
| 500,000 | 12 850 | 10 550 | 10 850 | 9 250 | 10 900 | 13 100 | . . | . . | 14 650 | 2.9 |
| 1,000,000 | 16 200 | 12 900 | 13 350 | 12 000 | 14 300 | . . | . . | . . | 19 650 | 2.0 |
| 2,000,000 | 20 000 | 15 450 | 16 050 | 15 350 | 18 400 | . . | . . | . . | 26 150 | 1.3 |
| 5,000,000 | 25 650 | 19 000 | 19 850 | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | 37 450 | 0.7 |
| 10,000,000 | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | 48 450 | 0.5 |

. . not applicable

## T2 STANDARD ERRORS OF FAMILY ESTIMATES

| | STANDARD ERROR | | | | | | | | | RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NSW | Vic. | Qld. | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. | Aust. |
| *Size of estimate* | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | no. | % |
| 100 | 120 | 140 | 120 | 110 | 100 | 100 | 110 | 80 | 120 | 120.0 |
| 200 | 200 | 220 | 190 | 170 | 170 | 150 | 160 | 130 | 190 | 95.0 |
| 300 | 270 | 280 | 250 | 220 | 220 | 190 | 190 | 170 | 250 | 83.3 |
| 500 | 380 | 380 | 350 | 300 | 300 | 260 | 250 | 240 | 340 | 68.0 |
| 700 | 470 | 470 | 430 | 360 | 370 | 310 | 290 | 290 | 420 | 60.0 |
| 1,000 | 590 | 580 | 530 | 440 | 460 | 370 | 350 | 360 | 520 | 52.0 |
| 1,500 | 760 | 730 | 670 | 550 | 570 | 450 | 420 | 440 | 660 | 44.0 |
| 2,000 | 900 | 850 | 790 | 630 | 670 | 520 | 480 | 500 | 780 | 39.0 |
| 2,500 | 1 000 | 950 | 900 | 700 | 750 | 550 | 550 | 550 | 900 | 36.0 |
| 3,000 | 1 150 | 1 050 | 1 000 | 750 | 800 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 1 000 | 33.3 |
| 3,500 | 1 250 | 1 150 | 1 050 | 850 | 900 | 650 | 600 | 600 | 1 050 | 30.0 |
| 4,000 | 1 300 | 1 250 | 1 150 | 900 | 950 | 700 | 650 | 650 | 1 150 | 28.8 |
| 5,000 | 1 500 | 1 350 | 1 300 | 950 | 1 050 | 750 | 700 | 700 | 1 300 | 26.0 |
| 7,000 | 1 750 | 1 600 | 1 500 | 1 100 | 1 250 | 850 | 850 | 800 | 1 550 | 22.1 |
| 10,000 | 2 100 | 1 900 | 1 800 | 1 300 | 1 450 | 950 | 950 | 850 | 1 850 | 18.5 |
| 15,000 | 2 550 | 2 300 | 2 150 | 1 500 | 1 700 | 1 100 | 1 150 | 950 | 2 250 | 15.0 |
| 20,000 | 2 900 | 2 650 | 2 450 | 1 700 | 1 900 | 1 150 | 1 300 | 950 | 2 600 | 13.0 |
| 30,000 | 3 400 | 3 150 | 2 950 | 1 900 | 2 200 | 1 300 | 1 500 | 1 000 | 3 150 | 10.5 |
| 40,000 | 3 850 | 3 550 | 3 300 | 2 100 | 2 400 | 1 400 | 1 650 | 1 050 | 3 600 | 9.0 |
| 50,000 | 4 200 | 3 900 | 3 600 | 2 250 | 2 600 | 1 450 | 1 800 | 1 050 | 4 000 | 8.0 |
| 100,000 | 5 350 | 5 100 | 4 700 | 2 700 | 3 150 | 1 650 | 2 350 | 1 050 | 5 400 | 5.4 |
| 150,000 | 6 100 | 5 900 | 5 400 | 2 950 | 3 500 | 1 750 | 2 700 | 1 000 | 6 400 | 4.3 |
| 200,000 | 6 650 | 6 500 | 5 900 | 3 150 | 3 750 | 1 800 | 2 950 | 950 | 7 150 | 3.6 |
| 300,000 | 7 400 | 7 450 | 6 700 | 3 350 | 4 050 | 1 850 | . . | 900 | 8 350 | 2.8 |
| 500,000 | 8 450 | 8 750 | 7 800 | 3 650 | 4 450 | 1 900 | . . | . . | 10 100 | 2.0 |
| 1,000,000 | 9 750 | 10 700 | 9 350 | 3 950 | 4 900 | . . | . . | . . | 12 850 | 1.3 |
| 2,000,000 | 10 950 | 12 750 | 10 950 | 4 100 | 5 200 | . . | . . | . . | 16 000 | 0.8 |
| 5,000,000 | 12 250 | 15 650 | 12 950 | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | 20 850 | 0.4 |
| 10,000,000 | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | 24 900 | 0.2 |

. .    not applicable

# 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. |
| **Approved care** | Child care provided by a service provider that participates satisfactorily in the Australian Government funded quality assurance system and has been approved to receive Child Care Benefit payments on behalf of eligible families. Most long day care, family day care, before and/or after school care, vacation care, and some occasional care providers are approved child care providers . |
| **Area of usual residence** | State capital cities comprises the Statistical Divisions of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. Note that Darwin and Canberra are excluded from this category. |
| | Balance of Australia comprises all areas outside the capital cities mentioned above, plus Canberra and Darwin. |
| **Before and/or after school care** | A type of formal care provided for school aged children before and/or after school during the school term. Some services also provide care on 'pupil free days'. The services usually make use of established facilities such as schools, community halls, and recreation centres. |
| **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. |
| **Child Care Benefit (CCB)** | Assistance in the form of a payment made by the Australian Government to help with the costs of child care for families who use either approved or registered child care. The CCB was introduced on 1 July 2000, when it replaced the Child Care Cash Rebate and Childcare Assistance. |
| **Child Care Tax Rebate** | A new tax offset, passed by Parliament in December 2005. In general terms, as a result of the Child Care Tax Rebate, families with a tax liability will be eligible for 30 per cent of out-of-pocket expenses incurred for approved child care, up to a maximum of $4,000 per child per year. The Child Care Tax Rebate applies to out-of-pocket expenses for approved child care incurred since 1 July 2004 and can be claimed in relation to the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 for the first time in 2005–06 income tax returns. The Child Care Tax Rebate is available for families who receive Child Care Benefit (CCB) and meet the CCB work, study and training test. |
| **Children** | Children aged 0–12 years in scope for the survey. |
| **Cost of care** | Cost, net of Child Care Benefit, to parents for a child to attend care. In most cases, where the Child Care Benefit was paid directly to the child care service provider, the cost of care was directly collected in the survey. In a small number of cases, where the Child Care Benefit was not paid direct to the provider, the Child Care Benefit was estimated and subtracted from the reported cost of care. Information on the Child Care Tax Rebate was not included as part of the survey as it had not been made available for families to claim at that time. |
| **Family** | Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family. |

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|---|---|
| Family day care | A type of formal care provided by experienced caregivers in their own homes, available for a full day or part day. Schemes are administered and supported by central coordination units. |
| Family type | Refers to one parent or couple families. |
| Father | 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. The father must be resident in the same household as the child. |
| Formal care | Regulated care away from the child's home. The main types of formal care are before and/or after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care. |
| Full-time/part-time workers | Full-time workers 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. |
| | Part-time workers are employed persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week. |
| Grandparent care | Informal care provided 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. |
| 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. |
| Long day care centre | A type of formal care that is centre-based and is available to children between birth and school age for the full day or part day. Centres are usually open for most of the year. |
| Mother | The natural, adopted or step mother of the child, the female legal guardian of the child, or the spouse or de facto partner of the father. The mother must be resident in the same household as the child. |
| Occasional care | A type of formal care provided mainly for children who have not started school. These services cater mainly for the needs of families who require short term care for their children. |
| Other formal care | A type of formal care other than before and/or after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care. |
| 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, 'in-laws' who are not grandparents of the child and other relatives such as aunt, uncle or cousin . |
| Preschool | Educational and developmental programs for children in the year (or in some jurisdictions, two years) before they begin full-time primary education. |
| Reason used care/reason required additional formal care | Respondents were asked to identify all reasons and the main reason formal care was required in the previous four weeks. |
| Remoteness | The ABS has defined Remoteness within the AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION (ASGC). The ASGC Remoteness Structure is defined only in census years, commencing with the census year 2001, and includes all Collection Districts (CDs) across Australia. The purpose of the Remoteness Structure is to classify CDs which share common characteristics of remoteness into broad geographical regions called Remoteness Areas (RAs). |

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| Remoteness *continued* | The structure defines six RAs: Major Cities of Australia; Inner Regional Australia; Outer Regional Australia; Remote Australia; Very Remote Australia; and Migratory. |
| | The delimitation criteria for RAs are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA), which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre (ASGC 2001) in each of five size classes. For this survey, the ASGC 2001 CDs were used. The RAs were derived by calculating the average ARIA index value for each CD and applying the ASGC 2001 RA criteria. |
| | The Migratory category is out of scope of this survey. |
| | The Remoteness Structure is described in detail in the publication *Statistical Geography Volume 1 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2001* (cat. no.1216.0) |
| **Work-related reasons include working, looking for work and studying/training for work**. | Personal reasons 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. |
| | Beneficial for child reasons include good for child and preparation for school. |
| Vacation care | A service provided to school children during the school holidays. |
| Weekly income of parents | In couple families, total income received from all sources by the couple. In one parent families, the total income from all sources of the lone parent. |
| 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). |

## FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

*INTERNET*  **www.abs.gov.au**  the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

## INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our website. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

*PHONE*  1300 135 070

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## FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

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