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New  
Issue

# **Child Care**

## **Western Australia**

**June 1999**

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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
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Type of Care by Age of Child

Western Australia

Type of Care	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)								
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	9-11	Total
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal Care									
Before and after school care program	** -	** -	** -	** -	** 0.6	* 1.6	3.2	* 1.7	7.1
Long day care centre	* 0.9	3.6	3.4	4.4	2.9	** np	** np	** np	16.2
Family day care	** np	* 2.0	3.3	* 1.5	* 1.7	** 0.4	** np	** -	9.5
Occasional care	** 0.8	* 1.7	** np	* 1.2	** np	** -	** -	** -	4.8
Preschool	** -	** -	** -	6.4	np	** np	** -	** -	10.2
Other formal care	** np	* 0.9	** 0.6	* 2.3	* 1.6	** np	** np	** np	6.5
Total children who used formal care(a)	* 2.4	7.7	7.6	13.5	8.5	* 2.5	4.1	* 2.1	48.4
Informal Care									
Grandparent	4.9	6.2	7.5	7.9	4.5	6.6	11.2	12.8	61.6
Brother/sister	** -	** np	** np	** np	** np	* np	* 2.1	4.2	8.5
Other relative	* 2.1	* 1.7	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.0	5.8	4.3	27.2
Other person	* 1.9	* 1.8	* 1.6	* 2.8	3.0	* 2.7	8.5	9.4	31.6
Total children who used informal care(a)	8.8	8.8	11.1	12.0	10.1	11.2	25.3	28.1	115.6
Total children who used formal care only	* 1.2	5.0	4.2	6.5	4.4	* 1.6	3.7	* 1.3	28.0
Total children who used informal care only	7.7	6.2	7.7	5.0	6.0	10.3	24.9	27.3	95.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	10.1	13.9	15.3	18.5	14.5	12.9	29.0	29.4	143.6

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\* 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.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
 Child Care Survey - 1999  
 Table 3  
 Type of Care by Age of Child

Western Australia

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)								
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	9-11	Total
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	15.0	10.8	9.8	7.5	11.7	13.3	50.6	52.3	171.1
Total children	25.1	24.7	25.1	26.0	26.2	26.2	79.6	81.7	314.7

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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
 Child Care Survey - 1999  
 Table 5  
 Type of care by Family Type, Main Language Spoken at Home  
 and Area of Usual Residence

Western Australia

	FAMILY TYPE		MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME		AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE		Total
	Couple family	One parent family	English	Other	State Capital City	Balance of State	
Type of care							
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	5.8	* 1.3	7.1	** -	5.6	* 1.4	7.1
Long day care centre	12.8	3.5	15.6	** 0.7	13.3	2.9	16.2
Family day care	7.4	* 2.1	9.5	** -	6.3	3.2	9.5
Occasional care	np	** np	4.5	** 0.3	3.6	* 1.2	4.8
Preschool	7.9	* 2.4	8.6	* 1.7	6.9	3.3	10.2
Other formal care	5.4	* 1.1	6.5	** -	5.6	* 0.9	6.5
Total children who used formal care(a)	38.6	9.9	45.8	* 2.6	36.4	12.0	48.4
Total children who used formal care only	21.8	6.2	26.5	* 1.5	21.7	6.3	28.0
Informal care							
Grandparent	49.2	12.4	60.6	* 0.9	46.5	15.1	61.6
Brother/sister	np	** np	7.8	** 0.7	6.9	* 1.7	8.5
Other relative	14.7	12.5	26.0	* 1.2	18.5	8.7	27.2

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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
 Child Care Survey - 1999  
 Table 5  
 Type of care by Family Type, Main Language Spoken at Home  
 and Area of Usual Residence

Western Australia

	FAMILY TYPE		MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME		AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE		Total
	Couple family	One parent family	English	Other	State Capital City	Balance of State	
Other person	26.4	5.2	31.4	** 0.2	21.2	10.4	31.6
Total children who used informal care(a)	90.7	24.9	112.7	2.9	81.7	33.9	115.6
Total children who used informal care only	74.0	21.2	93.4	* 1.8	67.0	28.2	95.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	112.6	31.0	139.2	4.4	103.4	40.2	143.6
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	148.0	23.1	160.6	10.5	113.1	58.0	171.1
Total children	260.6	54.1	299.8	14.9	216.6	98.1	314.7
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)							
Total children who used formal care	14.8	18.2	15.3	* 17.3	16.8	12.2	15.4
Total children who used informal care	34.8	45.9	37.6	* 19.4	37.7	34.5	36.7
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	43.2	57.3	46.4	29.3	47.8	40.9	45.6
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 6  
Type of Care by Weekly Hours of Care

Western Australia	Less than 5	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 or more	Total
Type of Care									
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal Care									
Before and after school care program	3.5	* 2.3	* 1.3	** -	** -	** -	** -	** -	7.1
Long day care centre	* 1.6	4.5	5.8	3.4	** np	** np	** np	** -	16.2
Family day care	* 1.5	* 2.8	3.2	** np	* 1.1	** np	** np	** np	9.5
Occasional care	3.6	** np	* np	** -	** -	** -	** -	** -	4.8
Preschool	4.7	4.2	** np	* np	** -	** -	** -	** -	10.2
Other formal care	4.2	* 1.9	** np	** -	** -	** -	** -	** np	6.5
Total children who used formal care(a)(b)	14.5	12.7	12.5	5.6	* 1.2	** np	** 0.8	** np	48.4
Total children who used formal care only(b)	8.1	7.8	7.0	3.0	** 0.6	** 0.5	** 0.6	** 0.4	28.0
Informal Care									
Grandparent	25.6	14.8	11.1	7.2	** np	* 0.9	** np	* 1.3	61.6
Brother/sister	5.8	* 2.1	** np	** np	** -	** -	** -	** -	8.5
Other relative	10.2	5.0	4.4	* 2.0	* 1.1	** np -	** np -	3.8	27.2
Other person	16.9	8.7	3.9	* 1.2	** np	** -	** -	** np	31.6
Total children who used informal care(a)(b)	47.1	27.8	18.7	12.0	* 2.2	* 1.4	* 1.0	5.5	115.6
Total children who used informal care only(b)	41.2	20.8	15.0	10.5	* 1.9	* 0.9	* 1.0	3.9	95.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care(b)	50.5	30.3	28.5	18.9	4.4	* 1.8	* 2.7	6.5	143.6

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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.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 7  
Type of Care by Number of Weekdays Care Used

Western Australia	No. of weekdays care used						
	Weekends only	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Total
Type of Care							
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal Care							
Before and after school care program	** -	* 1.2	* 1.0	* 2.5	* 0.8	* 1.5	7.1
Long day care centre	** -	4.8	6.3	3.1	* 1.4	** 0.6	16.2
Family day care	** -	4.1	* 2.3	* 1.3	** 0.7	* 1.1	9.5
Occasional care	** -	2.9	* np	** np	** -	** -	4.8
Preschool	** -	* np	6.9	** -	* np	** -	10.2
Other formal care	** -	3.3	np	** np	** -	** -	6.5
Total children who used formal care(b)	** -	14.1	16.1	9.7	5.3	3.2	48.4
Total children who used formal care only	** -	9.4	7.1	6.5	* 2.6	* 2.4	28.0
Informal Care							
Grandparent	11.6	31.3	8.8	4.5	3.0	* 2.3	61.6
Brother/sister	* 1.9	3.0	* 1.1	** np	* 1.1	* np	8.5
Other relative	6.2	12.5	3.4	* 2.3	* 1.2	* 1.5	27.2
Other person	5.1	14.5	7.7	* 2.6	* 1.2	** 0.6	31.6
Total children who used informal care(b)	21.6	49.6	20.0	11.7	6.6	6.1	115.6
Total children who used informal care only	19.0	39.8	14.4	11.1	6.3	4.5	95.2

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

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



Australian Bureau of Statistics  
 Child Care Survey - 1999  
 Table 7  
 Type of Care by Number of Weekdays Care Used

Western Australia

No. of weekdays care used

	Weekends only	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Total
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	19.0	50.3	25.5	25.0	12.3	11.6	143.6

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

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

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 12  
Type of Care by Cost of Care

Western Australia	No cost	\$1-\$9	\$10-\$19	\$20-\$39	\$40-\$59	\$60-\$79	\$80-\$99	\$100 or more	Total(a)
Type of Care									
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)									
Formal Care									
Before and after school care program	** np	* 1.1	* 2.0	* 2.2	* 1.3	** -	** -	** np	7.1
Long day care centre	** np	** 0.6	* 2.8	4.9	* 2.2	* 1.9	** 0.7	* 2.6	16.2
Family day care	** -	* 1.7	* 1.1	3.8	** 0.8	** 0.8	** -	* 1.1	9.5
Occasional care	** np	* 1.8	* 1.3	** 0.6	** np	** -	** np	** -	4.8
Pre-school	* 2.3	6.0	** 0.6	** 0.7	** 0.6	** -	** -	** -	10.2
Other formal care	** 0.8	4.5	** np	** 0.7	** -	** -	** -	** np	6.5
Total children who used formal care(b)(c)	3.8	11.0	7.6	13.2	4.8	* 2.7	* 1.1	4.1	48.4
Total children who used formal care only(c)	* 1.5	5.7	4.1	9.6	* 2.5	* 1.2	** 0.6	* 2.6	28.0
Informal Care									
Grandparent	59.9	* 1.1	** -	** np	** np	** -	** -	** -	61.6
Brother/sister care	8.2	** np	** -	** -	** -	** -	** -	** -	8.5
Other relative	26.6	** np -	** -	** np -	** -	** -	** -	** -	27.2
Other person	20.5	* 1.2	4.0	* 2.3	3.0	** np	** -	** np	31.6
Total children who used informal care(b)(c)	101.8	3.1	4.0	2.9	3.2	** np	** -	** np	115.6
Total children who used informal care only(c)	84.1	* 2.7	* 2.8	* 2.3	* 2.4	** 0.5	** -	** 0.2	95.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care(c)	87.9	13.3	9.2	16.0	7.9	3.8	* 1.1	4.3	143.6

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(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 costs have been added together.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 13  
Formal and Informal Child Care Use by Weekly Family Income

Western Australia	Less than \$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799	\$800-\$999	\$1000-\$1199	\$1200-\$1399	\$1400-\$1999	\$2000 or more	Don't know/not stated	Total
Type of care										
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)										
Formal care										
Before and after school care program	** np	** 0.7	** 0.6	** 0.6	* 1.2	* 0.9	* 1.7	** np	** 0.8	7.1
Long day care centre	* 2.7	** np	* 2.1	3.3	* 1.3	* 1.3	3.4	** np	* 1.0	16.2
Family day care	* 1.8	* 1.1	* 1.3	* 1.0	* 1.0	* 1.2	* 1.0	** -	* 1.2	9.5
Occasional care	** np	** 0.7	* 1.2	* 1.2	** -	** -	* 0.8	** np	** 0.7	4.8
Preschool	* 1.3	* 0.8	* 1.6	* 2.0	** np	* 0.8	* 1.3	** np	* 1.3	10.2
Other formal care	** 0.6	** np	** np	* 1.6	* 1.1	** -	* 1.0	** np	* 1.0	6.5
Total children who used formal care(a)	6.2	4.3	6.7	7.7	4.7	4.2	7.8	* 1.3	5.6	48.4
Total children who used formal care only	4.1	3.0	4.2	4.1	* 2.3	* 1.8	4.0	* 1.2	3.4	28.0
Informal care										
Grandparent	8.7	5.0	11.6	6.8	7.4	6.4	7.7	* 2.2	5.9	61.6
Brother/sister	** 0.7	** np	* 0.8	* 1.9	** np	** 0.5	** 0.8	* 0.8	* 2.3	8.5
Other relative	5.9	* 2.6	7.5	* 1.7	3.5	* 2.1	* 1.1	** 0.7	* 1.9	27.2
Other person	3.9	* 1.8	* 2.1	5.7	4.0	2.9	6.2	* 2.8	* 2.3	31.6
Total children who used informal care(a)	16.8	8.7	19.2	14.5	13.3	10.5	14.6	5.8	12.3	115.6
Total children who used informal care only	14.7	7.3	16.7	10.9	10.9	8.1	10.8	5.6	10.1	95.2
Children who used formal and/or informal care	20.9	11.6	23.4	18.6	15.6	12.3	18.6	6.9	15.7	143.6
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	26.0	20.4	24.7	24.6	18.5	13.2	15.0	6.2	22.7	171.1

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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
 Child Care Survey - 1999  
 Table 13  
 Formal and Informal Child Care Use by Weekly Family Income

Western Australia	Less than \$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799	\$800-\$999	\$1000-\$1199	\$1200-\$1399	\$1400-\$1999	\$2000 or more	Don't know/not stated	Total
Total children	46.9	32.0	48.0	43.2	34.1	25.5	33.6	13.1	38.4	314.7
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)										
Total children who used formal care	13.1	13.4	13.9	17.7	13.7	16.6	23.3	* 10.2	14.5	15.4
Total children who used informal care	35.9	27.1	39.9	33.5	39.0	41.1	43.6	43.9	32.1	36.7
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	44.6	36.3	48.6	43.0	45.8	48.3	55.3	52.9	41.0	45.6
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 17

Age of Child and Whether (Additional) Formal Care Required

Western Australia	<i>March 1996</i> <i>Number</i> <i>'000</i>	<i>March 1996</i> <i>Proportion</i> <i>%</i>	<i>June 1999</i> <i>Number</i> <i>'000</i>	<i>June 1999</i> <i>Proportion</i> <i>%</i>
<b>CHILDREN AGED 0-4</b>				
Currently use formal care	3.7	3.0	4.0	3.2
Currently use informal care only	3.7	2.9	4.1	3.2
Use neither formal nor informal care	3.1	2.4	4.4	3.5
Total, (additional) formal care required	10.5	8.3	12.5	9.8
Currently use formal care	37.3	29.6	35.6	28.0
Currently use informal care only	28.9	23.0	28.6	22.5
Use neither formal nor informal care	49.1	39.1	50.5	39.7
Total, no (additional) formal care	115.3	91.7	114.7	90.2
Total children	125.8	100.0	127.2	100.0
<b>CHILDREN AGED 5-11</b>				
Currently use formal care	-	-	** np	-
Currently use informal care only	4.2	2.3	3.1	1.7
Use neither formal nor informal care	6.7	3.7	* 2.7	1.4
Total, (additional) formal care required	11.4	6.2	6.0	3.2
Currently use formal care	9.0	4.9	8.5	4.6
Currently use informal care only	51.8	28.0	59.4	31.7
Use neither formal nor informal care	112.4	60.9	113.6	60.5
Total, no (additional) formal care	173.1	93.8	181.5	96.8
Total children	184.5	100.0	187.5	100.0
<b>ALL CHILDREN</b>				
Currently use formal care	4.1	1.3	4.2	1.3
Currently use informal care only	7.9	2.6	7.2	2.3
Use neither formal nor informal care	9.8	3.2	7.1	2.3
Total, (additional) formal care required	21.9	7.1	18.5	5.9
Currently use formal care	46.2	14.9	44.2	14.0
Currently use informal care only	80.7	26.0	88.0	28.0
Use neither formal nor informal care	161.6	52.1	164.0	52.1
Total, no (additional) formal care	288.5	92.9	296.2	94.1
Total children	310.4	100.0	314.7	100.0

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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 25  
Type of Care by Labour Force Status of Parents

Western Australia	Both parents employed working full-time(a)	Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)	One parent employed, other not in the labour force	One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(a)	Both parents not in the labour force(a)	Total
Type of care							
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ('000)							
Formal care							
Before and after school care program	* 2.7	3.8	** np	** -	** np	** np	7.1
Long day care centre	3.3	7.7	* 2.5	** -	** np	* np	16.2
Family day care	* 1.4	5.0	** 0.6	** -	* 1.0	* 1.6	9.5
Occasional care	** -	* 2.4	* np	** -	** -	** np	4.8
Preschool	* 1.2	3.2	3.0	** -	* 0.9	* 1.8	10.2
Other formal care	** np	3.0	* 2.6	** -	** -	** np	6.5
Total children who used formal care(b)	8.6	21.2	10.2	** -	* 2.5	5.9	48.4
Total children who used formal care only	4.1	12.3	5.8	** -	* 2.1	3.7	28.0
Informal care							
Grandparent	10.3	28.4	15.7	** np	* np	5.5	61.6
Brother/sister	* 2.2	4.1	* 1.8	** np	** -	** np	8.5
Other relative	5.4	9.1	5.3	** 0.7	* 2.1	4.5	27.2
Other person	6.5	15.2	8.3	** -	** np	* np	31.6
Total children who used informal care(b)	20.4	50.7	30.0	* 1.3	3.3	10.0	115.6
Total children who used informal care only	15.9	41.8	25.6	* 1.3	2.9	7.8	95.2
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	24.4	63.0	35.8	* 1.3	5.4	13.7	143.6
Total children who used neither formal nor informal care	16.4	50.3	67.3	6.3	7.2	23.5	171.1
Total children	40.9	113.2	103.2	7.6	12.6	37.3	314.7
PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (%)							

- 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) Includes one-parent families.

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

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Child Care Survey - 1999

Table 25

Type of Care by Labour Force Status of Parents

Western Australia	Both parents employed working full-time(a)	Both parents employed, at least one working part-time(a)	One parent employed, other not in the labour force	One parent unemployed, other not in the labour force	Both parents in the labour force, at least one unemployed(a)	Both parents not in the labour force(a)	Total
Total children who used formal care	21.0	18.7	9.9	** -	* 19.9	16.0	15.4
Total children who used informal care	49.8	44.8	29.1	* 16.5	* 26.1	26.8	36.7
Total children who used formal and/or informal care	59.8	55.6	34.7	* 16.5	42.8	36.8	45.6
Total children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

- 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) Includes one-parent families.

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

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 30a

Work Arrangements Used by Father to Care for Children

Western Australia	<i>March 1996</i> '000	<i>Proportion</i> %	<i>June 1999</i> '000	<i>Proportion</i> %
<i>Work Arrangements used by Father</i>				
Flexible working hours	18.7	15.2	23.5	17.2
Permanent part-time work	** 0.7	** 0.5	* 2.6	* 1.9
Shiftwork	* 2.8	* 2.2	5.3	3.9
Job sharing	** 0.5	** 0.4	** 0.7	** 0.5
Work at home	9.1	7.4	8.0	5.9
Other	* 1.5	* 1.2	* 1.5	* 1.1
Total who used work arrangements	28.4	23.1	32.0	23.4
Did not use work arrangements	94.8	76.9	104.5	76.6
Total	123.2	100.0	136.5	100.0

- 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 father could use more than one type of work arrangement.



Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 30b

Work Arrangements Used by Mother to Care for Children

Western Australia	<i>March 1996</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>June 1999</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	'000	%	'000	%
Work Arrangements	22.9	29.2	39.9	43.3
Permanent part-time	24.2	30.9	34.5	37.5
Shiftwork	3.3	* 4.3	7.2	7.8
Job sharing	4.1	* 5.2	3.0	* 3.3
Work at home	18.9	24.2	17.2	18.7
Other	3.7	* 4.8	3.2	* 3.5
Total who used work	58.0	74.2	64.4	69.9
Did not use work	20.2	25.8	27.7	30.1
Total	78.3	100.0	92.1	100.0

- 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 mother could use more than one type of work arrangement.

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Child Care Survey - 1999  
Table 30c

Work Arrangements Used by Either Parent to Care for Child

Western Australia	<i>March 1996</i> '000	<i>Proportion</i> %	<i>June 1999</i> '000	<i>Proportion</i> %
<i>Work Arrangements used by Either</i>				
Parent	35.3	25.3	52.0	34.6
Permanent part-time work	24.5	17.6	36.2	24.1
Shiftwork	5.9	4.2	12.2	8.1
Job sharing	4.3	3.1	3.3	* 2.2
Work at home	24.9	17.9	22.3	14.9
Other	5.4	3.9	4.7	3.2
Total who used work arrangements (a)	71.5	51.3	76.4	50.8
Did not use work arrangements	68.0	48.7	74.0	49.2
Total	139.4	100.0	150.3	100.0

- 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 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.

### **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.

In addition, some minor changes were made to questionnaire layout and wording.

### **Childcare Cash Rebate**

10 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**

11 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)

12 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 Notes on 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:

$x - 2SE(x)$  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:

$$RSE(x/y) = \text{SQRT}\{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2\}$$

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

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

RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR

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

## **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**

*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 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**

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**

*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 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 baby-sitters. 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**

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**

Respondents were asked to identify all reasons and the main reason.

*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.

**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).

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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

### 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.

- PHONE* **1300 135 070**
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