

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)

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BY

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE COLLECTION

In August 2013, the Australian Bureau of Statistics proposes to collect information from administrative records held by state and territory education departments and the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for Preschool Education, Australia (cat. no. 4240.0) for the 2013 calendar year. The Australian Bureau of Statistics expects that the collection will continue to be undertaken annually.

This collection focuses on statistics about service providers, children and workers, derived from administrative records held by education departments within each state and territory for the preschool sector, and from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for the Long Day Care sector. Data are submitted to the Australian Bureau of Statistics electronically by secure means.

Information is collected about aspects of preschool programs in Australia, including:

- child characteristics (age, sex, Indigenous status and enrolment and attendance information);
- service providers (sector and management type information); and
- worker profile (role and qualifications).

The primary purpose of the collection is to provide nationally comparable statistics on early childhood education and care. This is part of the suite of data improvement projects conducted under the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education and the National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care.

Results from the collection will be released in the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication Preschool Education, Australia. Information provided in this publication will be used to enable improvements in the quality and accessibility of early childhood education and care. This collection is the only nationally uniform data collection for statistics relating to early childhood education and care.

The principal users of the collection are:

- Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations;
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare;
- Council of Australian Governments, which established the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education;

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and
- the public.

This collection utilises administrative data already collected by state and territory education departments and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The Australian Bureau of Statistics will continue to work closely with these agencies to facilitate the data collection process.

Results from the collection are expected to be released in early 2014. Subsequent iterations of this collection are expected to be conducted within similar time-frames.

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