



# **Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF, Australia, Technical Manual**

**June 2008**



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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## **ABBREVIATIONS** .....

<b>ABS</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics
<b>CCB</b>	Child Care Benefit
<b>CCTR</b>	Child Care Tax Rebate
<b>CEaCS</b>	Childhood Education and Care Survey
<b>ERP</b>	estimated resident population
<b>FTB</b>	Family Tax Benefit
<b>LFS</b>	Labour Force Survey
<b>MPS</b>	Monthly Population Survey
<b>RSE</b>	relative standard error
<b>SE</b>	standard error

## OVERVIEW

This Technical Manual provides information on the release of microdata from the 2008 Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS). The data are available through an Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The 2008 CEaCS 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 basic CURF product, which has not been produced from this survey.

The RADL is an on-line batch database query system to which users submit programs to tabulate, manipulate and analyse CURF data to their own specifications, and access the results. Further information about this facility including a RADL User Guide, is available on the ABS web site <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> (see Services, Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), CURF Microdata).

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

The CEaCS was conducted throughout Australia in June 2008 as a supplement to the ABS monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The CEaCS collected information on:

- usual care arrangements (for type of care, hours and cost)
- care arrangements used in the survey reference week (for type of care, hours and cost)
- usual attendance at a preschool
- attendance at a preschool in the survey reference week
- usual attendance at a preschool program in long day care
- need for any/additional formal care or preschool
- other early childhood education and learning information (the types of learning activities that children aged 0–8 years engage in, the environments in which these activities take place, and patterns of attendance at preschool and school).

The main aims of the survey were to provide estimates of:

- child care arrangements for children aged 0–12 years
- early childhood education and learning for children aged 0–8 years
- some aspects of families' requirements for formal care or preschool
- the education, income and working arrangements of parents with children aged 0–12 years.

From 1969 to 2005 the ABS conducted 12 Child Care Surveys (CCS). The main aims of those surveys was to provide information on the use and cost of child care (related to care usage in the survey reference week), and some aspects of families' requirements for formal care or preschool. The 2008 CEaCS added to reference week observations by also collecting the usual attendance characteristics of care and preschool attendance, as well as new measures of early childhood education and learning.

ABOUT THE SURVEY  
*continued*

The results from the 2008 CEaCS were published in *Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2008* (cat.4402.0).



## SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The scope of 2008 CEaCS was Australian resident children aged 0–12 years and their families living in private dwellings in non-remote Australia. The survey therefore excludes:

- any non-resident children visiting Australia (children of diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia, or non-residents otherwise visiting Australia)
- residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, hotels and motels.

The 2008 CEaCS also excluded, for practical coverage reasons, families where both parents/guardians were either members of the Australian permanent defence forces, or were temporarily overseas, or away from home for an extended period (See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more detail). However, as long as at least one parent 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 2008 CEaCS. For example, the results include estimates for 25,000 children aged 0–12 years for whom information about their care and early childhood education and learning were obtained from the estimated 14,000 partners of currently serving Australian permanent defence forces personnel. However, no employment information was available for the estimated 21,000 children aged 0–12 years for whom one of their parents was away from home for an extended period.

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.

The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in June 2008. 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 9-21 June 2008. Information about usual child care arrangements and usual preschool attendance is affected by the specific timing of data collection, the age of the child at that time, and state policies on age eligibility for enrolment at school and preschool which affect the likelihood of a child being enrolled at the time of the survey.

For information on survey reference week measures, in all states and territories except Tasmania, data were collected on the use of child care and attendance at preschool related to the week prior to the interview (the survey reference week, chosen to avoid school holidays). In Tasmania, where school holidays were earlier than in other jurisdictions, respondents were asked to recall child care usage and preschool attendance related to the period 26 May to 1 June 2008.

In each selected household, detailed information about child care arrangements and early childhood education was collected for a maximum of two children aged 0–12 years. Information was obtained from an adult who permanently resided in the selected household and was either the child's parent, step-parent or guardian. In households with more than two children aged 0–12 years, two children were randomly selected from within the same family and the complete set of information was collected for these children. In households with multiple families information was collected for children from only one family. Summary information was collected for other children in the family including: number attending child care and/or preschool; CCB arrangements; and the cost of formal care, informal care and preschool.

This sampling methodology is similar to that used in 2002 and 2005. However, in 2005, in selected households with more than two children aged 0–12 years, two children were randomly selected from across all families in the household i.e. children could have been selected from two different families within a multi-family household. Different sampling methodologies were used in surveys prior to 2002. In 1999 a small set of information was collected for each of the 3rd, 4th and 5th children in the household and the sampling methodology used in 1996 survey, where a complete set of childcare information was collected for all children resident in a selected household.

More survey-specific information, including changes in the survey since 2005, the CCB and Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) or any other issues, can be found in the Explanatory Notes of *Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2008* (cat. no. 4402.0), which can be accessed online from the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://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 CEaCS, 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.

*Weighting and estimation  
continued*

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 1 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. Information about using weights is included in Chapter 3.

The CEaCS 2008 weighting methodology is the same as was used in the 2005 Child Care Survey, see paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes in *Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2008* (cat. 4402.0).

*Benchmarking*

The 2008 CEaCS 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 2008. The ERP estimates for 2008 were based on results from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The CEaCS 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.

RELIABILITY OF  
ESTIMATES

Estimates derived from the CURF are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error.

SAMPLING ERROR

Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. That is, estimates may differ from those that would have been produced if the total population 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 sampling error 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 less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes.

SAMPLING ERROR

*continued*

Instructions on how to calculate SEs and RSEs can be found in the 'Standard Errors' section in Chapter 3 - Using the CURF Data.

Each record on the CURF contains 60 sets of replicate weights. The purpose of these replicate weights is to enable the calculation of SEs for each estimate produced using the "60-Group Jack-Knife" method.

*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 count or a sample of the population. 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 extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

## ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The 2008 CEaCS 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 2008 CEaCS 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 2008 CEaCS Expanded CURF will therefore not exactly match published data.

Steps to confidentialise the data 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 users 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 in tabulated form on request. A full list of the data items on the CURF is provided in Excel Spreadsheet format on the ABS web site entry for this manual. Details are in Appendix 1.

## FILE STRUCTURE AND USE

The 2008 CEaCS Expanded CURF contains five files with confidentialised records. These files provide records for the following counting units:

- Income unit
- Income unit care
- Child
- Child care
- Day care

*Nature of the levels*

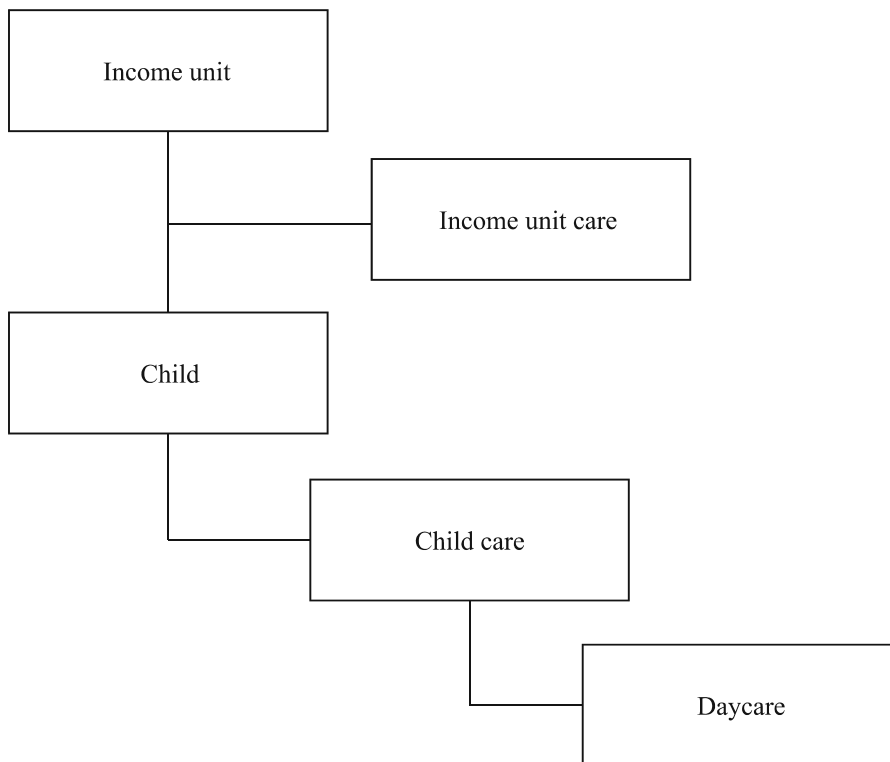
Some of the levels for the CEaCS are in a hierarchical relationship. That is, each child at the child level of the survey is a member of an Income Unit. For the CEaCS, information was collected from income units comprising parent(s) and up to two children per family aged 0–12 years. While the word 'family'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

*Nature of the levels  
continued*

Each income unit has records for the child care used by all children in the income unit for last week and usually (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 last week and usually (child care level) and for their child care use on individual days (day care level).

Diagram 1: Levels in the 2008 Childhood Education and Care Survey



The income unit level contains information about family and household composition, sources of income, parental educational qualifications, parental income, labour force status, work arrangements and the geographical location of the income unit. There are 5,586 records at the income unit level.

The income unit care level contains information about whether the income unit used care, the cost of care after the CCB and/or CCTR and whether they claimed or intended to claim the CCB. There are 50,812 records at the income unit care level.

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, parental participation in informal learning activities, unmet demand for early years learning centres, school readiness, early years learning centres attended prior to starting school and informal learning activities. The child level file contains 8,562 records.

The child care level contains information about child care use for the reference week and usually e.g. weekly cost of care after the CCB and/or the CCTR, frequency of use, whether CCB was claimed for care and main reason intends or does not intend to claim the CCB. The child care level file contains 104,940 records.

*Nature of the levels  
continued*

The day care level contains information about daily use of child care eg. days of care and hours of care used last week. The day care level file contains 103,413 records.

*Using repeating datasets*

The income unit and child levels are counting units, whereas the income unit care, child care and day care levels are repeating datasets. The repeating datasets in the CEaCS 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 child care level this child would have three base child care records (long day care, family day care and grandparent care) because they attended three separate instances of child care. This child would also have summary records that are aggregates of care information (for example a record summarising all formal care the 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 (CARINDX) with a cost of care after the CCTR (COSTCCTR) associated with it, for last week and usual instances (USLWFLG). Therefore, each child care unit has a cost of care after CCTR (COSTCCTR) associated with it. This enables a table to be run on all instances of care.

TABLE 1: EXAMPLE OF 'USUAL CHILD CARE COST' REPEATING DATASET

ABSHID	ABSPID	CARINDX	USLWFLG	COSTCCTR(\$)
CC08E0031	5	2 (long day care)	2	38
CC08E0032	5	3 (family day care)	2	10
CC08E0033	5	7 (grandparent care)	2	1
CC08E0034	5	21 (all care)	2	49
CC08E0035	5	22 (formal care)	2	48
CC08E0036	5	23 (informal care)	2	1
CC08E0037	5	32 (both formal and informal)	2	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 usually used by the single child:

```
PROC FREQ DATA=CC08E. CC08CCE;
WHERE USLWFLG = 2;
TABLE CARINDX*COSTCCTR;
RUN;
```

Using repeating datasets  
continued

TABLE 2: EXAMPLE OF USUAL TYPE OF CARE, BY USUAL COST AFTER CCTR, BY USUAL COST AFTER CCTR

	COSTCCTR (USUAL WEEKLY COST OF CARE AFTER CCB AND CCTR)				
	\$1	\$10	\$38	\$48	\$49
<b>CARINDX (Type of care and/or preschool)</b>					
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 for the cost of formal care" 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. In the child care level the usual and last week flag must be used. Refer to 'Using Flag Items'.

In addition, note that if you want to create ranged hours or cost tables which include custom totals for type of care (for example, all formal care excluding occasional care) you need to sum hours and cost for the types of care included in your total to the child level before ranging the result.

Counting units and weights

There are two fields on each record on the CURF containing 'weights', a child weight (CHWGHT) and a household weight (HHWGT). The child weight reflects a child's probability of selection in the sample and the estimation procedure used. The household 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.

The weight for the relevant level should be applied when deriving estimates from the CURF. It is essential to apply the appropriate weight for the required estimate, rather than just derive a count of records falling into each category. If a child or household weight were to be ignored, then no account would be taken of a child's or household's chance of selection in the survey or of different response rates across population groups, with the result that counts produced could be biased.

The application of weights ensures that:



*Counting units and weights continued*

- child 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. Household's have a household identifier (ABSHID) and children have a child identifier (ABSPID). Repeating datasets also have identifiers to identify the type of care used by the income unit (ABSIID), the child's care (ABSCID) and the day of care (ABSDID).

## FILE LEVEL IDENTIFIERS

The following are the identifiers:

1. Income unit = ABSHID
2. Income unit care = ABSHID, ABSIID
3. Child = ABSHID, ABSPID
4. Child care = ABSHID, ABSPID, ABSCID
5. Day care = ABSHID, ABSPID, ABSCID, ABSDID

All these identifiers are on each level.

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=CC08E.CC08HHE; BY ABSHID ;
PROC SORT DATA =CC08E.CC08PNE; BY ABSHID ABSPID;
DATA MERGFILE (KEEP=ABSHID ABSPID LFSPAR);
MERGE CC08E.CC08HHE CC08E.CC08PNE;
BY ABSHID ;
RUN;
```

## SPSS CODE

```
GET
FILE=CC08HHE
```

*Identifiers continued*FILE LEVEL IDENTIFIERS *continued*

```
.SORT CASES BY ABSHID
SAVE OUTFILE=SORTEDIU
GET
FILE=CC08EPNE
```

```

/KEEP=ABSFID.
SORT CASES BY ABSHID CHLINDX.
SAVE OUTFILE=SORTEDCH.
MATCH FILES FILE=SORTEDIU.
MATCH FILES FILE=SORTEDCH.
/TABLE=SORTEDIU.
/BY ABSHID.
SAVE OUTFILE=MERGFILE.
    
```

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

TABLE 3: LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF CHILD'S PARENTS

ABSFID	ABSPID	LFSPAR
CC08E0001	1	Couple family - one parent employed
CC08E0001	2	Couple family - one parent employed
CC08E0002	1	Couple family - both parents employed
CC08E0002	2	Couple family - both parents employed

USING FLAG ITEMS

*Usual or last week flag*

There is a usual or last week care flag USLWFLG that allows users to look at a child's care usage for the reference week (last week) or their usual care usage. This flag is on the child care level. A similar flag at the Income unit care level (IUCSFLG) filters whether the care used by the family is on a usual or last week basis. These flags also include or exclude preschool from care used last week or usually.

It is imperative that the usual or last week care flags be used when any data items from the child care level or the income unit care level are used, regardless of whether the care level data items are used alone or with other child level or income unit level data items. If these flags are not used for child care or income unit care data items, the data will be incorrect.

The categories of the flags are:

1. Care usually used including preschool
2. Care usually used excluding preschool
3. Care used last week including preschool
4. Care used last week excluding preschool

*Labour Force scope flag*

In households where all adults were out of scope of the LFS, no information was obtained for the 2008 CEaCS. However, as long as at least one parent 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 2008 CEaCS.

There is a labour force scope flag (LFSFLAG) to indicate whether the income unit is out of scope. This flag differentiates between being out of scope due to one parent being in the defence forces or out of scope due to coverage of the Labour Force.

Where one parent is in the defence forces it has been assumed that the parent is employed full time for all applicable LF data items.

Where one parent in a couple income unit was out of scope due to coverage of the LFS, data for this parent is missing, and therefore the entire income unit has been classified to code '2' ('Out of scope on coverage') for the following data items at the income unit level:

- 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
- Hours worked by mother last week
- Hours worked by father last week
- Hours usually worked by mother
- Hours usually worked by father
- Hours worked by mother in main job
- Hours worked by father in main job

Information about the working arrangements used by parent/guardians to help care for their child was not available for parent/guardians who were out of scope of the labour force for any reason, including parent/guardians who were members of the defence forces.

## SPECIAL CODES

For income, number of hours, 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:

*Maximum number of hours paid for*

9998 = No cost

9999 = Not applicable

*Number of hours care used*

9999 = Not applicable

*Weekly cost of care before the CCB*

0 = No cost

9998 = Could not be determined

## SPECIAL CODES

*continued*

9999 = Not applicable

*Weekly cost of care after the CCB/Estimated net weekly cost after the CCB and Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) (Child care level and Income unit care level)*

0 = No cost

9998 = Could not be determined

9999 = Not applicable

*Hours attended care last week*

99 = Not applicable

*Weekly income of female parent/guardian (continuous)*

999996 = Not applicable (no female parent/guardian/no source of income)

999997 = Nil Income

999998 = Don't know

999999 = Refusal

*Weekly income of male parent/guardian (continuous)*

999996 = Not applicable (no male parent/guardian/no source of income)

999997 = Nil Income

999998 = Don't know

999999 = Refusal

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

999996 = Not applicable (no source of income)

999997 = Nil Income

999998 = Don't know

999999 = Refusal

## GEOGRAPHY

To enable users greater flexibility in their analysis, the ABS has included two sub-state geographic items on the 2008 CEaCS Expanded 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

GEOGRAPHY *continued*

items by state and territory together with one of the two sub-state geographic variables referred to above is also permitted.

## CHAPTER 4

## FILE CONTENT .....

### EXPANDED CURF FILES

The 2008 CEaCS Expanded CURF contains the files listed below which are available through the RADL.

CC08HHE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF income unit level file in SAS for Windows format.

CC08ICE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF income unit care level file in SAS for Windows format.

CC08PNE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF child level file in SAS for Windows format.

CC08CCE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF child care level file in SAS for Windows format.

CC08DYE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF day care level file in SAS for Windows format.

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

CC08HHE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF income unit level file in SPSS format.

CC08ICE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF income unit care level file in SPSS format.

CC08PNE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF child level file in SPSS format.

CC08CCE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF child care level file in SPSS format.

CC08DYE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF day care level file in SPSS format.

CC08HHE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF income unit level file in STATA format.

CC08ICE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF income unit care level file in STATA format.

CC08PNE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF child level file in STATA format.

CC08CCE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF child care level file in STATA format.

CC08DYE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF day care level file in STATA format.

### INFORMATION FILES

4402.0.55.002 *Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF: 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\_2008.pdf - the complete publication, *Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2008* (cat. no. 4402.0) available on the ABS website.

4402.0.55.002\_2008.pdf - the *Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual, Australia, June 2008* (cat. no. 4402.0.55.002) available on the ABS website.

## INFORMATION FILES

*continued*

FREQUENCIES\_CC08HHE.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\_CC08ICE.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.

FREQUENCIES\_CC08PNE.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted and unweighted child frequencies of each code value at the child level. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES\_CC08CCE.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted and unweighted child care frequencies of each code value at the child care level. The file is in plain text format.

FREQUENCIES\_CC08DYE.TXT - data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted and unweighted day care frequencies of each code value at the day care level. The file is in plain text format.

## EXPANDED CURF TEST FILES

The test files mirror the actual data files but contain random data. The test files can be used 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 CEaCS CURF files.

CC08HHE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF income unit level file in SAS for Windows format.

CC08ICE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF income unit care level file in SAS for Windows format.

CC08PNE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF child level file in SAS for Windows format.

CC08CCE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF child care level file in SAS for Windows format.

CC08DYE.SAS7BDAT - the CEaCS CURF day care level file in SAS for Windows format.

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

CC08HHE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF income unit level file in SPSS format.

CC08ICE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF income unit care level file in SPSS format.

CC08PNE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF child level file in SPSS format.

CC08CCE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF child care level file in SPSS format.

CC08DYE.SAV - the CEaCS CURF day care level file in SPSS format.

CC08HHE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF income unit level file in STATA format.

CC08ICE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF income unit care level file in STATA format.

CC08PNE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF child level file in STATA format.

CC08CCE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF child care level file in STATA format.

EXPANDED CURF TEST            CC08DYE.DTA - the CEaCS CURF day care level file in STATA format.  
FILES *continued*



## CHAPTER 5

## CONDITIONS OF RELEASE .....

### RELEASE OF CURF

The 2008 CEaCS 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 a particular person to which the data relates.

### CURF USER UNDERTAKING

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each CURF release. Additionally, the ABS requires all organisations, and individuals within organisations, who purchase or are 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. The undertaking requires that people 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 microdata to any other person or organisation other than members of their 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;
- in relation to data made available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), access the data only in a manner specifically authorised in writing by the ABS;
- not attempt to access the data 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 DATA FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES

Use of the data for statistical purposes means the CURF data is used 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); and
- 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 from the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services/ CURF Microdata Accessing CURF Microdata). Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable

USE OF DATA FOR  
STATISTICAL PURPOSES  
*continued*

to severe penalties. Advice on the propriety of any intended use of the data is available from the Microdata Access Strategies Section via <[microdata.access@abs.gov.au](mailto:microdata.access@abs.gov.au)>.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. A copy of the conditions is available from the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see About Us / ABS Conditions of Sale). Queries should be referred to Intermediary Management via <[intermediary.management@abs.gov.au](mailto:intermediary.management@abs.gov.au)>.

CURF PRICE

The price of the 2008 Childhood Education and Care Survey Expanded CURF, as at July 2009, is \$1,430, including GST. For more information on pricing and payment refer to the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services/ CURF Microdata).

ACCESSING THE CURF

All clients wishing to access the 2008 CEaCS Expanded CURF should complete the Application and Undertaking available on the ABS website, <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services/ CURF Microdata) and read the 'Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual', and other relevant information, before downloading the appropriate Application and Undertaking forms and applying for access.

Due to the level of detail provided, the expanded CURF is only available via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

AUSTRALIAN  
UNIVERSITIES

The 2008 CEaCS Expanded CURF can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement for research and teaching purposes. University staff and students should refer to the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (see Services / Services for Universities).

OTHER CLIENTS AND  
FURTHER INFORMATION

Other prospective clients and those seeking further information should contact the ABS Microdata Access Strategies Section:

Phone: (02) 6252 7714

Email: [microdata.access@abs.gov.au](mailto:microdata.access@abs.gov.au)

Mail: Locked bag 10, BELCONNEN ACT 2617

APPENDIX

**DATA ITEM LIST** .....

DATA ITEM LIST

For data items and structure, see the Excel spreadsheet entitled *4402.0.55.002 Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF: Data Item List.xls* associated with this Technical Manual.

## GLOSSARY

<b>Any/additional formal care</b>	Includes current and/or future requirements for a child care or preschool service for children who do not use any child care or preschool, children who need additional child care or preschool services or children who require a different type of service other than the child care or preschool service currently being used.
<b>Approved care</b>	Includes child care providers that meet the standards and requirements of the Australian Government quality assurance system. These requirements include having a license to operate, qualified and trained staff, being open certain hours, and meeting health, safety and other quality standards. 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.
<b>Area of usual residence</b>	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.
<b>Before and/or after school care</b>	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.
<b>Brother/sister care</b>	Informal care by the child's brothers or sisters, including step brothers or sisters.
<b>Child care arrangements</b>	Relates to those types of care described as formal and informal.
<b>Child Care Benefit (CCB)</b>	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.
<b>Child care last week</b>	Refers to care in the reference week i.e. for interviews starting Monday 9 June and ending Sunday 15 June, the reference week starts on Monday 2 June and ends Sunday 8 June. For interviews starting Monday 16 June and ending Saturday 21 June, the reference week starts Monday 9 June and ends Sunday 15 June. With the exception of Tasmania where the survey reference week related to 26 May to 1 June 2008 to avoid Tasmanian school holidays.
<b>Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR)</b>	A 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 percent, as at June 2008, of out-of-pocket expenses incurred for approved child care, up to a maximum of \$4,354 per child per year. The CCTR applies to out-of-pocket expenses for approved child care. The CCTR is available for families who receive Child Care Benefit (CCB) and meet the CCB work, study and training test.
<b>Child care with non-resident parent</b>	One of the child's natural parents who is not usually resident in the same household as the child.
<b>Children</b>	Children aged 0–12 years in scope for the survey.
<b>Cost of care</b>	Cost, net of Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR), to parents for a child to attend care. In most cases, where the CCB 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 CCB was not paid direct to the provider, the CCB was estimated and subtracted from the reported cost of care. The 30% CCTR (as at June

<b>Cost of care <i>continued</i></b>	2008) was then subtracted from all the out-of-pocket expenses for children and families using approved care.  See the Explanatory Notes for more information about the CCB and the CCTR and how cost of care data was calculated.
<b>Family</b>	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.
<b>Family composition</b>	Refers to one parent or couple families.
<b>Family day care</b>	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.
<b>Female parent/guardian</b>	The natural, adopted or step mother of the child, the female guardian of the child, or the spouse or de facto partner of the male parent/guardian. The female parent/guardian must be resident in the same household as the child.
<b>Formal care</b>	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.
<b>Full-time/part-time workers</b>	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.
<b>Government or state establishment</b>	Includes any preschool/kindergarten conducted or managed principally by a state/territory or Australian Government agency. Excludes preschool/kindergarten program conducted in a Government child care agency.
<b>Grandparent care</b>	Informal care provided by the child's grandmother or grandfather.
<b>Hours of care</b>	Number of hours a child attended child care in the reference week.
<b>Hours paid for</b>	Hours of child care that are paid for rather than the number of hours the child actually attended that care.
<b>Hours worked</b>	Number of hours actually worked by the child's parent(s) in the reference week.
<b>Informal care</b>	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 non-resident parent) and care by other (unrelated) people such as friends, neighbours, nannies or babysitters. It may be paid or unpaid.
<b>Informal learning</b>	Refers largely to unstructured, non-institutionalised learning activities that may occur in the family and/or in daily life.
<b>Long day care</b>	Regulated, centre-based care that 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.
<b>Male parent/guardian</b>	The natural, adopted or step father of the child, or the male guardian of the child, or the spouse or de facto partner of the female parent/guardian. The male parent/guardian must be resident in the same household as the child.
<b>Mean</b>	The mean of a numeric variable is calculated by summing the values of all observations in a data set and then dividing by the number of observations in the set. It is often referred to as the average.
<b>Median</b>	The value that divides the population into two equal parts, one falling below the value and one above.

<b>Non-government establishment</b>	Includes any preschool/kindergarten conducted or managed by a non-government institution or organisation, including a catholic school or preschool/kindergarten or an independent school or preschool/kindergarten.
<b>Occasional care</b>	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.
<b>Other formal care</b>	A type of formal care other than before and/or after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care.
<b>Other person care</b>	Informal care by people who are not related to the child such as family friends, babysitters, nannies or neighbours.
<b>Other relative care</b>	Informal care by relatives of the child excluding (step) brothers and sisters, and grandparents. It includes care by 'in-laws' who are not grandparents of the child and other relatives such as aunt, uncle or cousin .
<b>Parental involvement</b>	Refers to parent's active behavioural engagement that supports or encourages children's learning activities.
<b>Preschool</b>	Educational and development programs for children two years prior to Year 1 before they begin full-time primary education.
<b>Preschool program in a long day care</b>	A program which is structured and planned as part of an early childhood education program with specific educational aims and objectives. The program aims to meet the educational and developmental needs of children of at least 3 years of age, although some younger children may be involved in such programs. Usually takes place in a long day care centre.
<b>Registered care</b>	Child care (for parents with work-related responsibilities) provided by nannies, grandparents, relatives or friends who are registered with the Family Assistance Office. It can also include care provided by some private preschools, kindergartens, some occasional care centres and some outside school hours care services.
<b>Remoteness</b>	<p>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). The structure defines six RAs: Major Cities of Australia; Inner Regional Australia; Outer Regional Australia; Remote Australia; Very Remote Australia; and Migratory.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Migratory category is out of scope of this survey.</p> <p>The Remoteness Structure is described in detail in the publication Statistical Geography Volume 1 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2001 (cat. no.1216.0).</p>
<b>Usual child care attendance</b>	Refers to a child's typical attendance at, or use of, preschool/formal child care/informal child care, including hours and costs.
<b>Weekly income of parents</b>	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.
<b>Work arrangements</b>	Arrangements, such as flexible working hours, 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

*EMAIL*                      [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

*FAX*                            1300 135 211

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## FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

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