

children receiving services. A direct contact worker is a person who is directly responsible for supervising and/or caring for children and may include service coordinators with overall responsibility for coordinating the activities of children. Workers solely doing work other than supervising and/or caring for children are excluded. These include administrative staff, cooks, gardeners, janitors, etc.

A paid worker is a worker who receives wages or salary for the work they perform in a child care and preschool services outlet. This includes contract workers where the contract is for the supply of labour, for example direct child care. A worker that receives in-kind benefits such as free child care and/or free meals is not considered a 'paid worker'.

The qualification status of a worker relates to the worker's currently held relevant qualifications, current study for relevant formal qualifications and their years of relevant working experience.

Relevant formal qualifications are defined by data domain categories 1-7 as they relate to qualifications designed to involve from one year of full-time study up to degree level and that are recognised by the relevant authority where the outlet operates. Note that a worker may hold a Child Care - one year basic certificate that may not be recognised by some authorities.

A worker may hold a post-graduate qualification in teaching or child care. In this case the post-graduate qualification should be recorded as a three or more year degree in the relevant area.

A worker may hold more than one relevant qualifications. All relevant qualifications should be recorded.

A worker may hold a relevant qualification and be currently studying for another. Both the existing qualification and the current studying status should be recorded.

A worker may hold a relevant qualification and have more than three years relevant experience. Both the existing qualification and the relevant experience status should be recorded.

It is possible that several responses could be recorded for an individual worker.

7 Other relevant qualifications should include only qualifications equivalent to at least one year full-time duration, in areas relevant to child care and preschool services. These include teaching, psychology, social work, leisure, play leaders, etc. It should not include post-graduate qualifications in teaching or child care.

9 Not currently studying for relevant formal qualification: A worker who has no relevant formal qualifications and who has suspended a course of study should be included here.

10 More than three years relevant working experience: A worker who has been working as a paid primary contact worker at a child care or preschool services outlet for more than three years. The three years should cover employment periods equivalent to full-time employment but may cover non-continuous periods.

Collection Methods: The above information should be reported in this form for outlets reporting disaggregated data.

In some jurisdictions this information may be required to be reported in an aggregate form. This acknowledges that some jurisdictions may be unable to collect at a disaggregated level in the early stages of the CS NMDS collection. In these instances outlets should report the total number of paid primary contact workers in each of the qualification categories working at the outlet during the reference week.

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Worker - child care and preschool services version 2
relates to the data element Worker ID version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: Developed for the CS NMDS Version 1.0.
Source Organisation: NCSIMG Children's Services Data Working Group,
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM Educational characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

Draft NMDS - Children's Services National From 01-Jan-03 to
Minimum Data Set