

# Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2012

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# Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2012

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Set Specification

**METEOR identifier:** 466523

**Registration status:** [Early Childhood](#), Superseded 08/04/2013

**DSS type:** National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

**Scope:** This data set has been developed to support the collection of data under the National Information Agreement for Early Childhood Education and Care. Responsibility for early childhood learning and care is shared between the Australian Government and the state and territory governments, and involves a wide range of service providers including government, local government, community, schools and the private sector.

The Agreement provides a framework for cooperation between the Commonwealth, state and territory jurisdictions and information agencies to develop the early childhood education and care (ECEC) information base required for the Council of Australian Government (COAG) early childhood reform agenda.

Data and information in scope of the Agreement include:

- Activity under the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE)
- ECEC information required to support the information needs of other National Agreements and National Partnerships, including the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development and the National Indigenous Reform Agreement
- Outcomes in relation to the COAG Participation and Productivity Agenda
- Other national reporting purposes, including but not limited to the Report on Government Services, Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage, Report to COAG Reform Council, and National Headline Indicators on Children's Health, Development and Wellbeing
- Monitoring, research and evaluation related to children, families and early childhood development services under the Early Childhood Development Strategy (ECDS).

Service provider organisations for the purposes of this collection are agencies directly providing services to children at a specific location. This includes organisations providing preschool, and other early childhood education and direct care services.

Organisations may provide multiple services, however for the purpose of reporting against the NP ECE, only preschool programs are included.

A preschool program is a structured, play based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full-time schooling, irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided. Programs may be delivered in a variety of service settings including separate preschools or kindergartens, long day care centres, in association with a school etc.

The terms most commonly used to describe preschool programs in states and territories are:

- Kindergarten – Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania
- Kindergarten or Preschool – Victoria, South Australia
- Preschool – New South Wales, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory

A preschool program may or may not be delivered in such a way that meets the Universal Access goal. The requirements for Universal Access are listed below.

The National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education is a commitment to joint Commonwealth, State and Territory action to deliver universal

access to quality early childhood education in the year before formal schooling.

Universal access means that every child, in the year before they commence full-time schooling, has access to a preschool program that is:

- delivered by a four year university qualified early childhood teacher in accordance with the National Early Years Learning Framework
- available for at least 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year
- delivered across a diversity of settings that meets the needs of parents and at a cost that does not present a barrier to participation.

The unit record level collection supports information to be collected at the child, teacher and service provider organisation level.

The information is to be collected within the reference period in August 2012 to enable comparison with schools' data collected in August each year.

Note: Queensland services not funded by the state government to deliver approved kindergarten programs will be collecting the ECEC Aggregate NMDS for 2012.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Statistical unit:** Child  
Service provider organisation  
Employed person (Teacher)

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2012

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Early Childhood Data Sub Group (ECDSG)  
**Origin:** National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education  
**Reference documents:** National Information Agreement for Early Childhood Education and Care 2009-2013.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2011 Early Childhood](#), Superseded 09/03/2012  
Has been superseded by [Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2013 Early Childhood](#), Superseded 28/05/2014  
See also [Early Childhood Education and Care: Aggregate NMDS 2012 Early Childhood](#), Superseded 08/04/2013  
**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Early Childhood Education and Care DSS 2012 Early Childhood](#), Superseded 08/04/2013  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2012

## Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Early childhood education and care worker cluster</a>	Mandatory	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
1	<a href="#">Person (employed)—paid employment indicator, code N</a>  <b>DSS specific information:</b>  'Yes' includes early childhood education and care workers who receive wages or salary. They can include contract workers or relief workers. 'No' includes workers who are not paid, but who may be receiving in-kind benefits in recognition or exchange for their work. Unpaid staff may include volunteers, unpaid work trainees, parents and family members and students on work experience. In-kind benefits such as free child care or the reimbursement of work-related expenses in full or part (for example, token payments or small gifts such as t-shirts) are not regarded as payment of salary, and people who receive these are considered to be unpaid workers.	Mandatory	1
2	<a href="#">Person (employed)—type of work activity, early childhood education and care, code N</a>  <b>Conditional obligation:</b>  Conditional on responding '1 Yes' to whether the person is in paid employment.	Conditional	1
3	<a href="#">Person (employed)—role of early childhood education and care worker, code N</a>  <b>Conditional obligation:</b>  Conditional on responding '1 Yes' to whether the person is in paid employment.	Conditional	1
4	<a href="#">Person (employed)—education field of highest relevant qualification, in early childhood education and care, code N[N]</a>  <b>Conditional obligation:</b>  Conditional on being a paid early childhood education and care contact worker.	Conditional	1
5	<a href="#">Person (employed)—level of highest qualification in early childhood education and care, code N[N]</a>  <b>Conditional obligation:</b>  Conditional on being a paid early childhood education and care contact worker.	Conditional	1
6	<a href="#">Person (employed)—preschool program delivery indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described, code N</a>  <b>Conditional obligation:</b>  Conditional on being a paid early childhood education and care contact worker.	Conditional	1
7	<a href="#">Person (employed)—hours worked in preschool program delivery, total hours NNN</a>  <b>Conditional obligation:</b>  Conditional on being a paid early childhood education and care contact worker who delivered a preschool program.	Conditional	1
-	<a href="#">Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) cluster 2011</a>	Mandatory	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}</a>	Optional	1
-	<a href="#">Person—area of usual residence, geographical location code (ASGC 2011) NNNNN</a>	Optional	1
<p><b>Conditional obligation:</b></p> <p>Only collected for unit record level collection for Early Childhood Education and Care</p>			
-	<a href="#">Service provider organisation—geographic location (CD), code (ASGC 2011) NNNNNNN</a>	Optional	1
-	<a href="#">Address—Australian postcode, Australian postcode code (Postcode datafile) {NNNN}</a>	Mandatory	2
<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>This item should be collected twice: once for the child and once for the early childhood education and care service.</p> <p><b>Child</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian. Do not report the post office box postcode or other non-residential address of the child's parent or guardian.</p> <p><b>Early childhood education and care service</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the physical location at which the preschool program is delivered.</p>			
-	<a href="#">Address—statistical area, level 1 (SA1) code (ASGS 2011) N(11)</a>	Mandatory	2
<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>This item should be collected twice: once for the child and once for the early childhood education and care service.</p> <p><b>Child</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian. Do not report the post office box, suburb/town/locality name or other non-residential address of the child's parent or guardian.</p> <p><b>Early childhood education and care service</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the physical location at which the preschool program is delivered.</p>			

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Address—suburb/town/locality name, text X[X(45)]</a>	Mandatory	2
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>This item should be collected twice: once for the child and once for the early childhood education and care service.</p> <p><b>Child</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian. Do not report the post office box, suburb/town/locality name or other non-residential address of the child's parent or guardian.</p> <p><b>Early childhood education and care service</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the physical location at which the preschool program is delivered.</p>		
-	<a href="#">Child—maximum preschool program hours available, total hours N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Child—preschool program attendance indicator, yes/no code N</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>Attendance in a preschool program should be reported for the specified reference period.</p> <p>Record 'Yes' if the child attended a preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period.</p> <p>Record 'No' if the child did not attend a preschool program during the reference period due to illness or extended holiday leave.</p>		
-	<a href="#">Child—preschool program enrolment indicator, yes/no code N</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>Enrolment in a preschool program should be reported for the specified reference period.</p>		
-	<a href="#">Child—preschool program fees charged per week, total Australian currency N[N(8)]</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Child—preschool program hours attended (per week), total hours N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Child—preschool program hours enrolled (per week), total hours N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Child—preschool program received from a qualified teacher indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Child—preschool program repeater indicator, yes/no/unknown/not stated/inadequately described code N</a>	Mandatory	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Organisation—organisation name, text X[X(199)]</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>This item should be used to report the operating or trading name of the early childhood education and care service which delivers a preschool program to children.</p> <p>The registered business name should not be used if it is different from the name of early childhood education and care service that it manages or owns.</p> <p>A campus name or satellite school name (e.g. where the service provider organisation operates preschool programs at multiple geographical locations using the same service provider name) may also be used.</p> <p>Each service provider must have a discrete service provider organisation name to allow identification of each individual location for provision of a preschool program.</p> <p>The organisation name type data item is not required.</p>		
-	<a href="#">Person—area of usual residence, geographical location CD code, (ASGC 2011) NNNNNNN</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian.</p> <p>Collection District should be coded based on the full address of the child, including street number, street name, suburb/town locality name and state/territory identifier to obtain the most accurate coding.</p>		
-	<a href="#">Person—Australian state/territory identifier, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the usual residence of the child's parent or guardian.</p>		
-	<a href="#">Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the child.</p> <p>For components of the Date of birth which are unknown, 00 should be recorded, for example if a child was born in July 2007 but the day of birth is unknown record 00072007.</p>		
-	<a href="#">Person—estimated resident population of Australia, total people N[N(7)]</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Person—Indigenous status, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>The parent or guardian should be asked to declare the child's Indigenous status on their behalf.</p>		
-	<a href="#">Person—letters of family name, text XXX</a>	Mandatory	1
	<p><b>DSS specific information:</b></p> <p>Should be reported for the child only, i.e. information not required for teachers.</p>		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Person—letters of given name, text XX</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>  Should be reported for the child only, i.e. information not required for teachers.		
-	<a href="#">Person—sex, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>  Should be reported for the child only, i.e. information not required for teachers.		
-	<a href="#">Record—linkage key, code 581 XXXXXDDMMYYN</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Service provider organisation (address)—address line, text X(X(179))</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>  Should be reported for the physical location at which the preschool program is delivered only.		
-	<a href="#">Service provider organisation—government funding type, early childhood education and care code N</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Service provider organisation—management type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>  The legal or social entity responsible for managing the delivery of early childhood education and care services is the entity responsible for the day to day running of early childhood education and care services, including task such as the design and the delivery of the preschool program, the hiring and firing of staff, the care of the children, etc.		
-	<a href="#">Service provider organisation—number of preschool program service operation weeks (calendar year), total NN</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Service provider organisation—organisation identifier, X(15)</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b>  Should be reported for the location at which the preschool program is delivered. A discrete identifier should be supplied for each preschool program operated as a separate campus or 'satellite' of a parent service provider organisation.		
-	<a href="#">Service provider organisation—service activity type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Service provider organisation—service delivery setting, early childhood education and care, code N</a>	Mandatory	1