

National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 10-The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in, and attending, a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling, by remoteness, 2013 QS

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	523361
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Data quality

Institutional environment: The National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Collection is conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4240.0) is compiled from the National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Collection. The experimental estimates collated from the National ECEC Collection are derived from administrative data provided by state and territory and Commonwealth government departments with responsibility for early childhood education and care. A comprehensive quality declaration for each jurisdiction can be found in *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0.55.001).

Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021 (ABS cat. no. 3238.0) is compiled based on experimental population estimates derived from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and the Post Enumeration Survey, and assumptions derived from analysis of data sourced from a variety of institutional environments. Detailed quality information for this product is available via the ABS website, see Data Quality Statement.

For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

Timeliness: The National ECEC Collection was conducted for the second time in 2011 and will continue to be conducted annually.

Information from the 2011 collection was released within 8 months of the August 2011 reference period.

Accessibility: The ABS publication *Experimental Estimates of Preschool, Australia, 2011* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0) contains experimental estimates of children enrolled in, and attending preschool in Australia collected through the National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Collection.

If the information required is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can assist with customised services to suit specific needs. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Interpretability: *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0.55.001) contains detailed information on the data sources, terminology and other technical aspects associated with the National ECEC statistics.

Relevance:

In 2008, the importance of education in the early years of a child's development was formally acknowledged through the Council of Australian Government's endorsement of a new National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE). The National ECEC Collection was conducted for the second time in 2011 as part of data improvement projects under the NP ECE and the National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care. The aim of the National ECEC Collection is to provide comparable state and territory statistics on early childhood education. *Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0) presents experimental estimates on counts of children enrolled and attending preschool programs and episodes of enrolment and attendance at preschool programs across Australia.

The scope of the collection consists of all service providers delivering a preschool program. A preschool program for the National ECEC Collection is defined as a structured, play based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. This is 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 or in association with a school. Long day care (LDC) centres that do not operate a preschool program are considered out of scope.

The operational collection scope of child information for the National ECEC Collection consists of all children who at 1 July were between 3 and 6 years of age (inclusive), are within scope of the collection if they were enrolled during the reference period at a preschool program. To be considered as enrolled, the child must have attended the preschool program for at least one hour during the reference period, or be absent due to illness or extended holiday leave and expected to return.

The National ECEC Collection was conducted for the second time in 2011 and will continue to be conducted annually. The collection date for the National ECEC Collection is the first Friday in August of each year. In 2011, the collection date for all jurisdictions was Friday, 5 August 2011, with a reference period of 1–5 August 2011. Some jurisdictions preferred to incorporate a reference period of one or two weeks that included the collection date, to better reflect their preschool program delivery model.

The first Friday in August will be the collection date for future collections, with jurisdictions determining their reference periods ensuring that they include the collection date.

A summary of jurisdictional collection reference periods for 2011 can be found within the *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0.55.001).

Accuracy:

Data for the National ECEC Collection have been compiled according to the national standards outlined in the Early childhood education and care national minimum data set (ECEC NMDS) in order to maximise consistency of data across the various jurisdictional collections. Alignment with these standards has not been completely achieved by all jurisdictions for 2011 and care should be taken when comparison of estimates across jurisdictions are made. In addition, some jurisdictions were not able to provide the ABS with certain data elements as specified in the ECEC NMDS.

Data limitations for the 2011 collection include:

- Under-coverage of the preschool programs in some sectors, for example limited non-government coverage
- Unit record level data not currently available for all jurisdictions, particularly for the non-government sector or unfunded preschools
- Children enrolled in multiple preschool programs are not identifiable within all jurisdictions
- Differences between data element collection methodologies and alignment to national data standards across jurisdictions.

Care needs to be taken interpreting data relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children due to reporting issues associated with both the identification and reporting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status.

Currently, not all records in the National ECEC Collection are produced at the unique child level. This means that there is a risk of duplicate counts across services and sectors for these records. It is also possible for a child to be enrolled in preschool for more than 1 year, so that duplication may occur across time.

Where information on the child's usual place of residence is not available – that is, where insufficient information on the child's address was collected, where no address details have been provided, or no unit record level information exists - remoteness in 2011 is to be assigned using the address of the service at which the child is enrolled.

For more information on the collection methodologies and current data limitations for each state and territory, see *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0.55.001).

More information on the ECEC NMDS can be found on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website.

Coherence:

Due to the differing levels of coverage, collection methodologies and alignment with the ECEC NMDS across jurisdictions, the data presented in *Experimental Estimates of Preschool Education, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0) may not be directly comparable across all jurisdictions.

The data differences in the collection scope and counting rules for the National ECEC Collection mean that the data presented in the publication are not strictly comparable to data published in other national or state/territory publications.

All data providers have been engaged in data development activities to improve both collection coverage and data quality. As a consequence, some data items may not be comparable across years. See *National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (ABS cat. no. 4240.0.55.001) for more information.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Has been superseded by [National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 10-The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in, and attending, a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling, by remoteness, 2014 QS](#)

[Indigenous](#), Superseded 17/02/2016

**Indicators linked to this
Data Quality statement:**

[National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 10-The proportion of Indigenous children aged 4 and 5 years who are enrolled in, and attending, a preschool program in the year before full-time schooling, by remoteness, 2013](#)

[Indigenous](#), Superseded 13/12/2013