

Child Care Census 2008 fact sheet

Kindergartens

Introduction

Kindergartens are licensed as centre-based services under the *Child Care Act 2002* and operate during school terms, providing care and developmental programs for children three years old to school age. Almost all kindergartens in Queensland are sponsored, affiliated or in contact with C&K Pre-schooling Professionals.

At the time of Census 2008, there were 345 licensed kindergartens operating in Queensland (five more than at Census 2007). The survey response rate for kindergartens was 93.6%. This is slightly higher than the previous year's response rate of 90.9%.

Interpretation

The comments, tables and charts in this fact sheet are based on the data provided by the 323 kindergartens that responded to Census 2008. Unless otherwise indicated, all percentages provided in this report are based on the 323 licensed services returning valid census forms. In any interpretation of the data, readers need to be aware of the voluntary nature of the survey, which ultimately influences the response rate, and that the information collected is based upon self-reporting by services. **There has not been an attempt made to estimate data from the services that did not respond to the census. As such, the numbers do not represent total child care provision.** However, given the high response rate, percentages are indicative of kindergarten provision in Queensland.

Management of kindergartens

The majority (96.3%) of the kindergartens that responded to Census 2008 indicated that they were community managed services, 1.2% indicated they were privately owned, and 0.3% indicated they were non-government school managed services. The remainder did not indicate a management type.

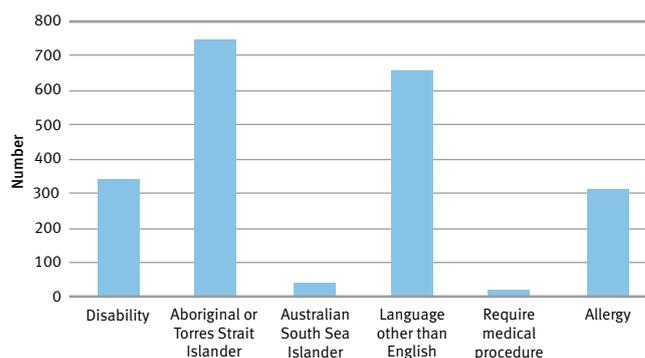
Fees

The majority of kindergartens (91.1%) charged less than \$25 per day (note: 'not applicable' and 'not stated' are excluded from these calculations). This question allowed multiple responses for fees charged for different ages of children attending.

Children attending kindergartens

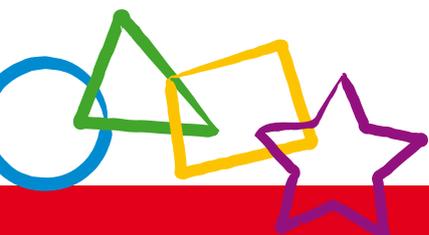
Kindergartens reported that in census week, 15 566 children attended the services including children with a disability and children from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. Figure 1 illustrates the number of children in selected categories.

Figure 1: Selected characteristics of children attending kindergartens



Waiting lists

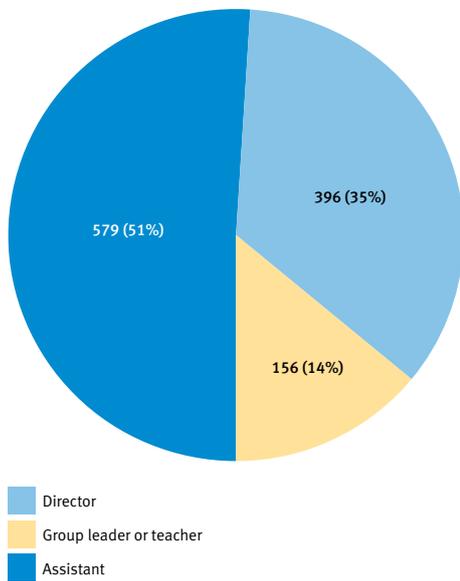
Of the 323 kindergartens that responded to the census, 274 (84.8%) indicated that they had a waiting list, with a combined total of 29 741 children on these waiting lists. Data on the number of children on waiting lists may be inflated by double counting, as one child may be on several waiting lists.



Staff

Kindergartens responding to Census 2008 indicated that 1131 child care staff¹ worked during census week. Of these staff, 396 (35.0%) were directors, 156 (13.8%) were group leaders or teachers and 579 (51.2%) were assistants (Figure 2).

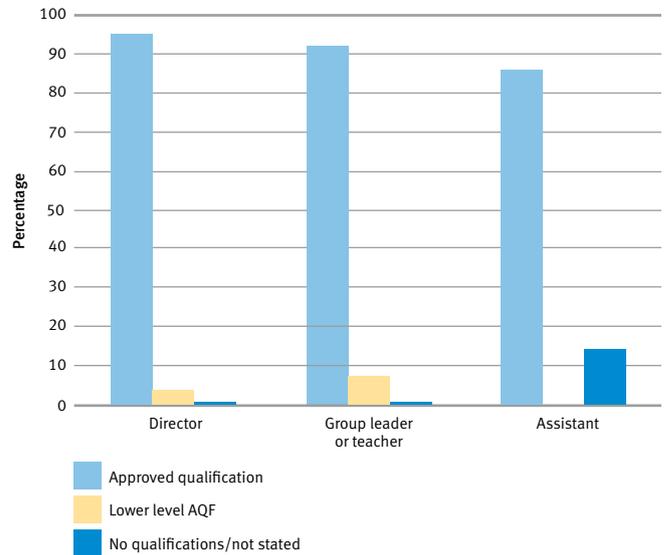
Figure 2: Staff by position for kindergartens



Staff with approved qualifications

At the time of the census, approved qualifications for staff in licensed child care services were set down in the Child Care Regulation 2003 pertaining to the *Child Care Act 2002*². Kindergartens indicated in Census 2008 that 95.2% of directors, 91.7% of group leaders or teachers and 85.3% of assistants held approved qualifications (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Staff holding approved qualifications



Footnotes:

- 1 Excludes Inclusion Support Subsidy (ISS) workers, Job Education and Training (JET) workers, administrative staff and ancillary and other contact and non-contact workers.
- 2 From Census 2004 onwards, services have been asked which qualifications, if any, were held by each staff member. The number of staff with approved qualifications was derived from this data. This differed from Census 2002 and 2003, when services were asked whether or not each staff member held the qualifications required for the position they held.