

Early Childhood Education and Care Services Census 2009 fact sheet

Family day care schemes

Introduction

Family day care schemes are licensed as home-based services under the *Child Care Act 2002*. Family day care offers supervised education and care in the homes of approved carers. Family day care may provide a more flexible child care option for parents working non-standard hours or rotating shifts. The licensees of family day care schemes employ coordinators who regularly visit, coordinate, monitor and resource care providers.

At the time of Census 2009 there were 83 family day care schemes, two less than at Census 2008. The Census 2009 response rate for family day care schemes was 95%. This is slightly lower than the previous year's response rate of 97%.

Interpretation

Unless otherwise indicated, the comments, tables and charts in this fact sheet are based on the data provided by the 79 family day care schemes that responded to Census 2009. The percentages in tables and charts may not add to exactly 100% due to rounding. 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 note also, 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 likely to be indicative of family day care provision in Queensland.

Management of family day care services

The majority (89%) of the family day care services that responded to Census 2009 indicated that they were community managed. Of the remaining services, 6% indicated they were government managed and 5% indicated they were privately owned.

Fees

Carers in family day care schemes set their own fees for the care they provide. Table 1 shows the minimum and maximum fees charged for different age groups. Of those family day care schemes that provided information on fees in Census 2009, the majority (47%) of schemes indicated that they charged a minimum of \$5.00 to \$5.99 per hour for both school age children and children under school age. The majority (37%) of those providing care for children under school age indicated that they charged a maximum of \$7.00 to \$7.99 per hour, and equal number (35%) of those providing care for school age children indicated that they charged a maximum of \$6.00 to \$6.99 or \$7.00 to \$7.99 per hour.

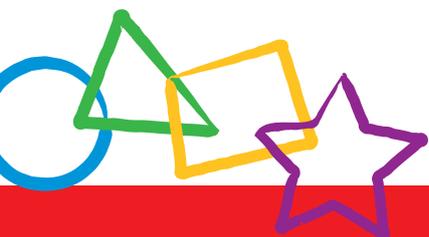


Table 1. Family day care fees per hour by age group

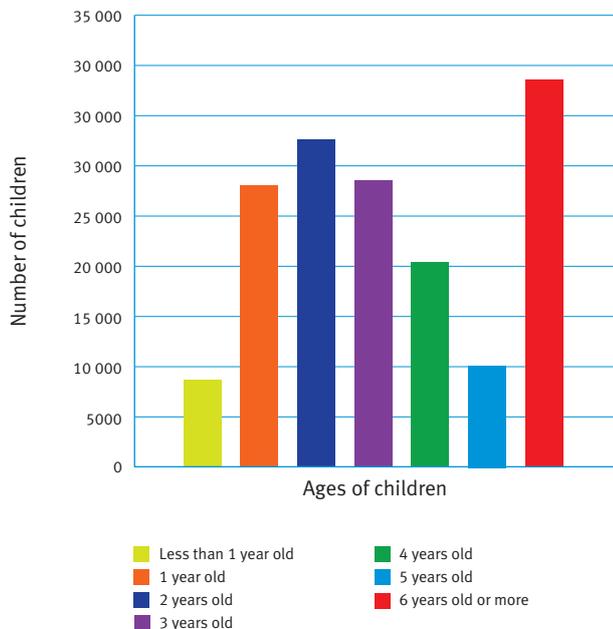
Fees per hour	Children under school age				School age children			
	Minimum fees		Maximum fees		Minimum fees		Maximum fees	
	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal
Less than \$4.00	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
\$4.00 to \$4.99	33	43%	0	0%	33	43%	0	0%
\$5.00 to \$5.99	36	47%	10	13%	36	47%	8	11%
\$6.00 to \$6.99	6	8%	24	32%	6	8%	26	35%
\$7.00 to \$7.99	1	1%	28	37%	1	1%	26	35%
\$8.00 or more	0	0%	14	18%	0	0%	15	20%
Subtotal	76	100%	76	100%	76	100%	75	100%
Not stated	3	4%	3	4%	3	4%	4	5%
Total	79	100%	79	100%	79	100%	79	100%

Children attending family day care services

The family day care services that responded to Census 2009 reported that 16 525 children attended their carer’s home based services during the reference period.

Figure 1 illustrates that the majority (71%) of children attending family day care during the reference period were under school age (aged 4 years or younger), and 29% were school aged (aged 5 years or more).

Figure 1. Children attending family day care by age



Location of family day care schemes

In 2009, the majority of the 83 licensed family day care schemes in Queensland were located in regional areas (49%), where 37% of Queensland’s population resided (see Table 2). The remainder of family day care schemes were located in the major cities (41%) and remote areas (10%) of Queensland.

Table 2. Geographic distribution of family day care services

Geographic distribution	Number of services	Percentage of services	Queensland population distribution
Major cities	34	41%	60%
Regional areas	41	49%	37%
Remote areas	8	10%	3%
Total	83	100%	100%

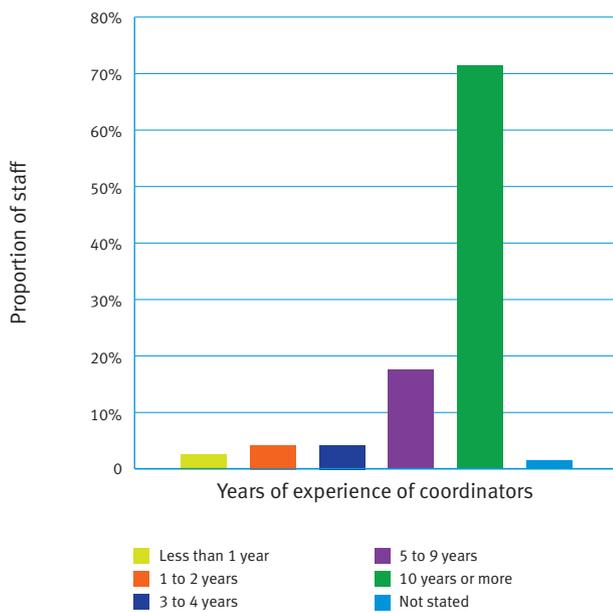
Note: Queensland population distribution information is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2010, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008–09, Cat. no. 3218.0.

Staff

Family day care schemes responding to Census 2009 indicated that a total of 206 coordinators and 2467 carers worked with their schemes during the reference period. The schemes indicated that there were also a total of 157 other staff working in their schemes during the reference period in administrative, ancillary and other non-contact roles.

The schemes responding to Census 2009 indicated that the majority (71%) of coordinators working in their services during the reference period had worked in the early childhood education and care sector for ten years or more (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Experience of family day care scheme coordinators



Staff with approved qualifications

At the time of the census, approved qualifications for staff in licensed child care services were set down in *Child Care Regulation 2003* pertaining to the *Child Care Act 2002*. Under this legislation, staff engaged in a licensed child care service were required to hold or be working towards the qualifications prescribed.

The family day care schemes responding to Census 2009 indicated that 89% of coordinators working in their schemes during the reference period held the approved qualifications for their position.

Of those staff working during the reference period who were not reported to hold the required qualifications (excluding not stated), 59% indicated that they were studying towards a qualification.

Although there are no qualification requirements for carers in family day care schemes, 49% of the carers working during the Census 2009 reference period were reported to hold a qualification at the Certificate III level or above.

Further information

Enquiries relating to statistics in this publication can be made by contacting the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care on (07) 3404 3401 or fax (07) 3234 0310.