

## Early Childhood Education and Care Services Census 2009 fact sheet

## Kindergarten services

## Introduction

Kindergarten services are licensed as centre-based services under the *Child Care Act 2002* and operate during school terms, providing education and care programs for children three years old to school age. In 2009 most kindergarten services in Queensland were sponsored or affiliated with the Creche and Kindergarten Association (C&K).

At the time of Census 2009 there were 356 licensed kindergarten services in Queensland, an increase of 11 services since 2008 (3%). The survey response rate for kindergarten services was 99%. This is higher than the previous year's response rate of 94%.

## Interpretation

Unless otherwise indicated, the comments, tables and charts in this fact sheet are based on the data provided by the 353 kindergarten services 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 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 kindergarten services

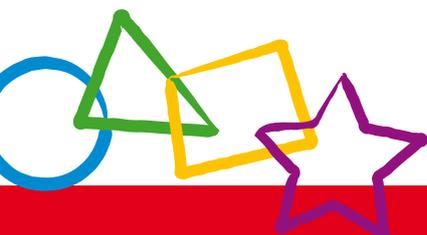
The majority (96%) of the kindergarten services that responded to Census 2009 indicated that they were community managed services. Of the remaining services, 2% indicated they were non-government school managed, less than 1% indicated they were government managed services, and 1% indicated they were privately owned. The remainder did not indicate a management type.

## Fees

Of the kindergarten services that provided information on fees in Census 2009, the majority charged less than \$20 per day for providing care for children aged less than 3.5 years, children aged 3.5 to 4.5 years, and children aged 4.5 years or more.

Table 1. Daily fees charged for children attending a kindergarten service by age group

Fees per day	Less than 3.5 years		3.5 years to less than 4.5 years		4.5 years or more	
	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal
Less than \$20	38	49	200	61	106	59
\$20 to \$29.99	11	14	102	31	57	31
\$30 to \$39.99	4	5	7	2	5	3
\$40 to \$49.99	4	5	8	2	5	3
\$50 to \$59.99	9	12	6	2	5	3
\$60 to \$69.99	7	9	3	1	3	2
More than \$70	5	6	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	78	100	326	100	181	100
Not applicable/not stated	628	89	27	8	172	49
Total services	706	100	353	100	353	100

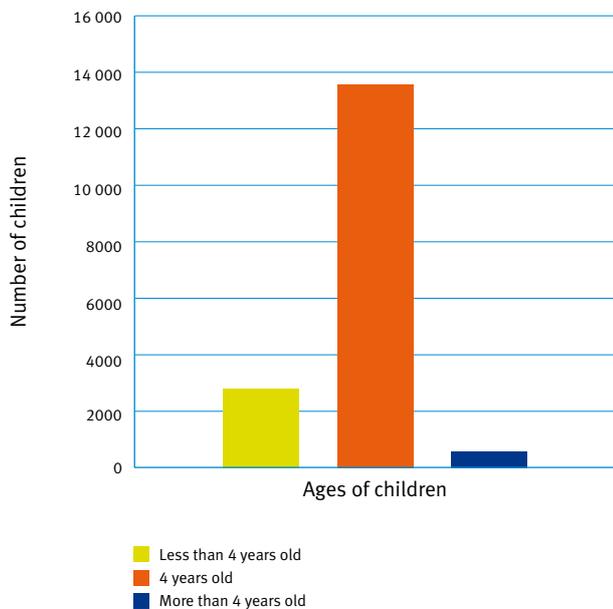


## Children attending kindergarten services

The kindergarten services that responded to Census 2009 reported that 16 741 children attended their services during the reference period.

Figure 1 illustrates that the majority of these children (81%) were 4 years of age. Services reported that there were also a number of children younger than 4 years of age (17%) and older than 4 years of age (2%) attending during the reference period.

Figure 1. Children attending kindergarten services by age



## Vacancies

Of the 353 kindergarten services that responded to Census 2009, 97 (28%) indicated that they had vacancies, with a combined total of 808 vacant places. The majority of places available (66%) were part-time vacancies for children aged 3.5 to 4.5 years.

## Location of kindergarten services

In 2009, the majority of the 356 licensed kindergarten services in Queensland were located in the major cities (46%), where 60% of Queensland's population resided and in regional areas (45%), where 37% of Queensland's population resided (see Table 2).

Table 2. Geographic distribution of kindergarten services

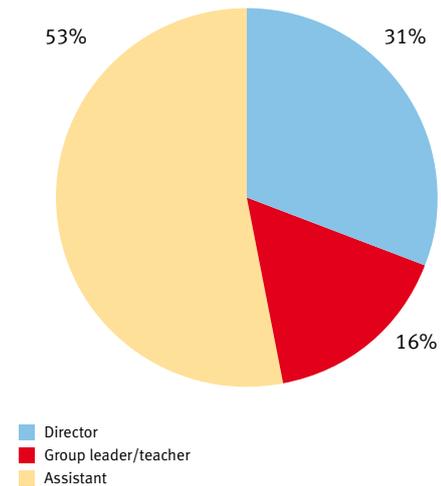
Geographic distribution	Number of services	Percentage of services	Queensland population distribution
Major cities	164	46	60
Regional areas	160	45	37
Remote areas	32	9	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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

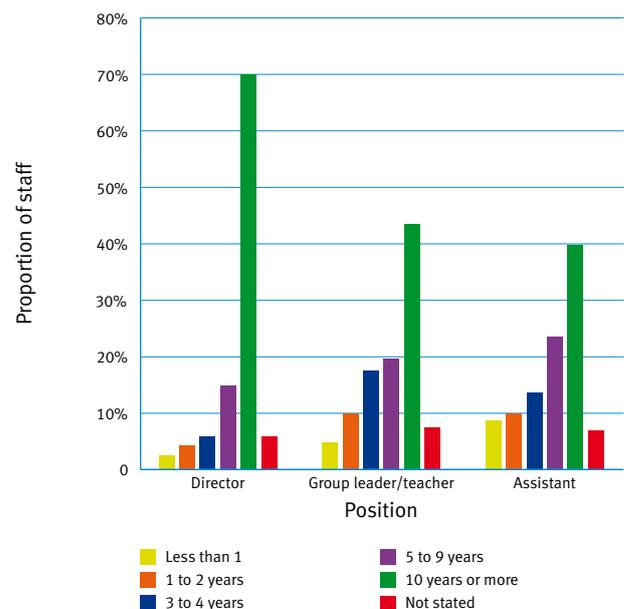
Kindergarten services responding to Census 2009 indicated that a total of 1490 child care staff worked in their services during the reference period. The majority (53%) of these staff were child care assistants, 16.0% were group leaders or teachers and 31% were directors (Figure 2). Services reported that there were also a total 183 of other staff working in their services during the reference period in administrative, ancillary and non-contact roles.

Figure 2. Child care staff working in kindergarten services by position



Kindergarten services responding to Census 2009 indicated that the majority of directors (70%), group leaders/teachers (43%) and assistants (40%) working in their services during the reference period had worked in the early childhood education and care sector for ten years or more (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Experience of kindergarten service staff by position



## 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 kindergarten services responding to Census 2009 indicated that 95% of directors, 87% of group leaders or teachers and 86% of assistants working in their services during the reference period held approved qualifications.

Of those staff working during the reference period who were not reported to hold the required qualifications (excluding not stated), 88% indicated that they were studying towards a qualification.

## Early childhood education programs

Kindergarten services responding to Census 2009 indicated that of the 16 741 children attending their services almost all (95%) attended a group with an early childhood teacher. Early childhood teachers are those staff who are four year qualified early childhood teachers or are registered teachers with early childhood qualifications.

Kindergarten services responding to the census were asked to record the staff members' highest child care/early childhood education qualification and whether their staff held full or provisional registration with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT). Services indicated that 634 (43%) of their child care staff held full or provisional registration with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT).

**Table 3. Qualifications of Queensland College of Teachers registered and non-registered kindergarten staff**

Highest level of qualification held in child care or early childhood education	Full/provisional QCT registration		Not QCT registered/not stated	
	No.	Proportion	No.	Proportion
Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 2	0	0	1	0
Certificate III	13	2	470	55
Associate Diploma/Diploma	2	0	172	20
Advanced Diploma	3	0	19	2
Diploma/Bachelor (3 years)	163	26	34	4
Bachelor (4 years)	379	60	17	2
Postgraduate qualifications	46	7	6	1
Other approved qualifications	9	1	30	4
Other undergraduate qualifications	17	3	4	0
None/not yet started/not stated	2	0	103	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>100</b>

## Provision of meals

Only 6% (20) of kindergarten services responding to Census 2009 indicated that they provide children with meals or snacks. Of these services, 60% provided morning tea, 55% provided lunch and 60% provided afternoon tea.

Kindergarten services that indicated they did not provide meals or snacks (94%) were asked why they did not. Of these services, 41% indicated that the reason for not providing meals was the cost that doing so would incur to the service or to parents, and 48% indicated other reasons.

## 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.