

Early Childhood Education and Care Services Census 2009 fact sheet

Long day care services

Introduction

Long day care services are licensed as centre-based services under the *Child Care Act 2002* and generally operate for more than eight hours a day and in excess of 48 weeks per year. These services provide education and care programs primarily for children ranging from birth to school age, although many services also cater for school age children outside school hours.

At the time of Census 2009 there were 1459 licensed long day care services in Queensland, an increase of 2% since 2008 (1433 services). The Census 2009 response rate for long day care services was 90%. This is slightly higher than the previous year's response rate of 87%.

Interpretation

Unless otherwise indicated, the comments, tables and charts in this fact sheet are based on the data provided by the 1306 long day care 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 relatively high response rate, percentages are indicative of long day care provision in Queensland.

Management of long day care services

The majority (84%) of the long day care services that responded to Census 2009 indicated that they were privately owned services. Of the remaining services, 13% indicated they were community managed, 2% indicated they were government managed services, and less than 1% indicated they were non-government school managed. The remainder did not indicate a management type.

Fees

The fees charged by long day care services per day vary according to the age of the children receiving care. Table 1 shows the number of services charging fees by different age groups. Of those services that provided information on fees in Census 2009, the majority of those providing care for children aged less than 3.5 years charged a daily rate of \$60.00 to \$69.99. In comparison the majority of long day care services providing care for children aged 3.5 years and above charged a daily rate of \$50.00 to \$59.99. A substantial number of long day care services do not provide places for babies under 15 months. These services are categorised as 'not applicable' and have been excluded for the purposes of calculating percentages for fees per day.

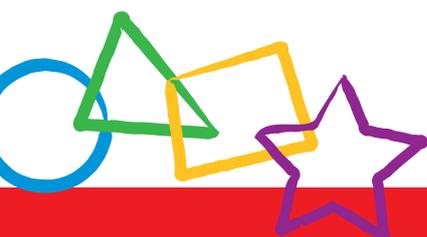


Table 1. Daily fees charged by long day care services by age group

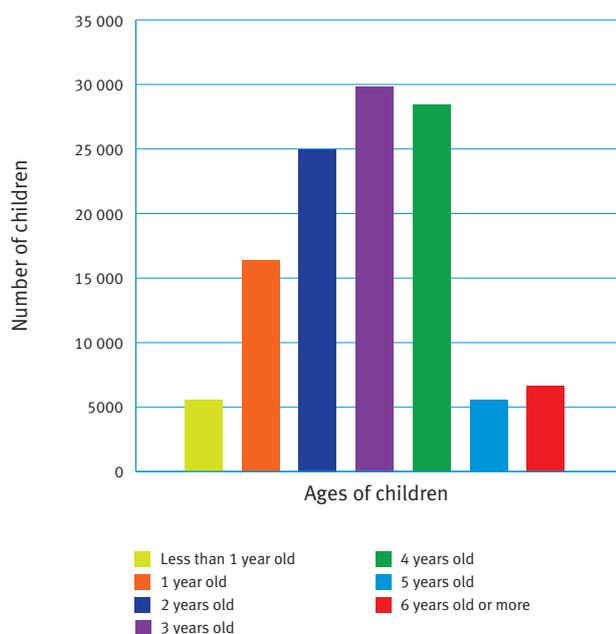
Fees per day	Under 15 months		15 months to less than 3.5 years		3.5 years to less than 4.5 years		4.5 years or more	
	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal
Less than \$20	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
\$20 to \$29.99	7	1%	10	1%	14	1%	36	3%
\$30 to \$39.99	1	0%	3	0%	3	0%	12	1%
\$40 to \$49.99	20	2%	33	3%	43	4%	50	4%
\$50 to \$59.99	194	21%	381	31%	602	50%	590	50%
\$60 to \$69.99	594	63%	724	59%	511	42%	461	39%
More than \$70	128	14%	69	6%	34	3%	32	3%
Subtotal	944	100%	1220	100%	1207	100%	1181	100%
Not applicable/not stated	362	28%	86	7%	99	8%	125	10%
Total services	1306	100	1306	100	1306	100	1306	100

Children attending long day care services

The long day care services that responded to Census 2009 reported that 117 600 children attended their services during the reference period.

Figure 1 illustrates that the majority of these children were between 2 and 4 years of age. Approximately 26% of children attending a long day care service during the reference period were 3 years old, 24% were 4 years old, and 21% were 2 years old.

Figure 1. Children attending long day care services by age



Vacancies

Of the 1306 long day care services that responded to Census 2009, 1107 (85%) indicated that they had vacancies, with a combined total of 40 116 vacant places. The majority of places available (72%) were part-time vacancies.

Location of long day care services

In 2009, the majority of the 1459 licensed long day care services in Queensland were located in the major cities (66%), where 60% of Queensland's population resided (see Table 2). The remainder of long day care services were located in regional (31%) and remote areas (2%) of Queensland.

Table 2. Geographic distribution of long day care services

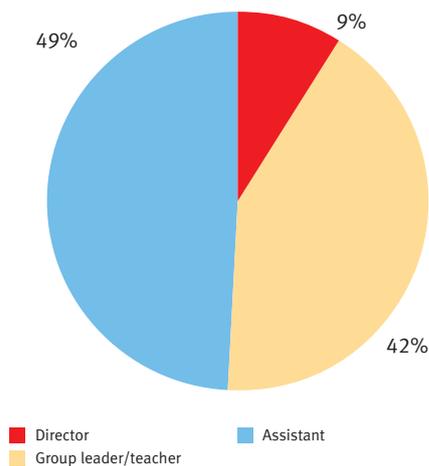
Geographic distribution	Number of services	Percentage of services	Queensland population distribution
Major cities	966	66	60
Regional areas	459	31	37
Remote areas	34	2	3
Total	1459	100	100

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

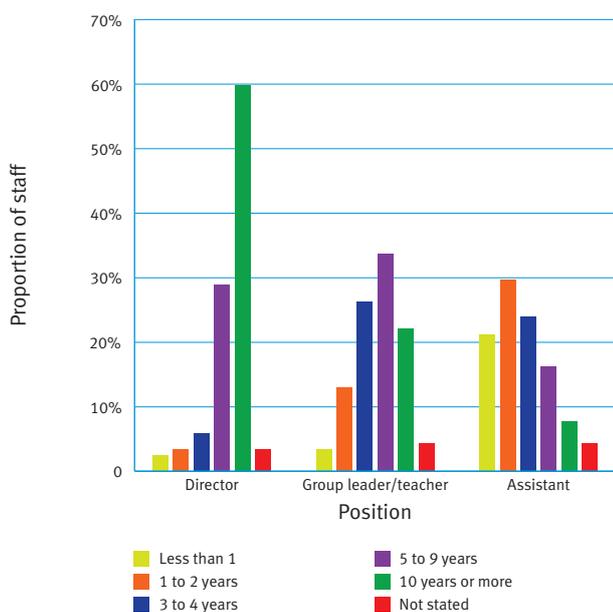
Long day care services responding to Census 2009 indicated that a total of 13 330 child care staff worked in their services during the reference period. The majority (49%) of these staff were child care assistants, 42% were group leaders or teachers, and 9% were directors (Figure 2). Services reported that there were also a total of 1088 other staff working in their services during the reference period in administrative, ancillary and non-contact roles.

Figure 2. Child care staff working in long day care services by position



Long day care services responding to Census 2009 indicated that the majority (60%) of directors working in their services during the reference period had worked in the early childhood education and care sector for ten years or more. They also indicated that the majority (33%) of group leaders/teachers in their services had worked in the sector for five to nine years and the majority (29%) of assistants in their services had worked in the sector for one to two years (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Experience of long day care 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 long day care services responding to Census 2009 indicated that 79% of directors, 64% of group leaders or teachers and 66% of assistants working in their services during the reference period held 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), 94% indicated that they were studying towards a qualification.

Early childhood education programs

Long day care services responding to Census 2009 indicated that of the 117 600 children attending their services, just under one-in-ten (9%) 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.

Long day care 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 450 (3%) of their child care staff held full or provisional registration with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT). (Table 3)

Table 3. Qualifications of Queensland College of Teachers registered and non-registered long day care 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%	29	0%
Certificate III	16	4%	5802	45%
Associate Diploma/Diploma	9	2%	2589	20%
Advanced Diploma	10	2%	775	6%
Diploma/Bachelor (3 years)	86	19%	1059	8%
Bachelor (4 years)	254	56%	232	2%
Postgraduate qualifications	29	6%	23	0%
Other approved qualifications	7	2%	137	1%
Other undergraduate qualifications	31	7%	44	0%
None/not yet started/not stated	8	2%	2190	17%
Total	450	100%	12 880	100%

Provision of meals

Of the 1306 long day care services that responded to Census 2009, 48% indicated that they provide children with meals or snacks. Of these services, 84% provided morning tea, 70% provided lunch, and 91% provided afternoon tea.

When services indicated that they did not provide meals or snacks (51%, 666 services), they were asked why they did not. The most common reason was a lack of facilities to provide food (55%), and the second most common reason was the cost that doing so would incur to the service or to parents (42%).

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.