

**Final report on the development of the
Children's Services National Minimum
Data Set**

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Final report on the development of the Children's Services National Minimum Data Set

**The Children's Services Data Working Group of the National Community
Services Information Management Group**

February 2007

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Contents

- Acknowledgments.....vii**
- Abbreviations..... viii**
- Summary ix**
- 1 Introduction.....x**
- 2 The Children’s Services Data Working Group3**
- 3 Development of the Children’s Services National Minimum Data Set5**
 - 3.1 Review of existing information.....5
 - 3.2 Initial field test.....7
 - 3.3 Phase 1 pilot test.....7
 - 3.4 Phase 2 pilot test.....10
 - 3.5 Sign-off14
- 4 Description of the CSNMDS16**
 - 4.1 Services17
 - 4.2 Workers18
 - 4.3 Children.....18
- 5 Next steps.....19**
 - 5.1 NCSIMG bid to the Community and Disability Services Ministerial Advisory Council to fund implementation of the CSNMDS19
 - 5.2 Impact of implementation of the CSNMDS19
- References21**
- Appendix A: Current child care and preschool services data collections.....23**
- Appendix B: Children’s Services Data Working Group (CSDWG) membership at 2 June 200525**
- Appendix C: Recommendations and outcomes of the first pilot test.....27**
- Appendix D: Recommendations and outcomes of the second pilot test31**
- Appendix E: Linkage key for use with the CSNMDS.....35**
- Appendix F: Final Children’s Services National Minimum Data Set Specifications Version 0.437**
 - Preface.....37
 - 1 Introduction38
 - 2 Scope40
 - 3 Collection process.....42
 - 4 Structure of data definitions42
 - 5 Data definitions46
 - Index of data items.....161

List of tables	163
List of figures	164

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CDEP	Community Development Employment Project
CSDWG	NCSIMG Children's Services Data Working Group
CSNMDS	Children's Services National Minimum Data Set
CDSMAC	Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council
FaCSIA	Australian Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JET	Jobs, Education and Training Child Care scheme
NCSDC	National Community Services Data Committee
NCSIMG	National Community Services Information Management Group
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
SLA	Statistical Local Area
SNSS	Special Needs Support Scheme
SUPS	Supplementary Services Program

Summary

In 1998, the National Community Services Information Management Group (NCSIMG), a subgroup of Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC), established the Children's Services Data Working Group (CSDWG) to develop and implement a national minimum data set that would provide the first complete picture of children participating in child care and preschool in Australia.

The CSDWG subsequently developed a data set (Table 1) encompassing three broad areas relating to child care:

- children who attend or usually attend child care and preschool services
- organisations (services) such as long day care centres, family day care, outside school hours care, holiday/occasional care and preschools that provide child care
- workers who deliver child care and preschool activities to children.

Table 1: Final data items in the Children's Services National Minimum Data Set

Service	Worker/caregiver	Child
Service identifier (ID)	Worker/caregiver identifier (ID)	Letters of name
Service address	Type of work performed	Date of birth
Weeks of operation—per year	Paid /unpaid	Estimated date flag
Days of operation—per week	Total hours worked	Sex
Start time	Additional items for paid workers/caregivers:	Suburb/town/locality name
Finish time	Specific role	Postcode
Service delivery mode	Working arrangements (permanent/ fixed-term contract /casual)	Indigenous status
Service delivery setting	Employment status	School status
Management type	Age group (years)	Main language other than English spoken at home
Legal entity	Sex	Child with a disability—need for assistance
Service activity types provided	Indigenous status	Arrival time at service
Main service activity type	Qualification field	Departure time from service
Fee schedules	Qualification level	Preschool service provided
Licensed places	Educational enrolment status	Family type
Places offered	Length of experience	Parent(s) /guardian(s) —sex
	Length of time with current service	Working arrangements of parent(s) /guardian(s)

This data set has subsequently been endorsed by CDSMAC with funding allocated to undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the Children's Services National Minimum Data Set. This work will explore options and the associated costs and benefits for national implementation of this data set, thus advancing the objective of achieving a national picture of the children participating in child care and preschool in Australia.

