

4 Description of the CSNMDS

The CSNMDS is a set of 46 items centred around three broad areas relating to children’s services:

- 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.

These three areas are further described in Subsections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3. The complete list of items is provided below in Table 6.

Table 6: 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)

The CSNMDS comprises basic information about children’s services that are funded and/licensed by Australian or state and territory governments child care and preschool services. In this context, children’s services comprise centre-based long day care, occasional care, outside hours school care, vacation care, family day care, in-home care and preschool. The scope of the CSNMDS is shown below in Table 7.

Table 7: Child care services included in the Children’s Services National Minimum Data Set

	Services licensed and/or partially of fully funded by Australian, state or territory governments ^(a)	Other services ^(b)
Child care services	✓	×
Compulsory, full-time primary school education ^(c)	×	×
Playgroups, toy libraries, etc. that require attendance of the guardian as well as the child	×	×

(a) Includes services receiving any Australian, state or territory government funding in the form of: capital grants, operational funding or per capita funding; funding as part of an approved educational establishment; and/or funding to reduce the cost of charges to parents (e.g. are 'approved' for the Child Care Benefit).

(b) Other services include preschools and child care centres that are funded entirely with private and/or local government funds.

(c) Note that whilst compulsory, full-time primary school education is excluded, the CSNMDS does include those children’s services such as outside school hours care, vacation care and preschool activities, that are delivered at primary school sites.

4.1 Services

The CSNMDS includes all service providers that are licensed and/or funded by Australian, state or territory governments to deliver child care and preschool activities at a particular location. Services receiving government funding are those that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- receive capital grants, operational funding or per capita funding from the Australian or state/territory governments
- receive funding as part of an approved educational establishment
- Receive funding to reduce the cost of charges to parents (e.g. are approved for the Child Care Benefit).

Services are excluded from the CSNMDS if they are:

- neither licensed by, or in receipt of funding from, Australian or state/territory governments
- delivering primary education, i.e. full-time education that typically commences at around age 5 and lasts for 7–8 years
- a service such as a playgroup, toy library or other service or activity that requires the attendance of both the child and their parent/guardian.

Items in the CSNMDS about services include their location, times of operation, types of services provided, costs, and number of places offered. See Table 6 for all items.

4.2 Workers

The CSNMDS includes all paid and unpaid children's services workers, including workers funded under the Community Development Employment Project (CDEP), Special Needs Subsidy (SNSS) and Jobs, Education and Training Child Care (JET) schemes, who are present during the collection week and who undertake duties that mainly involve:

- direct contact with children
- management
- administration tasks.

The CSNMDS also includes executives, directors or administration workers who are working at the delivery outlet and/or who are involved in the day-to-day management of the service.

Workers are excluded from the CSNMDS if they are:

- absent for the entire collection week
- funded under the Supplementary Services Program (SUPS)
- executives, directors or administration workers who are not based at the service location and have no involvement in the day-to-day management of the service
- general staff or workers whose main duties do not involve working directly with children – this may include cooks, cleaners, gardeners, drivers and maintenance staff
- only involved in activities which are outside the scope of the collection, e.g. playgroups, toy libraries and other activities that require the attendance of both the parent or guardian and the child.

Items in the CSNMDS about workers include their type of work, hours of work, qualifications and experience in addition to standard demographic details.

4.3 Children

The CSNMDS includes all children attending or 'usually attending' child care and preschool activities within in-scope services during the collection week. Children are classified as 'usually attending' if they have attended the service within the last month and either have a place that has been paid for, or who are enrolled in a service with a standing arrangement that they attend specific sessions during the collection week, but are absent during that week.

Children are excluded from the collection if they are:

- using a type of service that is not licensed by, or in receipt of, any Australian or state/territory government funding
- only attending activities that their parent(s) or guardian(s) are also required to attend.

Items in the CSNMDS about children include standard demographic details, such as age, sex and Indigenous status, as well as their attendance at the child care service and details about their family, such as working arrangements of parent(s)/guardian(s). See Table 6 for all items.