

Appendix A: Current child care and preschool services data collections

Australian Bureau of Statistics Child Care Survey

This survey is conducted every 3 years and is a supplement to the ABS Labour Force Survey. The latest survey was conducted in June 2005, with results released in June 2006. This Australia-wide sample survey provides information in relation to children aged 0–12 years, and their families, about the use of formal and informal child care, and requirements for additional child care (including preschool services).

Australian Government (FaCSIA) Census of Child Care Services

This is a census of Australian Government-supported child care service providers, conducted by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA). The census collects information from Australian Government-approved service providers on their staff, the children and parents using the service, and various other aspects of service provision. The latest census of Australian Government-funded services was carried out over the period of May–July 2006.

State and territory government data collections

These collections contain information about the child care and preschool services that these governments fund and/or license. There are, however, great variations in the nature and extent of these collections. The best source of these data is the Report on Government Services (SCRGSP 2006), produced annually, and available online at <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2006/>.

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey

This is a longitudinal survey that began in 2001. It collects information about child care use that can be related to other aspects of the survey, including household structure, family background and formation, education, employment history, current employment, income, health and wellbeing, and housing. For more information, see <http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/>.

Growing Up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australia's Children

This study explores family and social issues relevant to children's development, and addresses a range of research questions, including the impact of non-parental child care on a child's developmental outcomes over time, and the impact of various risk factors such as multiple care arrangements, type of care and age of entry into child care. Wave 1 data and the 2004 Annual Report were launched on 16 May 2005. Wave 2 commenced in late 2005 with over 400 families interviewed, however most families were to be interviewed from April to November 2006. For more information, see <http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/home.html>.

