

Appendix D: Recommendations and outcomes of the second pilot test

A draft report of the second pilot test was considered by the CSDWG at their February 2005 and June 2005 meetings. A list of all recommendations and outcomes is provided below.

Recommendation	CSDWG response
<i>Scope of the CSNMDS</i>	
1 Broaden the scope of the CSNMDS to include all child care and/or preschool <i>service activities</i> (apart from those activities that require the attendance of a parent/guardian) offered at government-funded services.	Endorsed
2 CSDWG review and document the services that would be excluded from the CSNMDS under the current scope to determine whether this is appropriate.	Licensed services to be included
3 Prior to implementation, establish a register of all services that fall within the scope of the collection in cooperation with Australian, state and territory government departments.	Endorsed
4 Exclude general staff from the collection, so that the only workers included in the scope of the CSNMDS are those who have some direct contact with children, both paid and unpaid.	Exclude general staff, but include administration staff
5 Narrow the scope for workers in the CSNMDS to exclude workers absent from the service during the collection week.	Endorsed
6 Consult with FaCS regularly about changes to special programs which engage workers in children's services.	Endorsed and to be included as a standing item on future agendas
7 Amend the <i>Preschool service provided for child</i> data element to include children who <i>usually receive</i> preschool in the data collection week.	Endorsed

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Recommendation	CSDWG response
<i>Collection instruments</i>	
8 Family day care/in-home care services should be given the option of providing all caregiver information themselves.	Endorsed
9 The CSDWG reconsider the value of retaining the service fee data item in the collection.	Retain and redevelop item
10 AIHW to develop clearer guidelines on places offered data item and include these in the final CSNMDS specifications.	Endorsed
11 Extend the guidelines for the <i>Employment status – permanent/fixed-term contract/casual</i> data element in the final CSNMDS specifications to state: ‘If the service is unsure on the status of their staff, use the leave entitlements that the staff member is eligible for as a guide to the category to include them in.’	Endorsed
12 The CSDWG provide guidance as to the appropriate category for caregivers who are self-employed in the <i>Employment status – permanent/fixed-term contract/casual</i> data element.	Retain as is
13 The worker data element <i>Employment status – full-time/part-time</i> be omitted from the CSNMDS.	Endorsed
14 The worker data element <i>Employment status – relief worker</i> be omitted from the CSNMDS.	Endorsed, but with the addition of a new item ‘type of employer’ to be developed with advice from the ABS
15 The CSDWG consider adding Associate Diploma to the data domains of the <i>Paid contact worker/caregiver – qualification level</i> data element.	Investigate further
16 Modify <i>Child – letters of name</i> data element so that letters of the first name of the child are collected first, followed by the letters of the surname.	Endorsed subject to reservation
17 The CSDWG develop a better definition of a preschool service for the final CSNMDS specifications.	Endorsed

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Recommendation	CSDWG response
<i>Collection instruments</i> continued	
18 Add a sentence to the <i>Child – school status</i> data element in the final data set specifications that states; ‘If the child attends preschool in a school setting, they should not be counted as attending school’.	Endorsed
19 Change the language question to ‘Does the child (or their parents or guardian) speak a language other than English at home?’ and change the fields to: 1. Not applicable, English only spoken at home 2. Other language, please specify.	Endorsed
20 Prior to implementation of the CSNMDS, children’s services should be encouraged to record language spoken to match the definition and guidelines of the <i>Child – main language other than English spoken at home</i> data element.	Endorsed
21 The AIHW consult with the Functioning and Disability Unit of the AIHW to improve the guidelines for the <i>Child – disability status – need for assistance</i> data element in the final data set specifications. Children should only be included if their parent/guardian has identified or confirmed that their child has a need for additional assistance compared to children of a similar age and related to a long-term health condition or disability. More appropriate examples should be provided for the categories listed.	Endorsed
22 Family day care/in-home care services that use electronic data collection systems should modify their systems to collect actual hours attended by children.	Endorsed
23 Omit data elements <i>Family type</i> , <i>Sex of parent(s)/guardian(s)</i> and <i>Working arrangements of parent(s)/guardian(s)</i> from the CSNDMS collection.	Endorsed although FaCSIA may still need to collect these items

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Recommendation	CSDWG response
<i>Collection instruments continued</i>	
24 Develop electronic-based collection for the CSNMDS. This system would be extensively field tested prior to implementation and introduced as widely as possible to allow data collection on all agreed CSNMDS data items.	Endorsed
25 The CSDWG make a final decision about the set of data items to collect in the CSNMDS.	Endorsed
<i>Balancing core needs and rights of stakeholders</i>	
26 Prior to the implementation of the CSNMDS, provide support to children’s services and jurisdictions to change over to collecting the CSNMDS data items.	Endorsed
27 Retain <i>Paid contact worker/caregiver – length of experience</i> and the CSDWG decide the appropriate collection method. Guidelines on how to estimate years of experience should be improved and children’s services should be encouraged to collect this item accurately.	Endorsed
28 Omit <i>Paid contact worker/caregiver – length of time with current service</i> from the final CSNMDS specifications.	Rejected – item to be retained
29 Omit <i>Paid contact worker/caregiver – educational enrolment status</i> from the final CSNMDS specifications.	Rejected – item to be retained
30 Omit <i>Paid contact worker/caregiver – date of birth</i> and replace it with <i>Paid contact worker/caregiver – age group</i> .	Endorsed
31 Prior to implementation of the CSNMDS, children’s services should be encouraged to collect Indigenous status of workers and children at point of entry to their services and be provided with appropriate guidance to achieve this.	Endorsed
32 Prior to implementation of the CSNMDS, children’s services should be encouraged to begin collecting <i>Paid contact worker/caregiver – qualification field</i> and <i>Paid contact worker/caregiver – qualification level at point of entry</i> to their services.	Endorsed