

Outside school hours care services in Australia 1994–97

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Outside school hours care services in Australia 1994–97

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CP	Childcare program
DHFS	the former Department of Health and Family Services (Commonwealth)
FaCS	Department of Family and Community Services (Commonwealth)
NESB	non-English-speaking background

Symbols

–	nil
..	not applicable
n.a.	not available
\$	Australian dollars

Notes

- (1) Percentages in tables may not add to 100 due to rounding.
- (2) Percentages are calculated minus missing cases. Totals in tables include missing cases.

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Preface

This report was prepared by Helen Moyle, Priscilla Dowling and Anne Broadbent. Other contributors were Susie Kelly and Odette Vogt. Thanks are extended to the Child Care Benefits Branch of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) for providing the unit record files from the 1996 and 1997 Censuses of Child Care Services.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Child care services provide care and developmental activities for children, generally between the ages of 0–12 years, whose parents need child care for work-related and/or personal reasons or for family support reasons. This paper focuses on ‘outside school hours care services’, which are provided for school age children, mainly of primary school age (5–12 years), at times when school is not in session – before school, after school, on ‘pupil free days’ and during school vacations. The terminology used in this report can be found in the Glossary (see p. 61).

Most child care services in Australia are funded through the Childcare Program (CP) of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS). Prior to 1999, only non-profit organisations – such as community organisations, local government, religious and charitable organisations, and school boards or councils established under State and Territory legislation – were eligible for CP outside school hours care funding.¹ From July of that year, however, private operators were able to take over the sponsorship of existing Commonwealth funded outside school hours care services and receive CP funding in their own right. The 2000–01 Federal Budget extended CP funding to private-for-profit agencies wanting to establish new outside school hours care services (FaCS 2000a:A3)

The Commonwealth Childcare Program collects data about the services which it funds in order to monitor their progress and assist planning. Part of the data collection activity is a census of CP-funded services. Throughout the period covered in this report, 1994–1997, the outside school hours care funding arrangements in operation were extremely complex (see Moyle et al. 1997). During this period, the census collected information on before/after school care services and vacation care services (year round model care) which were directly funded by the Commonwealth through the Childcare Program. CP vacation care services funded through block grant arrangements and State-only funded outside school hours care services were not included in the census collection.

While some data on outside school hours care services from various censuses have been published (DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1999a), a comprehensive analysis of the information over time has not been undertaken. This report aims to fill this gap by combining the data from three censuses to look at trends in outside school hours care services from 1994 – when data were first collected on ‘year round care’ vacation care services – to 1997, the most recent year for which data are available. Comparisons are also made between the States and Territories for 1997. It is hoped that these data will provide a benchmark from which to examine the impact of changes in outside school hours care funding arrangements which came into place in April 1998 (AIHW 1997:104), when the 1999 census data become available.

This report begins in this chapter with a brief discussion of the CP census – the main data source for the rest of the report – and an examination of the response rates in the censuses over time for the agencies funded to provide before/after school care and year round care

¹ In 1996–97, however, a small number of private-for-profit agencies were funded by the CP to provide outside school hours care under one of the outside school hours care pilot funding programs (Moyle et al. 1997:10).

vacation care. This section is followed by a brief examination of the changes between 1994 and 1997 in the number of agencies funded directly by the CP to provide before/after school care and vacation care services, the number of children using these services and the number of workers in the agencies providing services.

Chapter 2 looks at information on agencies and services, such as the type of CP-funded services provided and the hours of service operation. Chapter 3 examines the characteristics of children using services, such as their age, the amount of time they spend in care and whether or not they are in care for work-related reasons. Chapter 4 discusses the workers in services, with particular attention to their qualifications and training levels.

1.2 Census of Child Care Services

The data presented in this report come mainly from the 'Census of Child Care Services' conducted by the Commonwealth Childcare Program (from now on referred to as the CP Census). Most agencies funded by the CP to provide child care services are required as a condition of funding to participate in the Census. The census forms are mailed to each agency for self-completion during a standard reference week. In 1994, 1996 and 1997 the standard reference week for before/after school care services was in August, with the reference week for vacation care services being in the following school holiday period (September/October, depending on the relevant jurisdiction).

Prior to 1998, the census was conducted annually, although from 1993 onwards only a selection of the various type of services funded under the Program were covered in any given year. Outside school hours care services were covered in 1994, 1996 and 1997, but not in 1993 and 1995. No census was conducted in 1998. A complete census of all service types was undertaken in May 1999, but a full set of data from this census was not available for this paper. Each census has collected information about the agencies and the services provided, the characteristics of children using the services and of workers providing the services.

Throughout this report, it is important to note that while agencies providing CP-funded before/after school care services and agencies providing CP-funded year round care model vacation care services are counted separately in the CP Census, an unknown number of these agencies are one and the same. An agency may be funded by the CP to provide a before/after school care service and a vacation care service and may provide these services at the same location and with some or all of the same staff. There is, however, no way of linking information about the same agency in the before/after school care and the vacation care datasets.

Each census dataset contains information about the response rates to the census, that is, the number of agencies returning the completed forms as a percentage of all funded agencies at the time of the census (Table 1.1). Although response rates have been high, there was a drop in rates between 1994 and 1996, particularly for agencies providing year round care vacation care services. Response rates, however, remained fairly constant between 1996 and 1997.

Table 1.1: Response rates to the CP Census, by type of agency, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997

Type of agency	1994	1996	1997
	Per cent		
Response rate			
Before/after school care	96	93	92
Vacation care	98	90	91

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

In 1997, most of the response rates in the States and Territories were above 90% (Table 1.2). The rates were somewhat lower in the Territories for agencies offering vacation care services, but this was the result of the non-response of a few agencies out of a small total number.

Table 1.2: Response rates to the CP Census, by type of agency, by State and Territory, 1997

Type of agency	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Per cent								
Response rate									
Before/after school care	88	93	94	93	90	93	92	100	92
Vacation care	94	93	91	87	89	90	77	63	91

Source: FaCS 1999b.

1.3 Growth in outside school hours care services 1994 to 1997

Between 1994 and 1997, the number of CP-funded before/after school care agencies grew by 31%, from 1,415 to 1,859 (using numbers adjusted for non-response), while the number of agencies funded to provide vacation care services under the year round care model increased almost threefold, from 221 to 635 agencies (Table 1.3).

Increases in the estimated numbers of children using services and the estimated number of paid workers in agencies providing services mirrored the growth in agencies. The growth in the number of children using services was slightly lower than the growth in the number of agencies, particularly for vacation care services; the estimated number of children using before/after school care services increased by 27% between 1994 and 1997 and the estimated number of children using vacation care services increased two and a half times.

The number of paid staff increased slightly more than the number of agencies between 1994 and 1997, both for before/after school care agencies and for vacation care agencies, while the increases in the number of unpaid staff was substantially lower. The estimated number of paid staff in before/after school care agencies, for instance, increased by 33% and the estimated number of unpaid staff by 8%, compared with a 31% increase in the number of agencies over the same period.

Table 1.3: Estimated numbers of before/after school care and vacation care agencies, children using services, and paid and unpaid workers in agencies, by type of agency, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997

Type of agency	1994	1996	1997
Before/After School Care			
Agencies	1,415	1,714	1,859
Children	78,200	96,372	99,518
Paid Workers	5,730	7,341	7,633
Unpaid Workers	420	529	452
Vacation Care			
Agencies	221	479	635
Children	12,500	24,311	30,972
Paid Workers	1,180	2,798	3,514
Unpaid Workers	150	238	320

Note: Adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1999a.

The estimates presented above are weighted for non-response by the total number of funded agencies at the time of the Census according to type of agency, State and Territory and geographic location. In the chapters that follow, however, the unweighted data are used to examine trends in the various characteristics of agencies, children and workers. While the weighted data for 1996 and 1997 data are available (FaCS 1999a:2), they are not available for 1994. AIHW has examined the distributions of the unweighted and weighted 1997 data, however, and found that there is little difference between the unweighted and weighted data in terms of the distribution of characteristics.

2 Outside school hours care agencies and services

This chapter analyses data collected by the census on various aspects of agencies and services, such as the types of outside school hours care services that agencies were funded by the CP to provide, hours of service operation, type of venue, and fees charged.

2.1 Provision of service types

Outside school hours care agencies may provide one or more service types – before school care, after school care and/or vacation care. Thus agencies may provide before school care only, after school care only, vacation care only, or some combination of these service types – for instance, before and after school care or after school care and vacation care.

Information was collected in the Census on whether agencies providing before/after school care services were funded by the CP to provide before school care only, after school care only, or both before and after school care. No data, however, were collected on whether before/after school care agencies also provided CP-funded vacation care services, or whether vacation care agencies provided CP-funded before/after school care services. Data were collected in the Census on whether the same *sponsor* provided before/after school care services and vacation care services and these data are shown in Table 2.3. The sponsor and the agency, however, were not necessarily the same entity (see Glossary p. 61) and even where they were the same, the different service types may not have been directly funded by the CP (and thus would have been out of the scope of the census) (see p.1). As noted previously, it is not possible to identify which agencies were included in both the before/after school care dataset and the vacation care dataset (see p. 2). Thus no CP Census data are available on the number of agencies providing vacation care and before and/or after school care services and the number of agencies providing vacation care services only.

Provision of before/after school care services

Between 1994 and 1997, Australia-wide, the proportion of before/after school care agencies funded to provide both before and after school care increased from 47% to 54% (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Agencies funded by the CP to provide before/after school care, by type of funded service, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Type of service	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Before school care only	1	1	1
After school care only	52	47	45
Both before and after school care	47	52	54
Total	100	100	100
Total agencies (N)	1,353	1,601	1,703

Note: These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

In 1997, the proportion of before/after school care agencies which were funded to provide both types of services varied considerably across jurisdictions. In New South Wales and South Australia, the majority of agencies provided both before school care and after school care services (70% and 79% respectively) (Table 2.2). The proportion of agencies providing both types of services was much lower in Tasmania (22%) and the Northern Territory (10%).

In each of the years 1994, 1996 and 1997, only 1% of before/after school care agencies were funded by the CP to provide before school care only (Table 2.1). In 1997, before/after school care agencies in only three jurisdictions – New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia – were funded by the CP for before school care only (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Agencies funded by the CP to provide before/after school care, by type of funded service and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Type of service	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Before school care only	<0.5	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
After school care only	29	51	57	52	21	78	67	90	45
Both before and after school care	70	47	43	47	79	22	33	10	54
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total agencies (N)	468	470	366	115	172	37	55	20	1,703

Note: These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

Links between before/after school care and vacation care

Since children attending before/after school care are also likely to need care during school holidays, the CP has encouraged sponsors to provide both before/after school care services and vacation care services. Although the CP censuses have contained questions on this topic, changes in wording are significant and it is not possible to use these data to examine trends over time. For this reason, only the 1997 data are examined in this report.

In 1997 Australia-wide, around a third of 1,703 before/after school care agencies (34%) reported that their sponsoring organisation (for instance, a school) also ran a vacation care service, with the proportion ranging from 24% in Victoria to 55% in South Australia (Table

2.3). Another 28% of agencies reported that they were 'linked with vacation care to provide a Year Round Care program' and/or that they 'reserved places in a vacation care program run by a separate organisation', with the proportion being highest in Western Australia (50%) and lowest in Victoria (12%).

Table 2.3: Links between before/after school care and vacation care services, by type of agency and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Sponsoring organisation runs both before/after school care and vacation care	30	24	43	32	55	41	35	40	34
Linked with vacation care and/or reserved places	38	12	32	50	20	32	25	25	28
Other arrangements	2	3	3	1	1	3	2	5	2
No links	30	60	22	17	24	24	38	30	35
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total agencies (N)	468	470	366	115	172	37	55	20	1,703
Vacation care agencies									
Sponsoring organisation runs both vacation care and before/after school care	30	46	50	23	56	67	60	40	42
Linked with before/after school care and/or reserved places	64	30	44	65	42	33	30	60	49
Other arrangements	2	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	3
No links	4	18	2	12	2	—	10	—	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total agencies (N)	170	102	167	52	62	9	10	5	577

Notes

- Categories in this table are mutually exclusive, although agencies could nominate more than one type of arrangement. For example: 'Sponsor runs both' includes all agencies which reported that the same sponsor ran both before/after school and vacation care services, regardless of other possible links. The 'linked with ... and/or reserved places' category includes all agencies with links to provide a Year-Round-Care program and/or agencies which reserved places in before/after school care services or vacation care services, but which did not report that the same sponsor ran the other type of service. Agencies reporting 'other arrangements' did not have any of the aforementioned arrangements.
- These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b

A somewhat higher proportion of the 577 vacation care agencies (42%) reported that their sponsor also ran a before/after school care service. This is not surprising, since – unlike the before/after school care agencies – all the vacation care agencies in the census were funded under the year round care model, which gave priority to sponsors proposing to operate a before/after school care and a vacation care service (Moyle et al. 1997:8). The proportion of vacation care agencies reporting that their sponsor operated a before/after school care service was lowest in Western Australia (23%) and highest in Tasmania (67%). Australia-wide another 49% of agencies reported that they were 'linked with before/after school care services to provide a Year Round Care program' and/or that 'one or more before/after school care services reserve places in this service', with the proportions ranging from 30% in

Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory to 64% in New South Wales and 65% in Western Australia.

2.2 Hours of operation

During the period 1994 to 1997, before/after school care services funded under the Childcare Program were required to operate for 5 days a week during school terms for an unspecified number of hours (DHFS 1996b:Section 3.7.1). In February 2000, however, the Community-Based Outside School Hours Care Handbook stated that ‘Services may operate several hours before (generally 2 hours) and after school (generally 3.5 hours) and must operate 5 days a week, during school terms (FaCS 2000b:6).

Over the period 1994 to 1997, just over half of the before school care services operated for 2 or more hours a day, with the proportion increasing slightly from 54% to 57% over the period (Table 2.4)². In each of the census years only a relatively small proportion of before school care services (12%) operated for two and a half hours or more. While around three-quarters of all after school care services operated for 3 hours or more in 1994, 1996 and 1997, the proportion operating for three and a half hours or more was relatively small (for instance, 15% in 1997).

Table 2.4: Before/after school care agencies: hours of operation of before and after school care services, by type of service, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Hours of operation	1994	1996	1997
Before school care services			
Less than 1.30	20	19	17
1.30–1.59 hours	26	25	26
2.00–2.29	42	45	45
2.30 or more	12	12	12
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total services (N)	648	848	935
After school care services			
Less than 2.30	2	2	1
2.30–2.59 hours	25	22	24
3.00–3.29	59	62	60
3.30 or more	14	14	15
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total services (N)	1,343	1,592	1,692

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: 1994 = 2; 1997 = 6.
 2. The total number of before and after school care services is greater than the total number of agencies, as some before/after school care agencies provide both service types.
 3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.
- Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

² School starting and finishing times are shown in Appendix 1, to provide some indication of the actual times of day when before and after school care services operated.

In 1997, hours of operation of before school care services varied markedly across the States and Territories (Table 2.5). Both of the before school care services in the Northern Territory operated for less than 2 hours, while in the other jurisdictions the proportions operating for 2 hours or more ranged from 6% in the Australian Capital Territory to 81% in New South Wales and 86% in Western Australia. There were similar variations in the operating hours of after school care services. In Victoria, 40% of after school care services operated for 3 hours or more compared with 92% of services in New South Wales and Western Australia and 95% in Queensland.

Table 2.5: Before/after school care agencies: hours of operation of before and after school care services by type of service and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Hours of operation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before school care services									
Less than 1.30 hours	3	24	6	4	51	75	44	50	17
1.30–1.59 hours	16	38	26	11	34	—	50	50	26
2.00–2.29 hours	57	33	59	75	13	25	6	—	45
2.30 or more	24	5	10	11	1	—	—	—	12
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total services (N)	331	228	157	55	136	8	18	2	935
After school care services									
Less than 2.30 hours	1	3	1	—	1	3	—	—	1
2.30–2.59 hours	8	57	4	8	34	11	15	25	24
3.00–3.29 hours	59	35	80	75	60	78	85	65	60
3.30 or more	33	5	15	17	5	8	—	10	15
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total services (N)	466	462	366	114	172	37	55	20	1,692

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: before school care = 2; after school care = 3.
2. The total number of before and after school care services is greater than the total number of agencies, as some before/after school care agencies provide both service types.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

In the period 1994 to 1997, agencies receiving 'year round care' funding for vacation care were required to operate the service for a minimum of 8 hours per day during school holidays (DHFS 1996b:Section 3.7.1)³. In all the census years covered in this report, almost all agencies provided services for 9 or more hours a day, with the vast majority operating for 10 or more hours a day (Table 2.6). Between 1994 and 1997, the proportion of services operating for 10 or more hours a day increased slightly from 88% to 90%. This was mainly due to an increase in the proportion operating for 11 or more hours a day, from 31% to 43%.

³ The current Commonwealth Handbook states that 'vacation care services must operate a minimum of 8 hours per day, 5 days per week during school holidays (FaCS 2000b:6).

Table 2.6: Vacation care agencies: hours of operation of vacation care services, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Hours of operation	1994	1996	1997
Less than 9.00 hours	<0.5	<0.5	1
9.00–9.59 hours	13	11	9
10.00–10.59 hours	57	49	47
11.00 or more	31	40	43
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total services (N)	216	431	577

Notes

1. Percentages do not include services operating for less than 5 days per week and/or less than 8 hours per day. (4 in 1994; 8 in 1996; and 4 in 1997). Totals include these cases.
2. Number of missing cases: 1996 = 1.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

As in the case of before/after school care services, in 1997 there were considerable variations across jurisdictions in hours of operation of vacation care services. For instance, there were no vacation care services operating for 11 or more hours a day in the Australian Capital Territory, whereas in the other jurisdictions the proportion ranged from 11% in Tasmania to 56% in Queensland (Table 2.7).

Table 2.7: Vacation care agencies: hours of operation of vacation care services, by State and Territory 1997 (per cent)

Hours of operation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Less than 9.00 hours	2	—	1	4	2	—	—	—	1
9.00–9.59 hours	11	12	4	10	3	44	30	—	9
10.00–10.59 hours	43	62	39	40	56	44	70	80	47
11.00 or more	45	26	56	46	39	11	—	20	43
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total services (N)	170	102	167	52	62	9	10	5	577

Notes

1. Percentages do not include services operating for less than five days per week and/or less than eight hours per day (4 in 1997). Totals include these cases.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

2.3 Type of venue

A number of studies seeking parents' views on outside school hours care have found that parents prefer before/after school care services to be located within the premises of the child's school partly for ease of access to the service, although this may not be the child's preference (DHFS n.d:43; NOSHSA 1999:19).

In every census year, the majority of before/after school care agencies operated services in schools (Table 2.8; Figure 2.1). Between 1994 and 1997 there was a small increase in the proportion of before/after school care agencies operating services in a school—from 67% to

71%. In each year, almost all agencies funded for both before school care and after school care operated these services in the one type of venue; only 1% of agencies operated one type of service in one venue – for example, a before school care service in a community building – and the other type of service in another venue – for example, an after school care service in a school.

It is important to note, however, that not all the children using a before/after school care service operating in a school were attending that school. The 1997 Census, for instance, showed that 15% of agencies with services operating in schools provided transport for children using the service, indicating that some children using the service attended a school some distance from where the service operated. In the same census year, a considerably higher proportion of before/after school care agencies (46%) with services operating in locations other than schools provided transport for children using these services.

Agencies operating services in schools were less likely to pay rent than agencies operating services in other types of venues. In 1997, for example, 64% of agencies with before/after school services operating in schools paid no rent, compared with 50% of agencies with services operating in other types of venues.

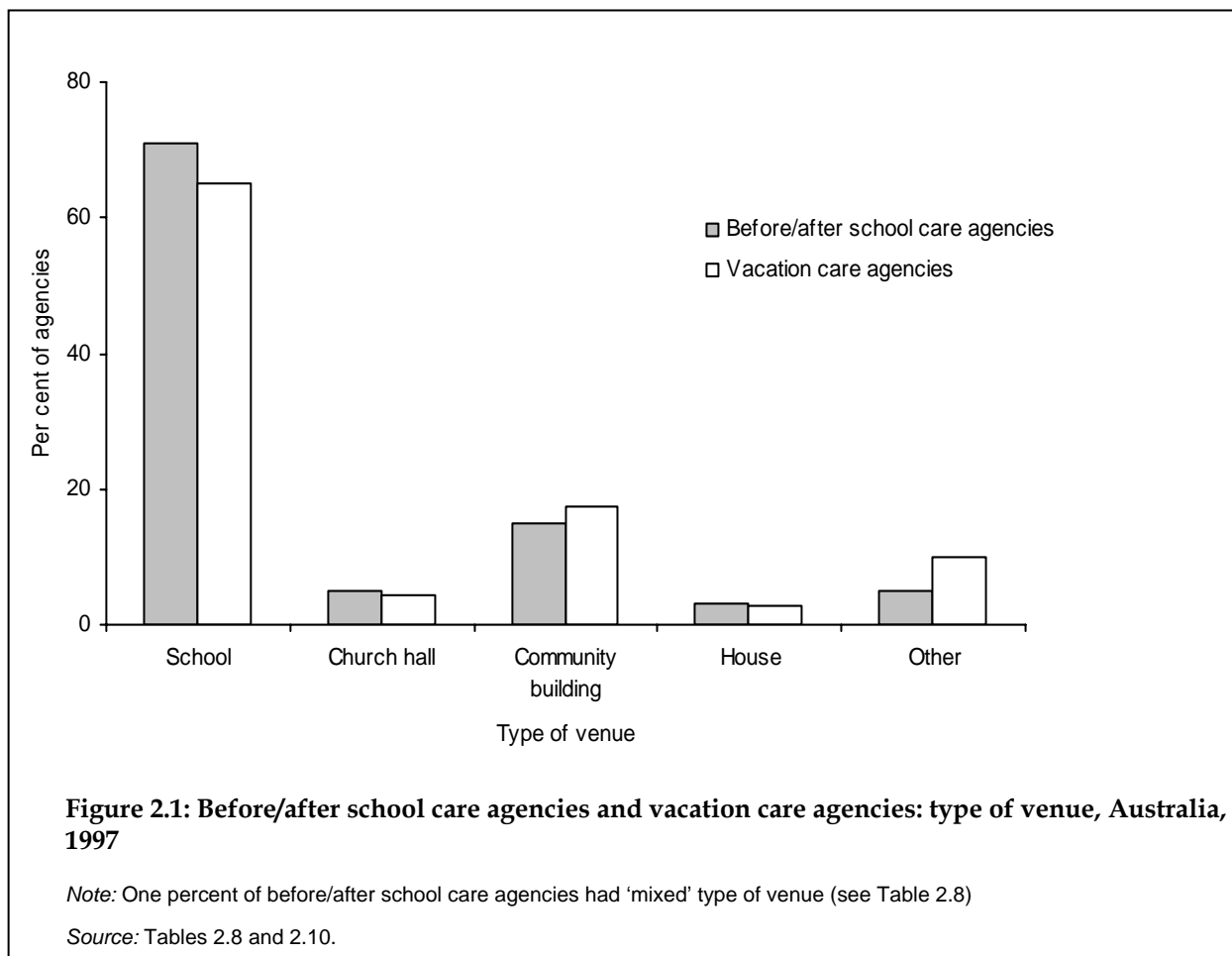
Table 2.8: Before/after school care agencies: type of venue, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Type of venue	1994	1996	1997
School	67	72	71
Church hall	6	5	5
Community building	13	12	15
House	n.a.	n.a.	3
Other	10	10	5
Mixed	1	1	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	1,353	1,601	1,703

Notes

1. Classification 'community building' appeared as 'community centre' in the 1994 and 1996 CP Censuses.
2. Classification 'house' not included in the 1994 or 1996 CP Censuses.
3. Classification 'mixed' includes agencies providing before school care and after school care in different venues. For example, before school care in a community building, and after school care in a school.
4. Number of missing cases: 1994 = 1; 1996 = 4; 1997 = 4.
5. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.



While Australia-wide in 1997, more than two-thirds of before/after school care agencies were operating services in schools, there was considerable variation between the States and Territories in the distribution of service venues (Table 2.9). In the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia the large majority of before/after school care agencies (91% and 90% respectively) operated services in schools. In contrast, the majority of before/after school care agencies in Western Australia (71%) operated services in other types of venues; just over half (56%) of all before/after school care agencies operated services in 'community buildings'.

Table 2.9: Before/after school care agencies: type of venue, by State and Territory 1997 (per cent)

Type of venue	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
School	57	81	81	29	90	54	91	70	71
Church hall	5	4	7	6	—	5	—	—	5
Community building	24	8	7	56	4	22	2	20	15
House	4	3	2	4	4	8	—	—	3
Other	8	3	3	5	2	8	6	10	5
Mixed	1	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	468	470	366	115	172	37	55	20	1,703

Notes

1. Classification 'mixed' includes agencies providing before school care and after school care in different venues. For example, before school care in a community building, and after school care in a school.
2. Number of missing cases = 4.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

As with before/after school care services, in each of the census years, around two-thirds of vacation care services operated in schools (Table 2.10). Community buildings and 'other locations and houses' were the next most common venue, with church halls providing a venue for only 5% of services. Vacation care agencies operating services in schools were also less likely to pay rent than agencies operating services in other types of venues. In 1997 Australia-wide, 38% of agencies operating services in school paid rent, compared with 56% of agencies operating services in types of venues.

Table 2.10: Vacation care agencies: type of venue, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Type of venue	1994	1996	1997
School	66	68	65
Church hall	5	5	5
Community building	15	14	18
House	n.a.	n.a.	3
Other	13	14	10
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total services (N)	216	431	577

Notes

1. Classification 'community building' appeared as 'community centre' in the 1994 and 1996 CP Censuses.
2. Classification 'house' not included in the 1994 or 1996 CP Censuses.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

Similarly to before/after school care services, the distribution of vacation care venues varied markedly across the jurisdictions. In South Australia in 1997, almost all vacation care services operated in schools (90%), while school-based venues for vacation care services were in a minority in Tasmania (44%), the Northern Territory (40%) and Western Australia (21%) (Table 2.11). Community buildings were the most common venue for vacation care services in Western Australia; 42% of services operated in this type of venue.

Table 2.11: Vacation care agencies: type of venue, by State and Territory 1997 (per cent)

Type of venue	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
School	61	61	77	21	90	44	70	40	65
Church hall	5	1	7	10	—	—	—	—	5
Community building	19	26	8	42	2	22	30	—	18
House	3	2	3	2	5	—	—	—	3
Other	12	10	4	25	3	33	—	60	10
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total services (N)	170	102	167	52	62	9	10	5	577

Note: These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

2.4 Fees charged for services

Information on sessional fees charged by before/after school care service agencies – for before school and after school care sessions – was collected in each of the Census years covered in this report. In examining trends in before/after school care fees, however, it is important to note that in 1994 and 1996 data on ‘fees’ refer to ‘maximum fees’, while in 1997 these data refer to ‘regular fees’. The question was changed in 1997, since testing showed that providers rarely charged a ‘maximum fee’ and were unfamiliar with the concept. It was considered that the term ‘regular fee’ reflected the type of fee that most users pay.

Information on vacation care fees was obtained in all census years. Questions on vacation care fees were very similar in the three Censuses, so that these data are broadly comparable. Daily vacation care fees are examined in this report, as reflecting children’s attendance patterns (see Section 3.3).

In each census year, fees charged for after school care services were higher than fees charged for before school care services, reflecting differences in hours of operation as shown in Table 2.4. Between 1994 and 1996, average fees for before school care and vacation care rose more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI). After school care fees increased by 10%, before school care fees by 11% and vacation care fees by 18% (Table 2.12), compared with an increase of 7% in the CPI over the same period (ABS 1998a:5). In 1997, ‘regular fees’ for before/after school care services were 1% higher than ‘maximum fees’ in 1996 and vacation care fees were the same, compared with a slight fall in the CPI of less than 1%.

Table 2.12: Before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies: Average sessional fees charged for before and after school care services and average daily fees charged for vacation care services, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997 (\$)

Type of agency	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Average Sessional Fees			
Before school care services	3.46	3.83	3.87
After school care services	5.29	5.83	5.89
Vacation care agencies			
Daily Fees			
Vacation care services	11.00	13.00	13.00
Consumer price index	111.9	120.1	119.7

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: 1994 before/after school care = 8; 1994 vacation care = 3, 1997 vacation care = 9.
2. For before/after school care, 1994 and 1996 data refer to maximum fees charged, 1997 data refer to regular fees.
3. Vacation care agencies with no daily fee charged are not included in this table.
4. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

Average fees for outside school hours care services varied between the States and Territories in 1997. Fees for after school care and vacation care services were highest in the two Territories and lowest in South Australia. A different pattern was found for before school care services (Table 2.13 and 2.14).

Average sessional fees for before school care were highest in New South Wales (\$4.57) and lowest in South Australia (\$2.80) and the Northern Territory (\$2.00). Just over half the service providers in South Australia (55%) charged less than \$3.00 per session for before school care, as did both the service providers in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory, however, had the highest average after school care sessional fees (\$7.93), followed closely by the Australian Capital Territory (\$7.85). All service providers in the Australian Capital Territory and almost all in the Northern Territory (95%) charged \$6 or more for an after school care session. The lowest average sessional fees for after school care were in South Australia (\$4.97).

Table 2.13: Before/after school care agencies: sessional fees charged for before and after school care services, by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Fees charged per session	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before school care services									
\$0–\$2.99	4	16	20	9	55	—	6	100	18
\$3–\$3.99	18	32	43	38	31	50	33	—	29
\$4–\$4.99	33	35	25	25	7	13	22	—	28
\$5–\$5.99	29	11	8	16	5	38	33	—	17
\$6+	15	7	3	11	1	—	6	—	9
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Average sessional fee (\$)	4.57	3.74	3.46	4.05	2.80	4.15	4.07	2.00	3.87
Total services (N)	331	228	157	55	136	8	18	2	935
After school care services									
\$0–\$3.99	5	6	5	6	30	14	—	—	8
\$4–\$4.99	5	11	17	6	9	8	—	—	10
\$5–\$5.99	15	30	31	27	20	24	—	5	24
\$6–\$6.99	29	44	34	28	26	27	11	15	33
\$7+	46	9	12	32	14	27	89	80	26
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Average sessional fee (\$)	6.48	5.53	5.51	6.18	4.97	6.27	7.85	7.93	5.89
Total services (N)	466	462	366	114	172	37	55	20	1,692

Notes

1. The total number of before and after school care services is greater than the total number of agencies, as some before/after school care agencies provide both service types.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

A somewhat similar pattern was found in relation to average fees for vacation care services (Table 2.14). Average daily fees were highest in the Australian Capital Territory (\$22) and the Northern Territory (\$21) and lowest in New South Wales and South Australia (\$12 in each State). All service providers in the Territories had daily vacation care fees of \$15 or more.

Table 2.14: Vacation care agencies: daily fees charged for vacation care services, by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Fees charged per day	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Vacation care services									
< \$10	12	7	5	4	5	—	—	—	7
\$10–\$14.99	58	54	77	24	75	22	—	—	60
\$15+	30	39	18	73	18	78	100	100	33
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Average daily fee (\$)	12.00	14.00	13.00	16.00	12.00	17.00	22.00	21.00	13.00
Total services (N)	170	102	167	52	62	9	10	5	577

Notes

1. There were 9 vacation care agencies that charged a fee other than a daily fee. Three vacation care agencies did not charge any fees. Percentages are calculated minus these cases. Totals include these cases.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

A slightly different picture emerges in relation to before school care services if hours of care are taken into account when comparing fees across jurisdictions (Table 2.15). While average sessional fees for before school care were highest in New South Wales, average fees per hour were highest in Tasmania. Similarly, South Australia had the lowest sessional fees for before school care (apart from the Northern Territory), but average fees per hour were lower in Queensland than in South Australia.

Table 2.15: Before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies: standardised hourly fees for before school care, after school care and vacation care services, by type of service and State and Territory 1997 (per cent)

Hourly fees	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Before school care services									
0–\$1.99	28	29	50	40	35	—	—	100	33
\$2–2.99	54	53	46	49	45	25	39	—	50
\$3–3.99	16	14	3	9	19	50	50	—	14
\$4+	2	4	1	2	1	25	11	—	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Average hourly fee (\$)	2.28	2.26	1.86	2.09	2.13	3.49	2.98	1.42	2.19
Total services (N)	331	228	157	55	136	8	18	2	935
After school care services									
0–\$1.99	37	36	62	43	56	43	—	15	43
\$2–2.99	58	60	35	51	42	38	69	55	51
\$3–3.99	6	3	3	6	2	14	31	25	5
\$4+	—	<0.5	1	—	—	5	—	5	<0.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Average hourly fee (\$)	2.06	2.03	1.80	2.05	1.73	2.12	2.67	2.61	1.99
Total services (N)	466	462	366	114	172	37	55	20	1,692
Vacation care agencies									
Vacation care services									
0–0.49c	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	<0.5
0.50–0.99	23	10	27	2	22	—	—	—	19
\$1–1.49	58	58	59	43	71	22	—	—	56
\$1.50–1.99	14	21	9	35	7	44	11	40	16
\$2+	4	11	5	18	—	33	89	60	9
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Average hourly fee (\$)	1.19	1.37	1.19	1.52	1.17	1.76	2.20	2.07	1.28
Total services (N)	170	102	162	52	62	9	10	5	577

Notes

1. There were 9 vacation care agencies that charged a fee other than a daily fee. Three vacation care agencies did not charge any fees. Percentages are calculated minus these cases. Totals include these cases.
2. Average hourly fees are calculated for before/after school care by dividing the total hours per session by the sessional fee. Average hourly fees for vacation care services are calculated for agencies with daily fees by dividing the total hours per day by the daily fee.
3. The total number of before and after school care services is greater than the total number of agencies, as some before/after school care agencies provide both service types.
4. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

In 1997, the rate of Childcare Assistance available to parents using outside school hours care services was lower than the long day care rate and the payment was more stringently means-tested (Moyle et al. 1997:8). At the time of the 1997 Census, parents eligible for maximum Family Allowance payment (then called the Family Payment) were eligible for Childcare Assistance of 73 cents per hour per child, while parents eligible for more than the

minimum Family Allowance payment (but less than the maximum) were eligible for Childcare Assistance of 39 cents per hour. All parents with children in work-related care – including those receiving Childcare Assistance – could also claim the Childcare Rebate. Average hourly fees for outside school hours care services in 1997 were considerably higher than the maximum rate of Childcare Assistance, particularly for some types of services in some jurisdictions (Table 2.15). In 1997 the proportion of agencies charging the equivalent of an hourly fee of 73 cents per hour or less for outside school hours care services was very small – less than 0.5% for before school care services and 2% for after school care and vacation care services.

As noted in Chapter 1, new funding arrangements for CP-funded outside school hours care services were put in place in April 1998; under these arrangements, all previous Commonwealth outside school hours care funding was replaced by a new Childcare Assistance payment for children at school. This payment is higher than the previous rate of Childcare Assistance for children using outside school hours services and has a more generous means-test (AIHW 1999:117). Families with children in work-related care (see Chapter 3) are also eligible to claim the Childcare Rebate for their out-of-pocket child care costs. From 1 July 2000, Childcare Assistance and the Childcare Rebate will be merged into a new income-tested Child Care Benefit, which will be higher than the two current payments combined (AIHW 1999:101).

At the time of the 1999 Childcare Census, the maximum Childcare Assistance rate for children not at school was \$1.99 per hour. It will be interesting to examine the relationship between outside school hours care fees and the new Childcare Assistance payment, when the 1999 census data become available.

3 Children

The CP Census collected information about various characteristics of children using outside school hours care agencies in some or all of the census years covered in this report. This chapter examines data on the number of children using outside school hours care services, the types of services used, the amount of time children spent in care, their age, family type, whether or not they had special needs, the workforce status of their parents and the receipt of Childcare Assistance. For before/after school care agencies, the CP Census included all children attending services in the census reference week and all children booked into services, but who were absent in that week.

3.1 Type of service used

The CP Census collected information from before/after school care agencies on whether children attended before school care only, after school care only or both before and after school care services. Before/after school care agencies with specific links to vacation care services (see Section 2.1) were asked how many children using the before/after school care service attended the 'linked' vacation care service in the previous vacation. Vacation care agencies with specific links to before/after school care services, however, were not asked how many children also attended the 'linked' before/after school care service.

It is difficult to assess changes over time in the proportions of children attending before school care only, after school care only or both types of service, for two reasons. Firstly, the relatively higher proportion of children recorded as absent in 1994 (6%), compared with 1996 (3%) and 1997 (1%) may affect the distribution of attendance patterns. Secondly, it is not clear whether the scope of the data collection was the same in all three census years. In every census year, some agencies funded by the CP to provide only one of these services – either before school or after school care – also recorded children's attendance at a before school care or after school care service that was not funded by the CP. It is not known, however, whether this occurred to the same extent in each of the census years. For these reasons, only 1997 data on children's patterns of attendance are examined here.

In each jurisdiction in 1997, the majority of children in before/after school care agencies used after school care only, although this varied from 66% in New South Wales to 95% in Tasmania (Table 3.1). The proportion of children who used both before and after school care was relatively high in New South Wales and South Australia (25% and 21% respectively). These two States also had the highest proportion of children using before school care only (9%). In contrast, in Tasmania only 1% of children used before school care only, and the Northern Territory had no children in this category. In these two jurisdictions, less than 5% of children used both before and after school care services.

Table 3.1: Before/after school care agencies: children using before/after school care services, by type of service, by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Type of service	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care services									
Before school care only	9	7	5	6	9	1	4	—	7
After school care only	66	79	83	81	70	95	87	97	76
Both before and after school care	25	14	12	13	21	4	9	3	17
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children present (number)	26,916	25,493	18,183	5,305	10,252	2,152	3,016	919	92,236
Children absent (number)	554	181	122	73	36	16	48	7	1,037
Total children (N)	27,525	25,687	18,305	5,378	10,288	2,168	3,064	926	93,341

Notes

1. Number of missing cases before/after school care = 68. Percentages exclude missing cases and children absent in the reference week.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

As noted previously, there were significant changes in the wording of the question on links between before/after school care services and vacation care services in the three Censuses under review (see Section 2.1). For this reason, it is not possible to examine trends in the numbers of children using before/after school care services who had also attended a 'linked' vacation care service in the previous vacation period.

In 1997, before/after school care agencies who stated that they were 'linked with vacation care to provide a Year Round Care Program' or that 'our sponsoring organisation (e.g. school etc) runs this before/after school care service and vacation care' were asked how many children using the before/after school care service had also attended this vacation care service in the previous vacation period. Australia-wide, 48% of agencies reported that 50% or more of the children using before/after school care services had attended the vacation care service.

3.2 Number of children per agency

The number of children using services per agency in 1997 is presented in Table 3.2. Among before/after school care agencies Australia-wide, 61% had less than 55 children using services in the reference week, with almost a third (32%) having less than 35 children using services; the corresponding proportions for vacation care agencies were 67% and 32%.

The number of children using services per agency varied considerably across jurisdictions. For instance, while 21% of before/after school care agencies overall had a relatively large number of children (75 or more) using services in the reference week, the proportions ranged from 5% in the Northern Territory to 27% in New South Wales and South Australia. Similarly, 29% of vacation care agencies in Victoria had 75 or more children using services in the reference week, while there were no vacation care agencies in Tasmania with 75 or more children – or even 55 or more – using services in the reference week.

Only a small proportion of before/after school care agencies or vacation care agencies had less than 15 children using services in the reference week. There were no before/after school care agencies in the Australian Capital Territory falling into this category, while in other jurisdictions the proportions ranged from 3% of agencies in Victoria to 8% in Tasmania. When these data are examined by geographic indicator using the RRRRA geographic classification (DHS 1994), they show that 44% of the before/after school care agencies with less than 15 children using services were located in rural areas.

Table 3.2: Number of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services per agency, by type of agency and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Number of children per agency	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Less than 15	5	3	6	5	6	8	—	5	5
15-34	25	24	31	30	26	41	18	30	27
35-54	26	33	29	34	23	22	45	25	29
55-74	17	20	17	18	19	14	15	35	18
75-99	14	11	10	7	8	3	11	5	11
100+	13	9	7	6	19	14	11	—	10
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	468	470	366	115	172	37	55	20	1,703
Vacation care agencies									
Less than 15	5	2	7	—	2	33	—	—	4
15-34	33	12	37	19	29	22	40	—	28
35-54	36	30	37	42	29	44	30	40	35
55-74	17	27	11	23	26	—	20	40	19
75-99	2	21	5	6	10	—	10	20	8
100+	6	8	4	10	5	—	—	—	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	170	102	167	52	62	9	10	5	577

Notes

1. Proportions for vacation care for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory should be treated with caution due to the small number of cases involved.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

3.3 Time spent in care

During the period 1994 to 1997, the CP Census collected data on both hours and days of attendance of children in before/after school care services, while only days of attendance were recorded for children attending vacation care. A discussion of trends between 1994 and 1997 in the hours children spent in before/after school care is not undertaken here, however, as a change in the processing of data on children booked into before school care services, but who were absent, make these data non-comparable.

While there is no agreed definition of 'full-time use' for before school care or for after school care, it is clear that the majority of children used services for relatively short periods of time (Figure 3.1). In Australia in 1997, less than half of children (44%) were in before school care for 5 hours or more in the reference week, while only 24% of children were in after school care for 10 hours or more (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Before/after school care agencies: hours children spent in before/after school care during the census week, by type of service, State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Hours spent in care	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before school care services									
2 hrs/week or less	27	39	35	22	50	62	31	3	34
3–4 hrs/week	20	24	23	18	26	22	26	7	22
5+ hrs/week	53	37	43	60	23	16	43	90	44
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
After school care services									
2 hrs/week or less	12	24	15	6	30	35	11	4	18
3–4 hrs/week	24	26	26	25	27	25	22	10	25
5–9 hrs/week	35	33	34	35	30	28	34	27	34
10+ hrs/week	29	17	25	34	13	12	33	58	24
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Children absent during reference week (number)	554	181	122	73	36	16	48	7	1037
Total children (N)	27,525	25,687	18,305	5,378	10,288	2,168	3,064	926	93,341

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: before/after school care = 68. Percentages exclude absent children and missing cases. Totals include absent children and missing cases.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.
3. Note that not all children attend both before and after school care (Table 3.1). The total number attending before school care and the total number attending after school care are not shown in Tables 3.3 and 3.4 due to minor inconsistencies in coding children who were absent.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

The patterns of children's hours of attendance, however, showed substantial differences between jurisdictions (Table 3.3). For example, in the Northern Territory, 90% of children were in before school care for 5 or more hours in the reference week, and over half (58%) of children were in after school care for 10 hours or more. In South Australia and Tasmania, in contrast, children tended to use before/after school care for relatively shorter time periods. Of children using before school care, only 23% in South Australia and 16% in Tasmania spent 5 hours or more in care in the reference week, while only 13% of children using after school care in South Australia and 12% in Tasmania were in care for 10 hours or more.

The large proportion of children in the Northern Territory who spent relatively long hours in after school care is probably related to the gap between the generally early finishing times of primary schools in this jurisdiction (around 2.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.) and the time parents finish work (see Table A1.1). However, the equally early starting time for primary schools in the Northern Territory (around 8.20 a.m. to 8.50 a.m.) does not explain the high proportion of children who spent relatively long hours in before school care.

An examination of children's attendance patterns by days of the week shows a similar picture. Most children did not attend before school care or after school care on every day of the reference week; only 29% of children in before school care and 19% of children in after school care used the service for 5 days (Table 3.4). Children using services in the Northern Territory were more likely to have attended for 5 days – 76% of children in before school care and 53% in after school care. Those in South Australia and Tasmania were less likely have attended for 5 days; 15% of children in before school care services in Tasmania and 21% in South Australia spent 5 days in care in the reference week, while 11% of children in after school care services in Tasmania and 13% in South Australia used the service for the entire week.

Table 3.4: Before/after school care agencies: days children spent in before/after school care during the census week by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Days spent in care	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before school care services									
1 day	20	27	25	19	30	25	16	3	24
2 days	18	17	20	16	20	23	16	3	18
3 days	16	16	16	18	16	21	14	7	16
4 days	12	15	14	17	13	17	13	10	13
5 days	36	24	25	30	21	15	40	76	29
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
After school care services									
1 day	25	36	29	29	37	44	25	12	31
2 days	22	22	22	20	24	21	19	11	22
3 days	17	16	16	17	15	14	15	10	16
4 days	12	12	13	13	10	10	13	14	12
5 days	24	14	20	21	13	11	28	53	19
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Children absent during reference week (number)	554	181	122	73	36	16	48	7	1,037
Total children (N)	27,525	25,687	18,305	5,378	10,288	2,168	3,064	926	93,341

Note:

1. Number of missing cases: before/after school care = 68. Percentages exclude absent children and missing cases. Totals include absent children and missing cases.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.
3. Note that not all children attend both before and after school care (Table 3.1). The total number attending before school care and the total number attending after school care are not shown in Tables 3.3 and 3.4 due to minor inconsistencies in coding children who were absent.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

Analysis of the 1997 data for children attending before/after school care services indicate that children attending for shorter hours per week generally attended for fewer days per week, although there was a small group of children who attended for a short time over several days.

Similarly to those in before/after school care services, most children in vacation care were not in care 'full-time' – 5 days in the reference week (Table 3.5). Between 1994 and 1997, the proportion attending for 5 days fell slightly, from 21% to 18% of children in vacation care. In 1997, 52% of children were in care for 2 days or less.

Table 3.5: Vacation care agencies: days children spent in vacation care during the census week, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Days spent in care	1994	1996	1997
<1 day	3	2	2
1 day	24	25	27
2 days	23	23	23
3 days	17	17	17
4 days	12	12	13
5 days	21	21	18
Total children (N)	12,226	21,976	28,289

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: 1994 = 17; 1996 = 11. 52 children in 1996 and 2 children in 1997 were recorded as absent. Percentages exclude absent children and missing cases. Totals include absent children and missing cases.

2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

Patterns of attendance in vacation care across jurisdictions were similar to those for before/after school care; 67% of children in vacation care in the Northern Territory attended for 5 days in the reference week, compared with 12% in Tasmania and 13% in South Australia (Table 3.6).

For both before/after school care services and vacation care services, when hours of attendance are examined in relation to the age of children, the data show that there was a slight tendency for younger children to be in care for fewer hours per week.

Table 3.6: Vacation care agencies: days children spent in vacation care during the census week, by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Days spent in care	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<1 day	2	3	2	1	3	5	2	—	2
1 day	25	32	25	22	32	24	20	5	27
2 days	23	25	22	22	26	28	23	11	23
3 days	18	15	17	16	15	23	14	12	17
4 days	13	9	12	30	11	8	14	6	13
5 days	19	16	21	9	13	12	27	67	18
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)	8,056	6,377	6,928	2,783	3,159	259	439	288	28,289

Notes

1. 2 children were recorded as absent. Percentages exclude absent children and missing cases. Totals include absent children and missing cases.

2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

3.4 Age of children

As noted earlier (see Introduction), outside school hours care services are provided mainly for children of primary school age. The age distributions of children using before/after

school care and vacation care services were very similar and varied little in the years under discussion.

In each census year, most children using outside school hours care services were aged between 5 and 10 years (Table 3.7). The highest proportion (over one-third) of children were aged 7–8 years, that is, children in the lower years of primary school, but not the youngest primary school age children. Children older than 10 years were less likely to attend outside school hours care services than other primary school age children. While the ‘need’ for care is probably as great for older children as for younger children, there is some evidence that older children are more reluctant to attend such services (Gifford 1991:6; Consumer Contact 1996). Only a very small proportion of children in outside school hours care services were very young – under 5 years of age. These very young children would not have been attending full-time school, but were probably attending preschools located in schools (AIHW 1997:108, 357).

Table 3.7: Age of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services, by type of agency, 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Type of agency	Age	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies				
	<5	<0.5	<0.5	1
	5–6	27	28	27
	7–8	34	34	35
	9–10	27	26	26
	11+	11	11	11
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)		74,772	91,564	93,341
Vacation care agencies				
	<5	1	1	1
	5–6	27	27	27
	7–8	34	35	35
	9–10	26	26	26
	11+	12	12	11
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)		12,226	21,976	28,289

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: 1996 before/after school care = 87, vacation care = 13; 1997 before/after school care = 88, vacation care = 38.
2. Double counting may occur for children in before/after school care and vacation care services.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

There were some variations between the States and Territories in the age distributions of children using outside school hours care services in 1997 (Table 3.8). In Tasmania, for example, the proportion of children using before/after school care services who were aged less than 5 years was 3% and vacation care 2% compared with 1% for both groups of children Australia-wide. The proportions of children using before/after school care services in Queensland and Western Australia who were very young were also higher than Australia-wide. The proportions of older children (11 years and over) attending before/after school care services and vacation care services in Queensland were relatively high (14% in

both), while in the Northern Territory the proportions were relatively low (7% and 9% respectively).

Table 3.8: Age of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services, by type of agency and State and Territory 1997 (per cent)

Type of service	Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies										
	<5	<0.5	<0.5	1	2	<0.5	3	<0.5	<0.5	1
	5–6	31	26	24	26	27	25	29	34	27
	7–8	36	36	33	36	32	36	36	37	35
	9–10	25	27	27	26	27	26	26	21	26
	11+	8	10	14	10	14	10	9	7	11
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)		27,525	25,687	18,305	5,378	10,288	2,168	3,064	926	93,341
Vacation care agencies										
	<5	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	<0.5	1
	5–6	30	26	24	24	29	29	30	27	27
	7–8	37	36	35	33	34	36	32	39	35
	9–10	24	27	27	27	25	23	27	25	26
	11+	9	11	14	15	12	10	10	9	11
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)		8,056	6,377	6,928	2,783	3,159	259	439	288	28,289

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: before/after school care = 88, vacation care = 38.
2. Double counting may occur for children in before/after school care and vacation care services.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

3.5 Children with special (additional) needs

A number of programs and services for children and parents with additional needs are funded under the Childcare Program. Sole parents, for example, wanting to enter or return to the labour force are assisted by the CP through the Jobs, Education and Training Scheme (JET) in finding a place in a CP-funded child care service (AIHW 1999:99). Another program, the Supplementary Services Program (SUPS) provides funding to integrate children with 'special' needs – such as children with a disability – into child care services and to provide culturally and developmentally appropriate programs for these children (AIHW 1998). Parents and children with additional needs are also given priority of access to CP-funded child care services (AIHW 1995:137).

One-parent families

Information on the family type (i.e. sole parent or other) of children using outside school hours care services was collected in the census of before/after school care agencies for 1994,

1996 and 1997, but not in the census of vacation care agencies. The percentage of children from one-parent families using before/after school care services remained virtually unchanged between 1994 and 1997 at just under a quarter of all children using services (Table 3.9). In each of the Census years, the proportion of children from one-parent families using before/after school care services was somewhat higher than the proportion in the general population. The percentage of children in the Australian population in 1996 who were from one-parent families was 17% for children 5–9 years and 18% for children 10–14 years (ABS 1998b).

Table 3.9: Before/after school care agencies: percentage of children using before/after school care services from one-parent families, Australia, 1994, 1996 and 1997

	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care	23	22	22

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: 1994 = 1; 1996 = 397; 1997 = 397.
 2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.
- Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

In 1997, the percentage of children from one-parent families using before/after school care varied across jurisdictions, ranging from 18% in the Australian Capital Territory to 28% in Western Australia (Table 3.10). In relation to the national population of children aged 5–14 years, there was little variation by State and Territory in the proportion from one-parent families, except that in Victoria the proportion was noticeably lower than in other jurisdictions (16% in 1996) (ABS 1998b).

Table 3.10: Percentage of children using before/after school care services from one-parent families, and percentage of children in the total population from one-parent families, by State and Territory 1997

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
CP-funded agencies									
Before/after school care	22	21	23	28	23	19	18	23	22
ABS Census of Population and Housing									
Total children 5–9	18	15	17	17	17	18	(18)	(18)	17
Total children 10–14	17	17	17	18	18	19	(22)	(22)	18

Notes

1. Number of missing cases before/after school care = 397.
 2. The ABS Census sample household file does not provide separate information for the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.
 3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.
- Source: FaCS 1999b; ABS 1998b.

Children with special needs

The CP Census collects data on ‘children with special (additional) needs’, which it defines as children and/or parents with a disability, children at risk of abuse or neglect, Indigenous children and children from a non-English-speaking background. Between 1994 and 1997, there was little change in the proportion of children using before/after school care services or vacation care services who had special needs (Table 3.11). In every census year, the

proportion of children using before/after school care services who had special needs was greater than the proportion using vacation care services; for example, in 1997, 14% of children using before/after school care services had special needs compared with 11% of children using vacation care services. Most children with 'special needs' were from a non-English speaking background; for instance, in 1997, 11% of children in before/after school care and 7% in vacation care were in this category. It is important to note, however, that a child may be in more than one 'special needs category', for example, be from a non-English speaking background and have a disability.

In examining any changes over time in the proportion of children attending before/after school care or vacation care who were from a non-English speaking background, it is important to note the definitional changes in the CP questionnaires in the three census years. In 1994 the CP Census question on special needs (cultural background of child) had the response '*Non-English-speaking ethnic background. Include children where one or both parents have a first language other than English*', while in 1996 the response was '*Child whose parent(s) were born overseas in a country where the first language is not English*', and in 1997 '*Child with a culturally diverse background including those with a parent born overseas in a country where the first language is not English*'.

Table 3.11: Percentage of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services with special (additional) needs, by type of agency, 1994, 1996 and 1997

Special needs category	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Child with a disability	2	2	2
Parent with a disability	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Child at risk	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Indigenous	2	1	1
NESB	10	10	11
Any special need^(a)	13	13	14
Vacation care agencies			
Child with a disability	3	2	2
Parent with a disability	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Child at risk	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Indigenous	1	1	1
NESB	5	6	7
Any special need^(a)	9	11	11

(a) Percentages do not add to totals since some children may be included in more than one additional needs category.

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: 1994 before/after school care = 2; 1996 before/after school care = 125, vacation care = 189.
2. Double counting may occur for children in before/after school care and vacation care services.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

The proportions of children using before/after school care and vacation care who had special needs varied somewhat between the States and Territories in 1997 (Table 3.12). Some of these differences related to the population composition of each particular jurisdiction (AIHW 1998).

The proportion of children in care who were indigenous was largest in the Northern Territory – 7% of children in before/after school care and 4% of children in vacation care. This reflects the Australian Bureau of Statistics findings that the Northern Territory has the highest proportion of children aged 5–12 years who were Indigenous (40% in 1997) (ABS 1996). It is important to note, however, that care must be taken when comparing data from these two different sources (AIHW 2000).

The highest proportions of children using before/after school care and vacation care services who were from a non-English speaking background were in New South Wales (16% and 11% respectively), while the lowest proportions were in Tasmania (3% and 1% respectively). According to the ABS 1996 Population Census, children from a non-English speaking background (using the 1997 CP definition) were under-represented in CP-funded services. In 1996, 20% of Australian children aged 5-12 years had at least one parent born in a non-English speaking country (ABS 1999). There has been concern for some time that children from a non-English speaking background are less likely to use outside school hours care services than other children (VICSEG 1988).

Table 3.12: Percentage of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services with special (additional) needs by type of agency and State and Territory, 1997

Special needs category	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Child with a disability	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	2
Parent with a disability	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Child at risk	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Indigenous	1	<0.5	2	2	1	1	1	7	1
NESB	16	13	6	6	5	3	10	4	11
Any special need^(a)	19	15	10	11	9	7	13	13	14
Vacation care agencies									
Child with a disability	2	2	2	3	2	6	<0.5	3	2
Parent with a disability	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	1	<0.5	—	<0.5
Child at risk	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	—	<0.5	—	<0.5
Indigenous	<0.5	<0.5	1	5	<0.5	—	1	4	1
NESB	11	8	4	6	4	1	7	5	7
Any special need^(a)	14	11	7	14	7	7	9	11	11

(a) Percentages do not add to totals since some children may be included in more than one additional needs category.

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for children in before/after school care and vacation care services.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

Analysis of the 1997 data reveals that children with special needs were not distributed evenly across agencies. Some outside school hours care agencies had no children with particular types of special needs attending and among those agencies who had such children, the number of these as a proportion of all children attending services varied.

For example, in all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory only a minority of before/after school care agencies had any Indigenous children using services. In the Northern Territory, 80% of agencies had at least one Indigenous child in care (Table 3.13). In a very small proportion of before/after school care agencies in four States – New South Wales,

Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia – more than half the children using services were Indigenous. No data are presented here for Indigenous children using vacation care services because of the small numbers involved.

Table 3.13: Percentage of Indigenous children using before/after school care services per agency, by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Percentage of Indigenous children per agency	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
None	82	93	72	80	81	84	73	20	82
0.01–<5%	13	6	16	10	11	11	24	30	12
5–<10%	4	1	6	5	6	3	2	20	4
10–<20%	1	<0.5	4	3	1	—	2	25	2
20–<50%	<0.5	—	2	1	—	3	—	5	1
50%+	<0.5	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	<0.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	468	470	366	115	172	37	55	20	1,703

Note: These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

A high proportion of before/after school care agencies had at least one child with a disability using services in 1997 (Table 3.14). Australia-wide, 42% of agencies had at least one child with a disability. In three States there were some before/after school care agencies where half or more children in care had a disability; these agencies were in Victoria (less than 1% of agencies), South Australia (1% of agencies) and Tasmania (3% of agencies). Of those agencies in the Northern Territory that had at least one child with a disability, none had more than 10% of children in care having a disability.

A somewhat similar picture was found for vacation care agencies, with 44% of agencies having at least one child with a disability using services (Table 3.14). However, there were no agencies where more than half the children using services had a disability.

Table 3.14: Percentage of children with a disability using before/after school care and vacation care services per agency, by type of agency and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Percentage of children with a disability per agency	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
None	55	64	61	56	51	46	49	60	58
0.01–<5%	28	29	22	27	30	38	36	25	28
5–<10%	13	6	11	12	13	5	13	15	11
10–<20%	3	1	5	3	3	8	2	—	3
20–<50%	1	<0.5	1	2	2	—	—	—	1
50%+	—	<0.5	—	—	1	3	—	—	<0.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	468	470	366	115	172	37	55	20	1,703
Vacation care agencies									
None	59	53	57	46	50	56	90	20	56
0.01–<5%	22	35	23	37	34	—	10	40	27
5–<10%	14	8	13	8	11	22	—	40	12
10–<20%	4	3	5	8	3	11	—	—	4
20–<50%	1	1	2	2	2	11	—	—	2
50%+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	170	102	167	52	62	9	10	5	577

Note: These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

3.6 Work-related care

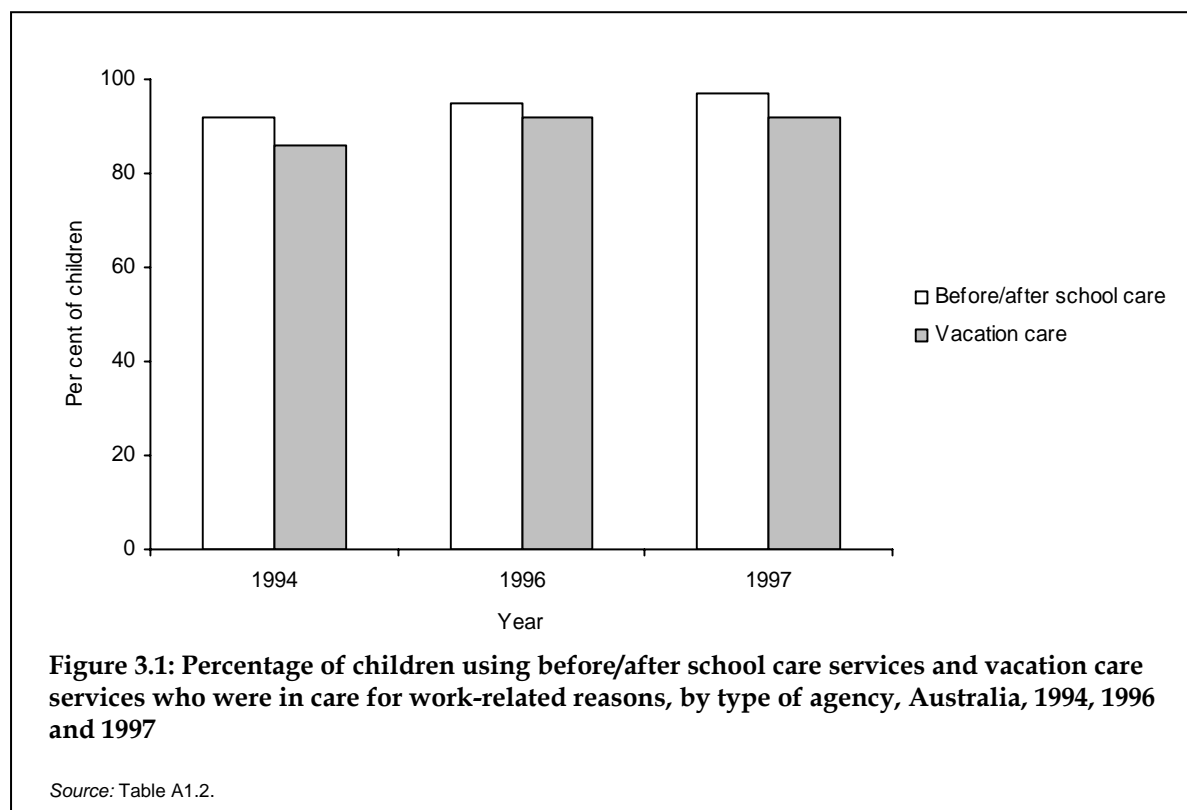
Under priority of access guidelines, all CP-funded outside school hours services are required to give parents who need child care for ‘work-related reasons’ first priority in accessing child care places (AIHW 1995:137). Agencies are required to give first preference to:

- children in two-parent families where both parents are in the labour force (employed or unemployed) or are studying/training for employment; and
- children in one-parent families where a sole parent is in the labour force or is studying/training for employment

These children are defined in the census as being in ‘work-related care’.

In each of the census years under review, the proportion of children using services who were in care for work-related reasons was higher for before/after school care services than vacation care services (Figure 3.1). Between 1994 and 1997, the proportions of children in before/after school and vacation care who were in care for work-related reasons increased. For before/after school care services, the proportion increased from 92% in 1994 to 97% in 1997, and for vacation care services, from 86% to 92% over the same period. It is important to note, however, when comparing these data for the two types of agencies, that there are

important differences between the before/after school care and the vacation care questionnaires in the wording of the questions on work-related care (AIHW 2000).



In 1997 very high proportions of children using before/after school care and vacation care services in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory were in work-related care (Table 3.15); in both jurisdictions almost all children attending vacation care services were in work-related care (99% in each). The proportions in work-related care were low among children using before/after school care and vacation care services in Tasmania (91% for both) and vacation care services in Victoria (87%). The proportion of children using before/after school care services who were in work-related care was higher than the proportion using vacation care in the five largest jurisdictions.

Table 3.15: Percentage of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services who were in care for work-related reasons, by type of agency and State and Territory, 1997

Type of agency	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care	98	96	97	97	96	91	97	97	97
Vacation care	91	87	95	91	92	91	99	99	92

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for children in before/after school care and vacation care services.
2. Number of missing cases: before/after school care = 397, vacation care = 359.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

3.7 Childcare Assistance

As noted in Chapter 2, during the census years under discussion in this report, Childcare Assistance for children using outside school hours care services was paid at a lower hourly rate than the long day care rate of Childcare Assistance and was subject to a more stringent means test. The outside school hours care rate of Childcare Assistance was also administered differently. For these reasons, the proportions of children using outside school hours care services receiving Childcare Assistance was considerably lower than the proportions of children using long day care who received Childcare Assistance (FaCS 1999c:11).

In all the three census years examined here, only a minority of children using outside school hours care services received Childcare Assistance; in every census year, the proportion of children using vacation care services who were receiving Childcare Assistance was slightly higher than the proportion using before/after school care services (Table 3.16). Of those children receiving Childcare Assistance, around three quarters were receiving the full rate of assistance. The proportion of children using before/after school care services who were receiving Childcare Assistance was virtually unchanged over the period (around 19%), whereas for vacation care services, the proportion increased slightly from 21% in 1994 to 24% in 1997.

Table 3.16: Percentage of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services receiving Childcare Assistance, by type of agency, Australia, 1994, 1996 and 1997

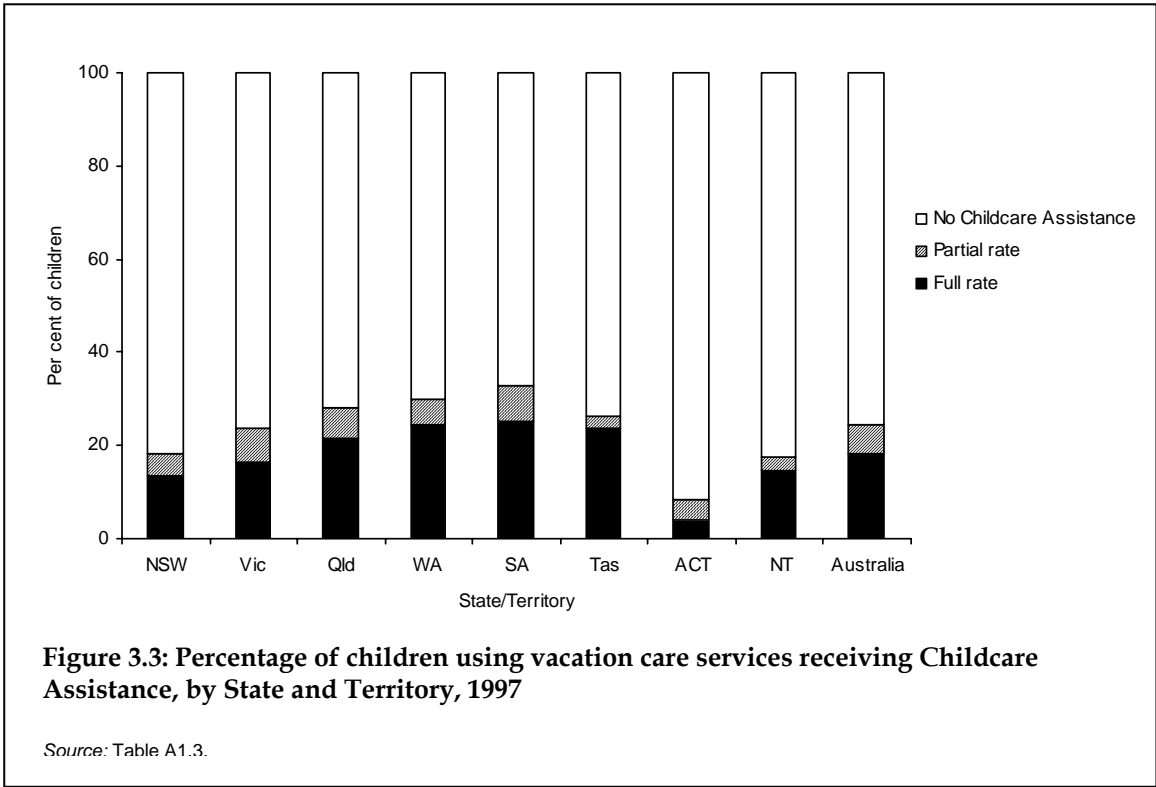
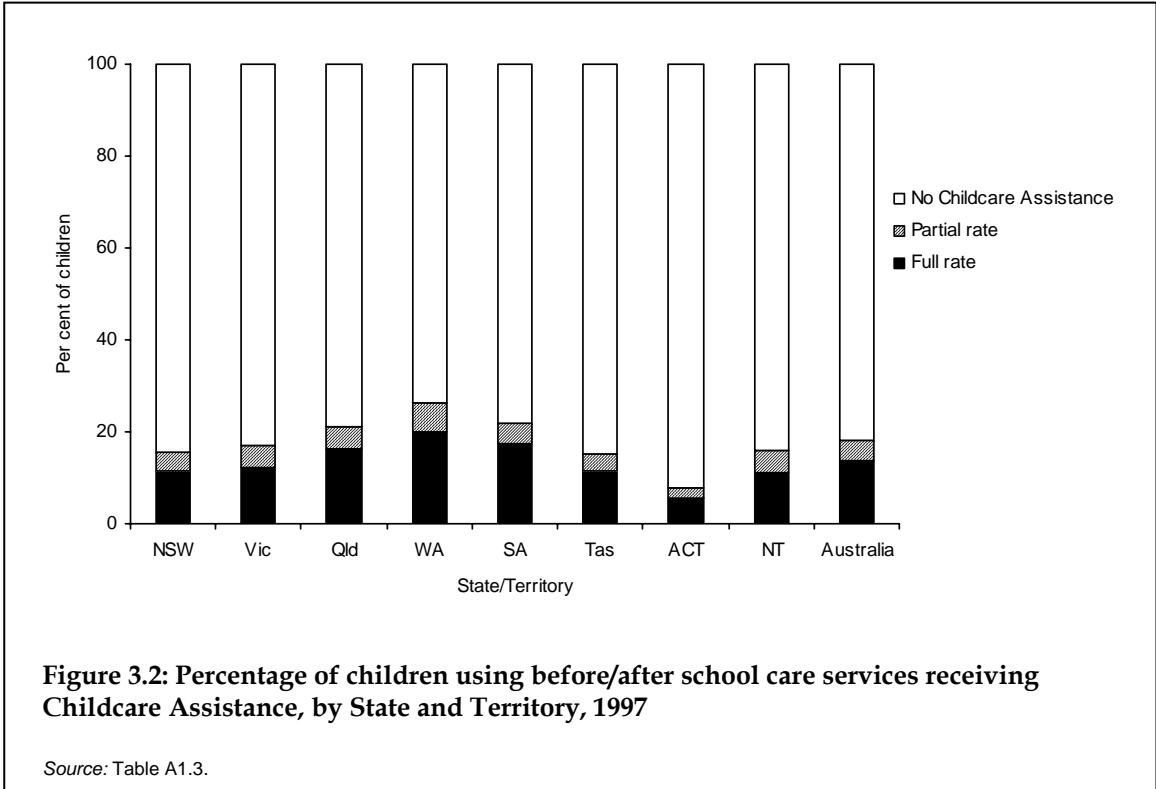
Childcare Assistance	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Full rate	15	14	14
Partial rate	4	4	5
No Childcare Assistance	81	82	82
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)	74,772	91,564	93,341
Vacation care agencies			
Full rate	18	19	18
Partial rate	3	6	6
No Childcare Assistance	79	75	75
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)	12,226	21,976	28,289

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: 1996 before/after school care = 35, vacation care = 2; 1997 before/after school care = 3, vacation care = 24.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

There were marked differences between the States and Territories in 1997 in the proportions of children receiving Childcare Assistance. The proportions of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services who received Childcare Assistance were relatively high in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia and relatively low in the Australian Capital Territory (Figures 3.2 and 3.3). Among children attending vacation care services, for example, in South Australia 25% received the full rate of Childcare Assistance and 8% the partial rate, while in the Australian Capital Territory, 4% received the full rate and 5% the partial rate.



When the data are examined by family type and parent's work status, the census shows that over half of children in care who were from one-parent families received some form of Childcare Assistance. For example, 55% of children of sole parents using before/after school care services received Childcare Assistance, and within this group, the majority were receiving full Childcare Assistance (81%).

Among children in one-parent families, similar proportions received Childcare Assistance whether they were in non-work-related care (54%) or in work-related care (55%). Among children in couple families, however, the proportion of those receiving Childcare Assistance was higher for those in non-work-related care (21%) than work-related care (7%). A substantial proportion of children from couple families who were in work-related care would have had both parents employed and their relatively high family incomes would have made them ineligible for this tightly means-tested payment.

4 Workers

The CP Censuses collect some information regarding the workers in agencies funded by the CP to provide outside school hours care services. In this report ‘workers’ include full-time and part-time workers, casual employees and unpaid workers (for example students on work experience and volunteer helpers) in CP-funded before/after school care and vacation care agencies. This chapter looks at the characteristics of these workers, including age (‘junior’ or ‘senior’), cultural background (Indigenous or non-English-speaking), employment characteristics (employment status, hours worked and type of work performed), qualifications and in-service training. Although this chapter examines the characteristics of workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies separately, it is important to note that since some of these agencies are one and the same (see Section 1.3), these agencies may provide before/after school care services and vacation care services with some of the same workers.

4.1 Workers per agency

Data on the average number of workers per agency for the 3 years, 1994, 1996 and 1997 are shown in Table 4.1. In both 1994 and 1997, Australia-wide, there was an average of 4.4 workers per before/after school care agency. In 1997, this ranged from a high of 7.3 workers per agency in the Australian Capital Territory to 3.9 per agency in Western Australia. For vacation care, the average number of workers per agency in 1994 and 1997 was 6.0, with a range from 8.9 in the Australian Capital Territory to 5.0 in Tasmania in 1997.

Table 4.1: Average number of workers per before/after school care agency and vacation care agency, by type of agency, by State and Territory 1994, 1996 and 1997

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
1994	4.5	3.7	4.6	3.7	4.3	5.9	8.2	3.3	4.4
1996	5.0	4.1	4.7	4.1	4.3	5.5	7.6	3.6	4.7
1997	4.9	3.9	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.8	7.3	4.3	4.4
Vacation care agencies									
1994	5.5	6.4	6.2	5.9	5.9	—	9.2	—	6.0
1996	6.1	6.9	6.1	7.1	5.9	5.8	10.1	5.6	6.3
1997	5.6	6.7	5.8	7.1	5.5	5.0	8.9	5.6	6.0

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996c; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

The number of workers per agency in 1997 is shown in Table 4.2 and Figure 4.1. Almost three-quarters of before/after school care agencies (73%) and almost all vacation care agencies (95%) had more than two workers. Only a very small proportion of outside school hours care agencies—5% of before/after school care agencies and 1% of vacation care agencies—had one worker only. The national standards specify that outside school hours

care agencies should have two 'staff members' on duty at any time, except in special circumstances (see Section 4.5).

There were, however, substantial variations across jurisdictions in the number of workers per agency in 1997. Outside school hours care agencies in the Australian Capital Territory were more likely to have large numbers of workers than those in other jurisdictions (Table 4.2). For instance, there were no before/after school care agencies in the Australian Capital Territory with only one worker and almost a quarter of agencies (24%) had 10 or more workers. In contrast, in South Australia 12% of before/after school care agencies had one worker and only 4% had 10 or more workers.

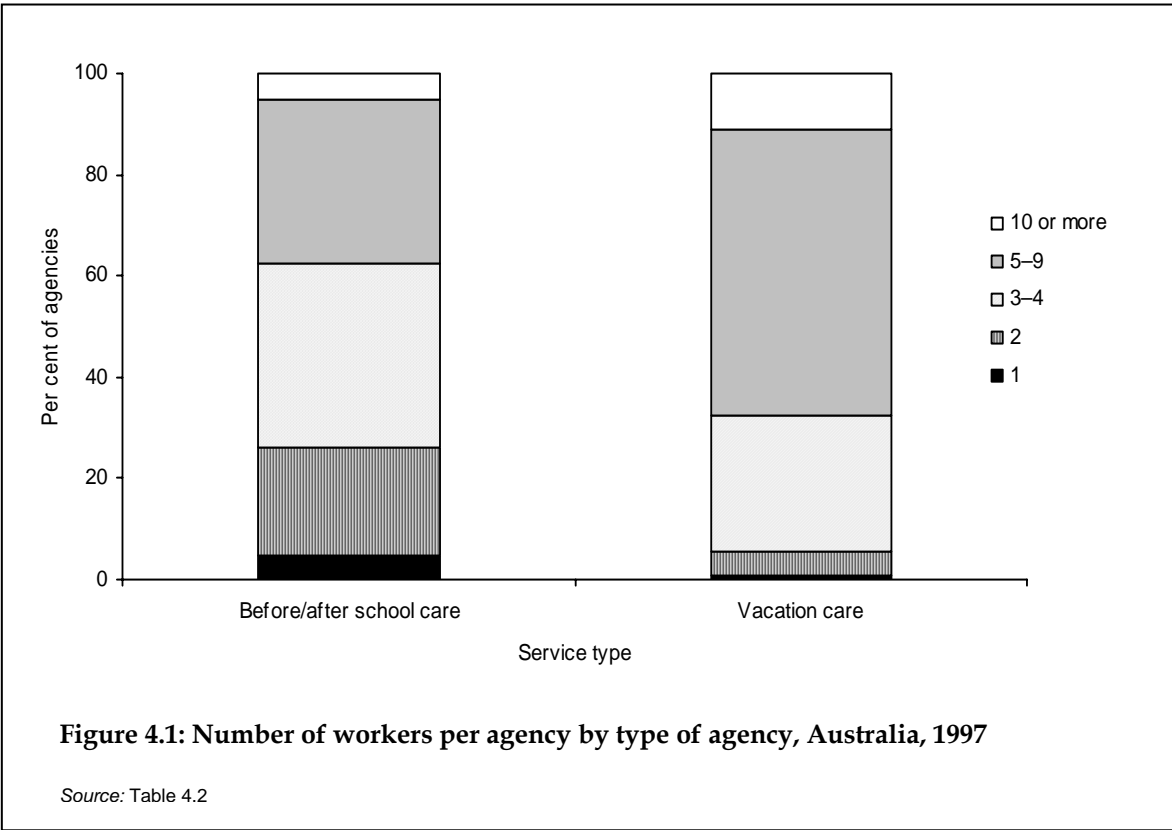
Table 4.2: Number of workers per agency in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by type of agency and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Number of workers per agency	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
1	5	4	3	3	12	8	—	—	5
2	14	29	21	24	20	30	7	15	21
3–4	33	40	36	46	35	32	25	50	36
5–9	43	22	36	26	30	19	44	30	32
10 or more	5	5	5	1	4	11	24	5	5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	468	470	366	115	172	37	55	20	1,703
Vacation care agencies									
1	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
2	6	5	2	4	5	11	—	—	5
3–4	27	19	31	25	31	67	—	20	27
5–9	57	57	58	52	56	11	80	80	57
10 or more	8	19	9	19	6	11	20	—	11
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total agencies (N)	170	102	167	52	62	9	10	5	577

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.



4.2 Workers by age

While specific information on the age of workers is not collected in the census, a question is included as to whether a worker is 'junior' or 'senior'. Junior staff are those aged less than 18, while senior staff are those 18 years or older. In each of the three census years most staff in outside school hours care agencies were senior, although in every year there was a higher proportion of junior staff in vacation care agencies than in before/after school care agencies (Table 4.3). In 1997, 9% of workers in before/after school care agencies and 15% in vacation care agencies were juniors. These proportions fluctuated slightly over the 3 years for which data are examined.

Table 4.3: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by age category and type of agency, Australia, 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Age category	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Junior	10	11	9
Senior	90	89	91
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	5,888	7,471	7,577
Vacation care agencies			
Junior	17	13	15
Senior	83	87	85
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	1,301	2,733	3,486

Notes

1. Age is classified as 'Senior' for workers aged 18 years and over, and 'Junior' for workers below 18 years.
2. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

In 1997, the proportion of workers in before/after school care agencies who were classified as junior varied slightly across States and Territories, ranging from 5% in the Northern Territory to 12% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 4.4). The range for workers in vacation care agencies was larger, with almost one quarter of workers in Tasmania reported as junior compared with only 4% in the Northern Territory.

Table 4.4: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by age category, type of agency and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Age category	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Junior	7	10	10	6	10	11	12	5	9
Senior	93	90	90	94	90	89	88	95	91
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	2,285	1,835	1,639	446	706	177	404	85	7,577
Vacation care agencies									
Junior	13	15	15	18	13	24	18	4	15
Senior	87	85	85	82	87	76	82	96	85
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	952	685	974	370	343	45	89	28	3,486

Notes

1. Age is classified as 'Senior' for workers aged 18 years and over, and 'Junior' for workers below 18 years.
2. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

4.3 Cultural background

The other main personal characteristic of workers that is collected in the census is the 'cultural background' of the worker, that is, whether the worker is an Indigenous Australian (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) or has a 'culturally diverse' (non-English-speaking) background.

It should be noted that the census questionnaire is completed by a staff member based on their knowledge of the cultural background of other staff members, rather than 'self-identification'. In addition, the wording of the second option – 'culturally diverse' background – has seen considerable change across the three census collections, 1994, 1996 and 1997. In 1994 it was phrased as '*non-English-speaking cultural background*', in 1996 it was '*ethnic background i.e. first language other than English*' and in 1997 '*culturally diverse background ie born overseas in a country where the first language is not English*'. The impact of identification issues and changes in wording on the quality and comparability of the data is unclear.

The census data indicate that in all 3 years around 1% of workers in both before/after school care and vacation care agencies were Indigenous (Table 4.5). As Chapter 3 shows, around 1% to 2% of children attending before/after and vacation care services were reported as Indigenous in 1994, 1996 and 1997. This does not necessarily mean, however, that Indigenous workers were located in agencies where there were relatively high numbers of Indigenous children. Data on before/after school care agencies, for instance, show that there was at least one Indigenous worker in 8% of the agencies where there was at least one Indigenous child using services. Studies have found that agencies with Indigenous workers provide a higher quality service than non-Indigenous workers for Indigenous children, because of the workers' knowledge of Indigenous culture and child-rearing practices (Gain 2000). It is important to note, however, that there are problems in comparing these data for children and for workers due to issues of identification of Indigenous status (AIHW 2000).

Table 4.5: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by cultural background and type of agency, Australia, 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Cultural background	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Indigenous	1	1	1
NESB	9	8	7
Neither	90	91	92
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	5,888	7,471	7,577
Vacation care agencies			
Indigenous	1	2	1
NESB	5	6	6
Neither	94	92	93
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	1,301	2,733	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. 'Indigenous' refers to the question in the Censuses regarding 'Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background'.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

There was considerable variation in the proportions of workers reported as Indigenous across States and Territories in 1997 (Table 4.6). The Northern Territory reported the highest proportion of workers that were Indigenous – 6% of before/after school care workers and 4% of vacation care workers. In relation to children attending services, the highest proportion of children using before/after school care services reported as Indigenous (7%) was in the Northern Territory, while among those attending vacation care the highest proportion (5%) was in Western Australia (see Table 3.12).

The proportion of workers in before/after school care agencies reported as from a non-English-speaking background declined slightly from 9% in 1994 to 7% in 1997. For vacation care agencies, over the 3 years, a slightly lower proportion (5% to 6%) of workers were reported as falling into this category (Table 4.5). Of children using before/after school care services, in the 3 census years 10% to 11% were reported as from a non-English-speaking' background, while the proportion in vacation care was between 5% and 7% (Table 3.11). There are, however, problems in comparing these data on workers and children for a number of reasons. Firstly, as in the case of Indigenous status, children and workers with a 'culturally diverse' background may not be co-located. Secondly, even where they are co-located, the cultural background of the children attending the service may be totally different from that of the workers in the agency. Thirdly, the identification of cultural background for workers may be different from that for children (AIHW 2000).

Table 4.6: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies by cultural background and type of agency, by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Cultural background	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Indigenous	2	<0.5	2	2	—	—	—	6	1
NESB	9	7	5	6	5	—	10	5	7
Neither	89	92	94	92	95	100	90	89	92
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	2,285	1,835	1,639	446	706	177	404	85	7,577
Vacation care agencies									
Indigenous	1	1	1	2	<0.5	—	—	4	1
NESB	8	6	3	5	5	—	10	4	6
Neither	91	93	95	93	94	100	90	93	93
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	952	685	974	370	343	45	89	28	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. 'Indigenous' refers to the question in the Censuses regarding 'Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background'.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

The proportion of workers who were reported as from a non-English speaking background varied across jurisdictions in 1997 (Table 4.6). In before/after school care agencies, the proportion of workers with a non-English speaking background ranged from 5% in Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory to 10% in the Australian Capital Territory. Similarly in vacation care agencies, the proportion of workers with a non-English

speaking background was lowest in Queensland (3%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (10%).

4.4 Employment characteristics

Information about the working conditions of outside school hours care workers can be obtained from several data items in the CP Censuses: employment status (paid full-time, paid part-time, paid casual, or unpaid); hours worked; and type of work performed (direct contact with children, administrative, or 'other').

Employment status

In each of the three census years, Australia-wide, more than half the workers in both before/after school care and vacation care agencies were paid employees, who were employed on a casual basis. Around another third of workers in before/after school care agencies were paid employees who were employed on a part-time basis. Only a relatively small proportion of before/after school care and vacation care workers were employed on a paid full-time basis or were unpaid (Table 4.7). No definitions, however, are given in the census of the number of hours constituting 'part-time' and 'full-time' status.

The distributions did not change greatly over the 3 years, although the proportion of before/after school workers who were paid full-time employees declined from 9% in 1994 to 4% in 1996 and 1997, while the proportions employed on a part-time or casual basis increased slightly over the period. For vacation care workers, the main change over the 3 years was a slight fall in the proportion of unpaid workers, from 11% in 1994 to 8% in 1996 and 1997.

In all 3 years, the proportion of before/after school care workers employed part-time was considerably higher than for vacation care workers, while the proportion employed full-time was lower. For example, in 1997, 32% of before/after school care workers and 16% of vacation care workers were paid part-time employees, while 4% of before/after school care workers and 10% of vacation care workers were paid full-time employees (Figure 4.2). This probably reflects the shorter operating hours of before/after school care services compared with vacation care services (see Chapter 2). Before/after school care agencies also had a lower proportion of workers employed on casual basis than vacation care agencies.

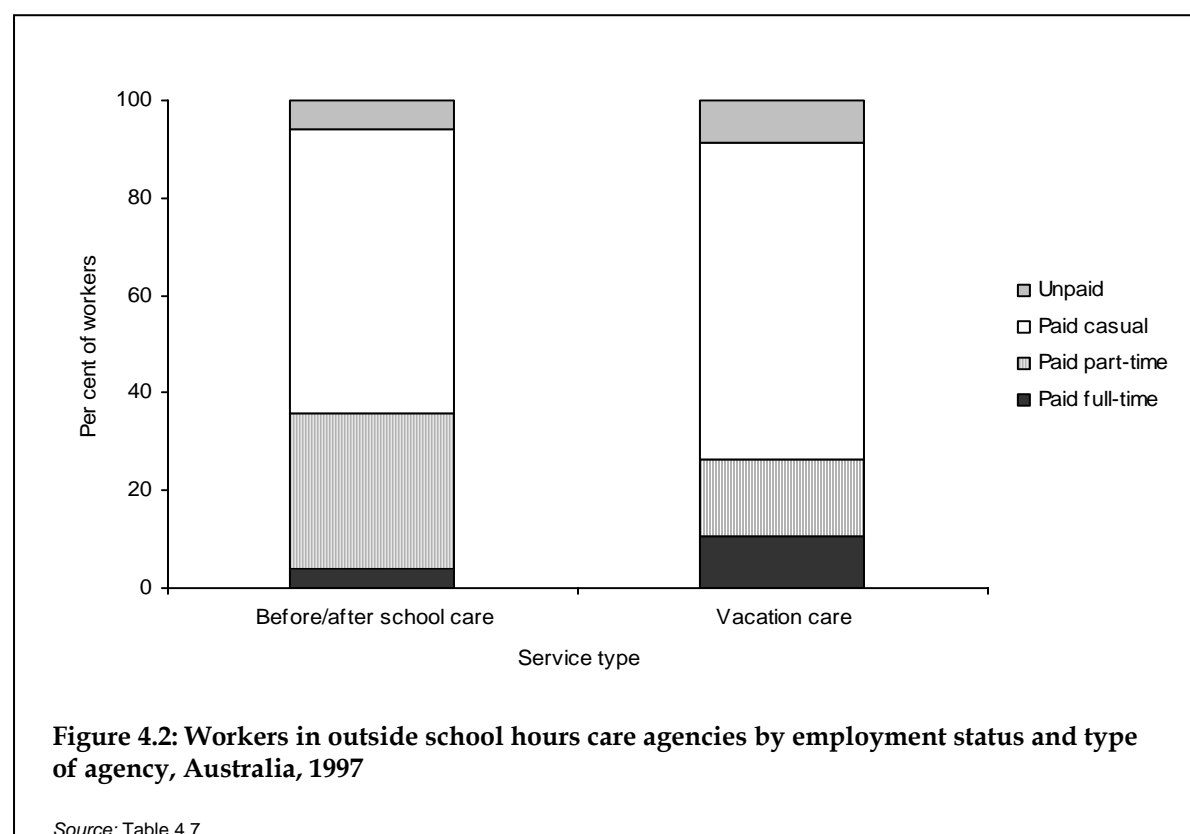
Table 4.7: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies by employment status and type of agency, 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Employment status	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Paid full-time	9	4	4
Paid part-time	30	32	32
Paid casual	55	57	58
Unpaid	7	7	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	5,888	7,471	7,577
Vacation care agencies			
Paid full-time	10	8	10
Paid part-time	14	16	16
Paid casual	64	69	65
Unpaid	11	8	8
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	1,301	2,733	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.



The employment status of workers varied across jurisdictions in 1997 as shown in Table 4.8. While Australia-wide the highest proportion of workers in before/after school care agencies

were employed on a casual basis, in New South Wales and Western Australia the highest proportions were employed on a part-time basis. The highest proportions of before/after school care workers employed full time (8%) or who were unpaid (11%) were in New South Wales.

Employment status of vacation care workers also varied considerably across the States and Territories in 1997, although in all jurisdictions the greatest proportion of workers were employed on a casual basis; this varied from 33% in Tasmania to 81% in Queensland (Table 4.8). The proportion of vacation care workers who were paid full-time employees ranged from 4% in Queensland to 21% in the Northern Territory. Relative to the other jurisdictions, Tasmania had a very high proportion of vacation care workers who were unpaid (33%).

Table 4.8: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by employment status, type of agency and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Employment status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Paid full-time	8	1	2	4	1	6	—	2	4
Paid part-time	51	25	15	62	20	26	21	40	32
Paid casual	30	69	79	32	77	67	77	54	58
Unpaid	11	5	3	2	2	1	2	4	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	2,285	1,835	1,639	446	706	177	404	85	7,577
Vacation care agencies									
Paid full-time	19	6	4	18	5	18	6	21	10
Paid part-time	24	14	9	16	14	16	19	25	16
Paid casual	51	68	81	54	70	33	71	54	65
Unpaid	6	11	6	12	10	33	4	—	8
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	952	685	974	370	343	45	89	28	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

Hours worked

The distribution of hours worked per week by before/after school care and vacation care workers changed little over the three census years, although the proportion of vacation care workers who worked 40 or more hours a week fell slightly from 18% to 15% (Table 4.9). There were, however, significant differences in the hours worked by workers in the two types of agencies, as would be expected from the different hours of operation (see Chapter 2). These differences in hours worked also reflect differences in employment status as shown in Tables 4.7 and 4.8. Workers in vacation care agencies, for instance, were far more likely to work longer hours than their counterparts in before/after school care agencies. For instance, 37% of vacation care workers worked 30 or more hours in the reference week in 1997 compared with only 7% of before/after school care workers. Conversely, 18% of vacation

care workers worked less than 10 hours compared with 43% of before/after school care workers.

Table 4.9: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by hours worked in the census week and type of agency, Australia, 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Hours worked	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
<5	20	21	21
5–9	22	22	22
10–14	15	14	16
15–19	20	19	18
20–29	16	16	17
30+	7	7	7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	5,888	7,471	7,577
Vacation care agencies			
<10	17	17	18
10–19	20	23	22
20–29	21	22	23
30–39	23	22	22
40+	18	16	15
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	1,301	2,733	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. Number of missing cases 1997 before/after school care = 2, vacation care = 16.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

There was considerable variation in the distribution of hours worked per week across jurisdictions in 1997, for both before/after school care and vacation care workers (Table 4.10). Before/after school care workers in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, for example, were more likely to work shorter hours than workers in the Northern Territory; 57% of before/after school care workers in Tasmania and 61% in the Australian Capital Territory worked less than 10 hours in the reference week compared with 28% in the Northern Territory. Similarly, vacation care workers in the Australian Capital Territory were more likely to work shorter hours, and those in the Northern Territory longer hours, than their counterparts in other jurisdictions. Among vacation care workers in the Australian Capital Territory, 33% worked for less than 10 hours in the reference week and 5% worked for 40 hours or more, while in the Northern Territory the corresponding proportions were 4% and 50%.

Table 4.10: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by hours worked in the census week and type of agency, by State and Territory 1997 (per cent)

Hours worked	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
<5	18	21	21	15	27	36	30	14	21
5–9	22	21	25	17	19	21	31	14	22
10–14	13	18	17	15	16	15	12	14	16
15–19	15	21	16	23	15	18	15	19	18
20–29	19	14	15	22	19	6	9	36	17
30+	12	4	6	8	3	4	2	2	7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	2,285	1,835	1,639	446	706	177	404	85	7,577
Vacation care agencies									
<10	15	19	17	20	18	16	33	4	18
10–19	21	21	25	20	22	13	22	14	22
20–29	21	21	26	24	26	13	24	11	23
30–39	26	17	19	30	24	40	16	21	22
40+	16	21	13	6	10	18	5	50	15
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	952	685	974	370	343	45	89	28	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. Number of missing cases: before/after school care = 2; vacation care = 16.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

Type of work

Workers in outside school hours care agencies can undertake a variety of functions including direct contact with children, administrative and co-ordination tasks, and other tasks such as cleaning and cooking. Information on the main function that involves the most time for a worker is collected in the census.

In each of the census years, the main function of the large majority of workers in both before/after school care and vacation care agencies was direct contact with children (Table 4.11) In 1997, for example, in both types of agencies, the main function of 87% of workers was direct contact with children, of 10% to 11% of workers administration and/or co-ordination and of 2% of workers 'other tasks'. In both before/after school care and vacation care agencies, between 1994 and 1997, the proportion of workers who worked primarily with children fell slightly while the proportion whose main type of work was administrative and/or co-ordination increased slightly.

Table 4.11: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies by major type of work and type of agency, 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Major type of work	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Direct contact with children	89	85	87
Administrative tasks	9	13	11
Other tasks	3	3	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	5,888	7,471	7,577
Vacation care agencies			
Direct contact with children	89	86	87
Administrative tasks	8	11	10
Other tasks	4	3	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	1,301	2,733	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.

2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

The distribution of workers by major function was also relatively similar across jurisdictions (Table 4.12). In 1997 the proportion of workers in before/after school care agencies whose main task was direct contact with children varied from 85% in the Northern Territory to 90% in the Australian Capital Territory, while the proportion whose main task was administration ranged from 8% in the Australian Capital Territory to 14% in the Northern Territory. The highest proportion of vacation care workers whose main function was direct contact with children (93%) was in Tasmania, while the lowest (84%) was in Western Australia. In the Northern Territory, 14% of vacation care workers were recorded as having administration as their main function compared with only 4% of workers in Tasmania. Across all jurisdictions only a small proportion of workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies had as their main function 'other tasks'.

Table 4.12: Workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies by major type of work and type of agency, by State and Territory 1997 (per cent)

Major type of work	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Direct contact with children	86	87	86	86	86	89	90	85	87
Administrative tasks	11	10	11	11	13	10	8	14	11
Other tasks	3	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	2,285	1,835	1,639	446	706	177	404	85	7,577
Vacation care agencies									
Direct contact with children	89	86	88	84	87	93	88	86	87
Administrative tasks	10	11	10	11	10	4	10	14	10
Other tasks	1	3	2	5	2	2	2	—	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	952	685	974	370	343	45	89	28	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

4.5 Qualifications/experience

National standards for outside school hours care services were endorsed by Commonwealth and State government ministers at the Community Services Ministers' Conference in June 1995 (CSMC 1995). The national standards cover staff-child ratios and staff qualifications – in recognition of the importance of these to the quality of child care services – as well as facilities, health and safety aspects, service procedures, and administrative functions.

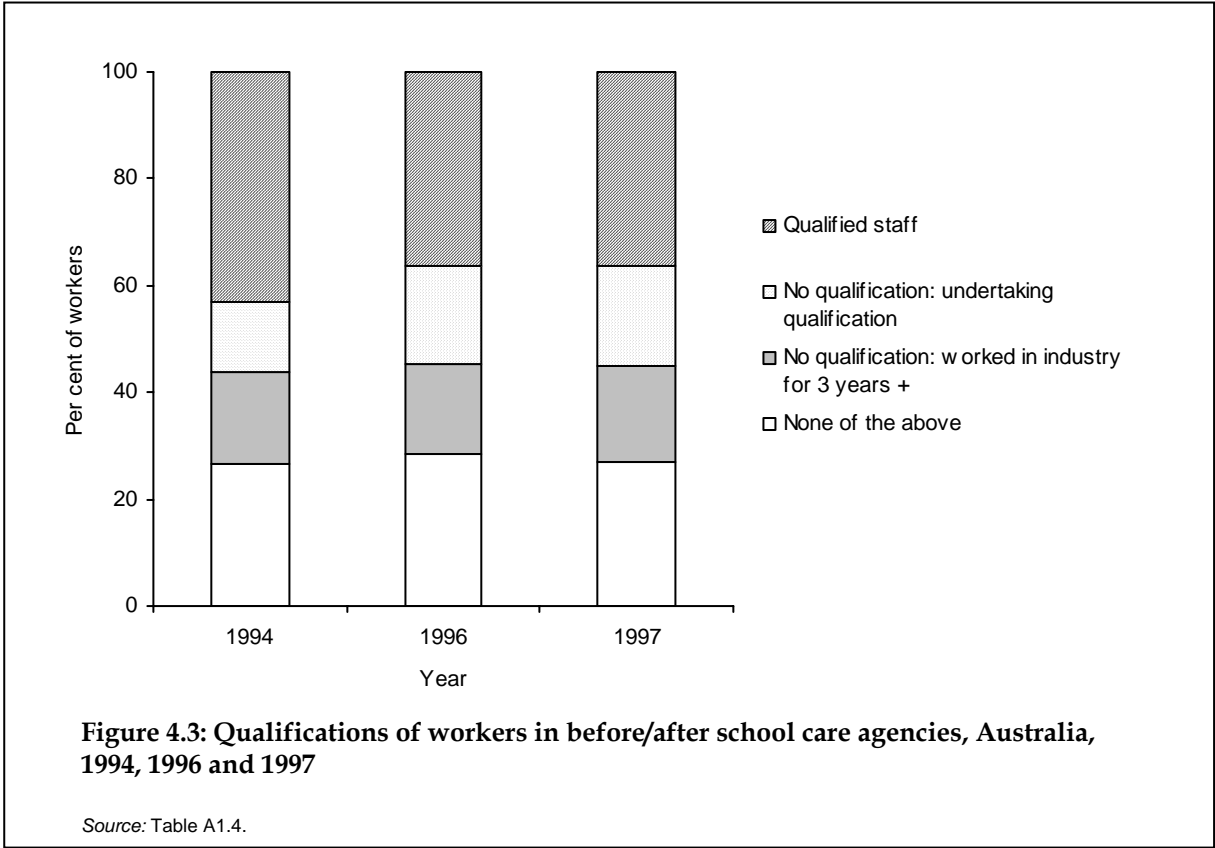
The national standards for outside school hours care services specify a maximum of 15 children per staff member, with a maximum of eight children per carer for excursions and five per children for swimming (CSMC 1995:13–14). As noted in Section 4.1, a minimum of two staff members must be present at all times, with some exceptions 'in certain defined circumstances' such as small, single staff agencies in rural areas. At a minimum there must be one qualified staff member to every '30 children or part thereof', with a qualification for the purposes of the standard defined as 'a degree in teaching (primary and/or early childhood) or an associate diploma in child care and/or in youth or recreation'. These qualification requirements are to be phased in, in recognition that there are few courses specifically targeted to this sector and, also, because many of the current staff have extensive experience working in the sector, while not holding formal qualifications (Moyle et al. 1997).

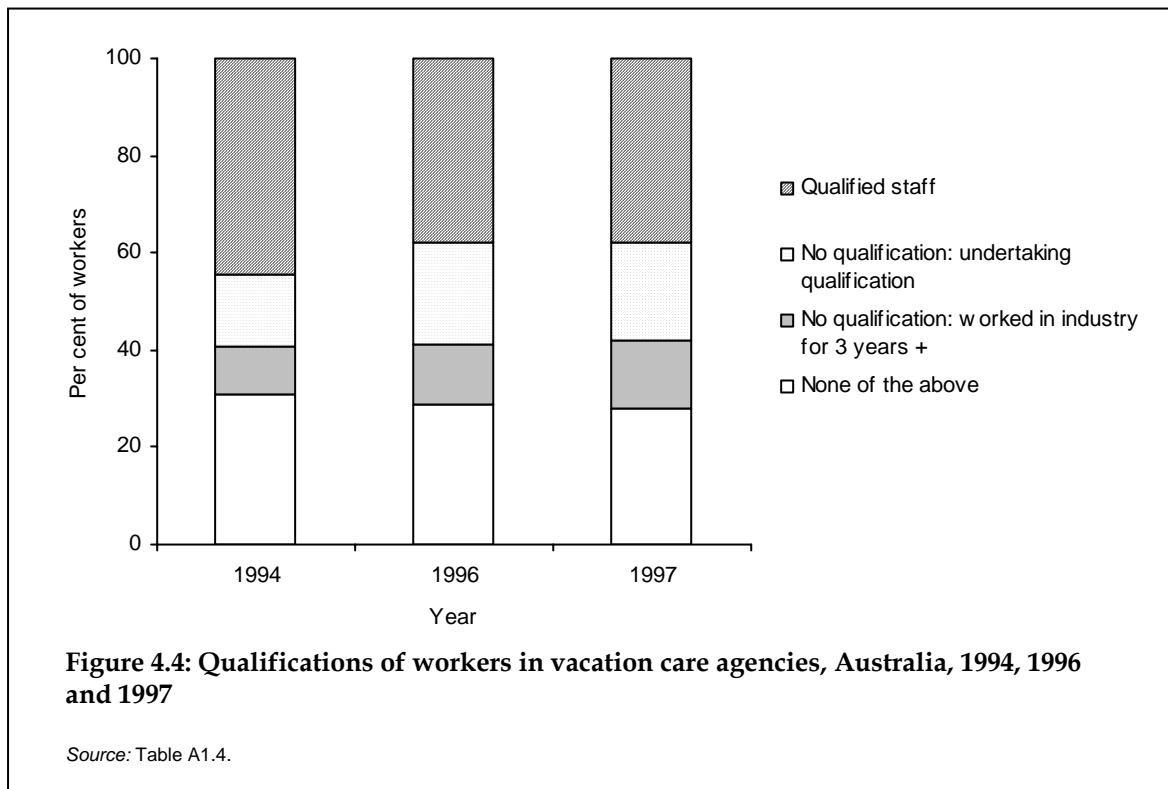
While it is not possible using the census data to look at staff-child ratios as specified in the national standards, information on the qualifications held by workers is available from each census. The census list of 'relevant' qualifications includes teaching, specific outside school hours care qualifications, nursing, child care qualifications, and 'other relevant qualifications' (which include recreation, accountancy, psychology, social work and business

management). Information can also be obtained from the census on staff with no relevant qualifications, but who are undertaking qualifications and/or have experience in the child care industry.

While the proportion of before/after school care workers with a relevant qualification fell from 43% in 1994 to 36% in 1996 and then remained stable to 1997, the proportion with no qualification but studying for one rose from 13% to 18% over the same period (Figure 4.3). As a result, the proportion of before/after school care workers with no relevant qualification and not studying for one remained relatively stable over the period, at 17% to 18% for those with at least 3 years experience in the industry and 27% for those without such experience.

The patterns were very similar for workers in vacation care agencies (Figure 4.4). The proportion of vacation care workers with a relevant qualification fell from 45% to 38% between 1994 and 1997, while the proportion with no qualification but who were studying for one rose from 15% to around 20%. The proportion of vacation care workers who did not have a relevant qualification and were not studying for one but had 3 years experience in the industry was smaller than for before/after school care workers, but rose from 10% to 14% over the 3-year period.





The proportion of before/after school care workers with a relevant qualification varied considerably across jurisdictions in 1997 (Table 4.13). The highest proportion of workers with a relevant qualification (48%) was in Western Australia and the lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (27%). The proportion of before/after school workers with no relevant qualification, and who were neither studying for a qualification nor had 3 years experience also varied, ranging from 20% in the Northern Territory to 41% in Tasmania.

Table 4.13: Qualifications of workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by type of agency, by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Qualification status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Qualified	40	38	31	48	35	30	27	36	36
No qualifications:									
Undertaking qualification	19	14	24	14	21	11	15	22	18
No qualification but worked in industry for 3 yrs	18	19	16	15	19	19	18	21	18
Neither	22	29	30	23	25	41	40	20	27
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	2,285	1,835	1,639	446	706	177	404	85	7,577
Vacation care agencies									
Qualified staff	43	41	30	42	33	38	37	36	38
Staff with no qualifications:									
Undertaking qualification	20	15	25	17	21	38	15	39	20
No qualification but worked in industry for 3 yrs	15	16	14	10	16	9	7	7	14
Neither	22	28	31	31	30	16	42	18	28
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	952	685	974	370	343	45	89	28	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. Where a workers holds more than one qualification the one considered the most relevant is counted.
3. Note that a worker with 'relevant qualifications' may also be studying for a qualification and/or have 3 or more years' experience. Similarly, a worker with no qualifications who is studying for a qualification may also have 3 or more years' experience.
4. Number of missing cases: vacation care = 9.
5. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

Similar variations across jurisdictions in 1997 were found in relation to vacation care workers' qualifications, study status and experience in the industry (Table 4.13). In vacation care agencies, the highest proportion of qualified workers were in New South Wales (43%) and the lowest in Queensland (30%). The proportion of vacation care workers without a qualification, not undertaking a qualification and without 3 years experience in the industry was highest in the Australian Capital Territory at 42% and lowest in Tasmania at 16%.

The types of qualifications held by outside school hours care workers also has an impact on the quality of the service provided. Teaching qualifications were the most common form of qualification for before/after school care and vacation care workers in all three census years (Table 4.14). Between 1994 and 1997, however, the proportion of workers with teaching qualifications fell from 17% to 12% for before/after school care workers and from 19% to 13% for vacation care workers. The proportion of workers with other types of qualifications was fairly stable over the period, except for those with 'other relevant qualifications', where the proportion fell slightly from 11% to 8% for before/after school care workers and 10% to

8% for vacation care workers. In each of the census years, only a relatively small proportion of workers had completed an outside school hours care specific course; for instance, in 1997, 9% of before/after school care workers and 8% of vacation care workers had this type of qualification.

As noted above, the national standards specify that a degree in teaching (primary and/or early childhood) or an associate diploma in child care and/or in youth or recreation are 'acceptable' qualifications for outside school hours care workers. It is not possible to identify workers with 'recreation' qualifications separately, since these types of qualifications are included in 'other relevant' qualifications. However, analysis of the 1997 census data indicates that 25% of before/after school care workers and 26% of vacation care workers had a teaching qualification and/or had completed an outside school hours care specific course and/or had a 2 or 3 year child care qualification and thus held qualifications matching those identified as 'acceptable' in the national standards.

Table 4.14: Relevant qualifications held by before/after school care and vacation care workers, by type of agency, Australia, 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Qualification type	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Teaching	17	12	12
Outside school hours care specific course	9	7	9
Nursing	3	3	2
Child Care—1 year	4	4	5
Child Care—2 years	5	5	5
Child Care—3 years	1	1	1
Other relevant	11	9	8
Total workers with qualifications	43	36	36
Total workers without qualifications	57	64	64
Total workers (N)	5,888	7,471	7,577
Vacation care agencies			
Teaching	19	14	13
Outside school hours care specific course	9	7	8
Nursing	2	3	2
Child Care—1 year	4	4	5
Child Care—2 years	5	5	5
Child Care—3 years	1	1	1
Other relevant	10	8	8
Total workers with qualifications	45	38	38
Total workers without qualifications	55	62	62
Total workers (N)	1,301	2,733	3,486

Notes

1. Percentages in the table represent the proportion of all workers holding the specified qualification. As workers may hold more than one qualification, the columns may total to more than the percentage of staff with qualifications.
2. Workers may have more than one 'other relevant' qualification, thus the figures shown here may overstate the actual percentage of workers with such qualifications.
3. Number of missing cases: 1994 before/after school care = 4; 1997 vacation care = 9.
4. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

The distribution of workers holding various qualifications varied markedly across the States and Territories in 1997 (Table 4.15). In Victoria, for instance, relatively high proportions of before/after school care and vacation care workers (16% and 18% respectively) had a teaching qualification, while in the Northern Territory relatively low proportions of workers (9% of before/after school care workers and 7% of vacation care workers) had this type of qualification. Specific outside school hours care qualifications were relatively common among workers in Western Australia, where 20% of before/after school care workers and 12% of vacation care workers had completed an outside school hours care specific course, but relatively uncommon in Queensland where only 4% of before/after school care and vacation care workers had completed such a course.

Table 4.15: Relevant qualifications held by before/after school care and vacation care workers, by type of agency and State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

Qualification type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Teaching	10	16	11	11	12	10	8	9	12
Outside school hours care specific course	14	7	4	20	7	4	4	1	9
Nursing	2	3	3	2	2	3	1	—	2
Child Care—1 year	4	6	5	5	4	2	6	5	5
Child Care—2 years	7	3	5	5	5	10	3	7	5
Child Care—3 years	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1
Other relevant	8	9	7	11	8	5	10	18	8
Total workers with qualifications	40	38	31	48	35	30	27	36	36
Total workers without qualifications	60	62	69	52	65	70	73	64	64
Total workers (N)	2,285	1,835	1,639	446	706	177	404	85	7,577
Vacation care agencies									
Teaching	15	18	10	9	11	11	12	7	13
Outside school hours care specific course	11	8	4	12	4	7	12	11	8
Nursing	1	4	2	2	4	2	1	—	2
Child Care—1 year	5	4	6	6	5	—	2	7	5
Child Care—2 years	8	4	5	4	5	13	2	11	5
Child Care—3 years	1	1	1	2	1	4	2	—	1
Other relevant	7	9	7	13	8	7	7	7	8
Total workers with qualifications	43	41	30	42	33	38	37	36	38
Total workers without qualifications	57	59	70	58	67	62	63	64	62
Total workers (N)	952	685	974	370	343	45	89	28	3,486

Notes

1. Percentages in the table represent the proportion of all workers holding the specified qualification. As workers may hold more than one qualification, the columns may total to more than the percentage of staff with qualifications.
2. Workers may have more than one 'other relevant' qualification, thus the figures shown here may overstate the actual percentage of workers with such qualifications.
3. Number of missing cases: vacation care = 9.
4. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

The proportion of workers with 'acceptable' qualifications in relation to the national standards (with the exception of those with 'recreation' qualifications only) also varied considerably across jurisdictions. For before/after school care workers the proportions ranged from 16% in the Australian Capital Territory to 30% in New South Wales and for vacation care workers from 18% in Queensland to 33% in New South Wales.

4.6 In-service training

Information on in-service training courses undertaken by workers in the 12 months prior to the Census was collected for before/after school workers in all three census years. Due to changes in the question and the categories over time, however, information for 1994 may not be comparable with that collected in 1996 and 1997. While the question in the 1994 census referred to 'in-service training/workshops undertaken within the previous 12 months' the 1996 and 1997 questions referred to 'training undertaken within the previous 12 months' and also specified that only formal training should be included. The 1997 questionnaire included a further refinement that the training could be in work time or the workers' own time. As a result care should be taken in interpreting changes over time. In addition, due to changes in categories over time, the results have been simplified here to two categories only – 'relevant in-service training undertaken in previous 12 months' and 'no relevant in-service training undertaken in previous 12 months'. Relevant training includes management or financial training, training for special additional needs children (for example, children with a disability, Indigenous children and children with a non-English-speaking background), other child care related training and other relevant courses (for example, first aid courses).

No data on in-service training courses undertaken by vacation care workers were collected in any of the census years examined here.

Table 4.16: Workers at before/after school care agencies undertaking in-service training in last 12 months, by State and Territory, 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

In-service training	1994	1996	1997
In-service training undertaken in previous 12 months	55	56	57
No in-service training undertaken in previous 12 months	45	44	43
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	5,888	7,471	7,577

Note: These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

The proportion of before/after school care workers who had undertaken relevant in-service training in the 12 months prior to the census rose slightly from 55% to 57% between 1994 and 1997 (Table 4.16). The proportions, however, varied across States and Territories, ranging from 54% in the Australian Capital Territory to 68% in the Northern Territory in 1997 (Table 4.17).

Table 4.17: Workers at before/after school care agencies undertaking in-service training in last 12 months, by State and Territory, 1997 (per cent)

In-service training	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
In-service training undertaken in previous 12 months	55	56	58	67	63	61	54	68	57
No in-service training undertaken in previous 12 months	45	44	42	33	37	39	46	32	43
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	2,285	1,835	1,639	446	706	177	404	85	7,577

Note: These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: FaCS 1999b.

Conclusion

This report has examined trends in CP-funded outside school hours care services between 1994 and 1997 and undertaken a comprehensive analysis of the 1997 data, that will provide a benchmark for analysis of the 1999 census data when they become available. Certain problems, however, have been encountered in this task. In some areas of this report it has not been possible to compare data over time or between service types because of differences in the scope and coverage of the data collections and in data definitions in some or all of the three census years. Additionally, it has not been possible to compare the child care census data with data for the general population due to differences in data definitions. The work being undertaken by the Children's Services Data Working Group of the National Community Services Information Management Group in developing a national minimum data set for children's services (AIHW 1999:95) should rectify this problem.

Appendix 1

Table A1.1: 'Normal' primary school starting and finishing times by State and Territory (as at November 1999)

State/Territory	School starts	School finishes
New South Wales	between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.	between 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.
Victoria	between 8.30 a.m. and 9 a.m.	between 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.
Queensland	9 a.m.	3 p.m.
Western Australia	8.45 a.m.	3.30 p.m.
South Australia	9 a.m.	between 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.
Tasmania	9 a.m.	3 p.m.
Australian Capital Territory	9 a.m.	3 p.m.
Northern Territory	between 8.20 a.m. and 8.50 a.m.	between 2.30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Note: Specific times for each school vary within jurisdictions, the above is a general guide only.

Source: Information provided by State and Territory Education departments.

Table A1.2: Percentage of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services who are in care for work-related reasons, by type of agency, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997

Type of agency	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care	92	95	97
Vacation care	86	92	92

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for children in before/after school care and vacation care services.
2. Number of missing cases: 1994 before/after school care = 1; 1996 before/after school care = 397, vacation care = 596; 1997 before/after school care = 397, vacation care = 359.
3. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

Table A1.3: Percentage of children using before/after school care services and vacation care services receiving Childcare Assistance, by type of agency and State and Territory, 1997

Childcare Assistance	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Before/after school care agencies									
Full rate	11	12	16	20	17	11	6	11	14
Partial rate	4	5	5	6	4	4	2	5	5
No Childcare Assistance	84	83	79	74	78	85	92	84	82
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)	27,525	25,687	18,305	5,378	10,288	2,168	3,064	926	93,341
Vacation care agencies									
Full rate	13	16	21	24	25	24	4	15	18
Partial rate	5	7	7	5	8	3	5	3	6
No Childcare Assistance	82	76	72	70	67	74	92	83	75
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total children (N)	8,056	6,377	6,927	2,784	3,159	259	439	288	28,289

Notes

1. Number of missing cases: before/after school care = 3, vacation care = 24.
 2. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.
- Source: FaCS 1999b.*

Table A1.4: Qualifications of workers in before/after school care agencies and vacation care agencies, by type of agency, Australia 1994, 1996 and 1997 (per cent)

Qualification status	1994	1996	1997
Before/after school care agencies			
Qualified	43	36	36
No qualifications:			
Undertaking qualification	13	18	18
No qualification but worked in industry for 3 yrs	17	17	18
Neither	27	29	27
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	5,888	7,471	7,577
Vacation care agencies			
Qualified	45	38	38
No qualifications:			
Undertaking qualification	15	21	20
No qualification but worked in industry for 3 yrs	10	12	14
Neither	31	29	28
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Total workers (N)	1,301	2,733	3,486

Notes

1. Double counting may occur for workers in before/after school care and vacation care agencies.
2. Where a workers holds more than one qualification the one considered the most relevant is counted.
3. Note that a worker with 'relevant qualifications' may also be studying for a qualification and/or have 3 or more years' experience. Similarly, a worker with no qualifications who is studying for a qualification may also have 3 or more years' experience.
4. Number of missing cases:1994 before/after school care = 4; 1997 vacation care = 9.
5. These data are unweighted and therefore are not adjusted for agency non-response.

Source: DHFS 1996a; FaCS 1998; FaCS 1999b.

Glossary

Agency

The agency is the organisational unit which delivers the service to children. Where an agency provides more than one type of outside school hours care service, for instance, before school care and after school care, these services may be provided at different locations.

Before/after school care services

Services providing care and developmental activities for school-age children on school days at times (e.g. before school, after school, and/or 'pupil-free' days) when school is not in session.

Before/after school care agencies

Agencies which are funded to provide before school care services and/or after school care services. They may or may not provide a vacation care service.

Location

The premises used by an agency to deliver an outside school hours care service.

Outside school hours care services

Care and activities provided to children of primary school age out of school hours. The term covers before/after school care services and vacation care services.

Session

A discrete period of time during which a service is available to children. For example, a 2 hour session of before school care prior to the commencement of the school day.

Sponsor

The individual, organisation, body or enterprise which is responsible for the agency or agencies which provide the service. Where services are funded, for instance, the sponsor signs the funding agreement and is accountable for the funds. The sponsor and the agency may be one and the same.

Vacation care services

Care and developmental activities for school-aged children during school vacation periods.

Vacation care agencies

Agencies which are funded to provide vacation care services. They may or may not provide before/after school care services.

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