# Explanatory Notes

#### Scope

The Census is an annual data collection from the Queensland early childhood education and care services sector. Census participants include all approved early childhood education and care (ECEC) services under the National Quality Framework (NQF) or *Education and Care Services Act 2013*, including long day care, kindergarten, family day care and outside school hours care. In addition, the collection includes data on ECEC services provided through state schools (see [State-delivered early childhood services](#SDK)).

Services that receive government funding to provide an approved kindergarten program are required to provide detailed information about kindergarten participants either as a condition of their service agreement with the Department of Education or in accordance with the requirements of their Central Governing Body.

#### Response rate

The Census response rate generally exceeds 95%:

* 2022 data is based on 3,288 responding services (or 99.4%) of 3,307 services in scope
* 2021 data is based on 3,243 responding services (or 99.5%) of 3,258 services in scope
* 2020 data is based on 3,188 responding services (or 100.0%) of 3,188 services in scope
* 2019 data is based on 3,131 responding services (or 99.7%) of 3,139 services in scope
* 2018 data is based on 3,042 responding services (or 99.5%) of 3,056 services in scope
* 2017 data is based on 3,012 responding services (or 98.7%) of 3,052 services in scope

#### Reference Period

Services are asked to submit data relevant to a specific time period, which is called the ‘reference period’ enabling the capture of a consistent snapshot of service information across the state. The reference period relates to the first week in August each year. In 2022, the reference period was the week 1 to 7 August 2022, for all services.

If a service runs a two week kindergarten program, they are asked to average the fortnightly hours for some questions.

#### Information collected

The information collected depends on the service type and whether or not the service is funded to provide a kindergarten program. Guidance is published to assist services to complete the questions accurately and consistently.

Attachment 1 provides an outline of the 2021 census questions. Summary tables are [published](https://qed.qld.gov.au/publications/reports/statistics/early-years/early-childhood) in relation to Services, Enrolments and Staff.

#### Explanation of terms

| ***Term*** | ***Definition*** |
| --- | --- |
| **Remoteness** | Refers to the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure, based on the location of the service. |
| **SA2** | Refers to the 2016 [Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Statistical Area Level 2](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/1270.0.55.001~July%202016~Main%20Features~Statistical%20Area%20Level%202%20(SA2)~10014), based on the location of the service. |
| **SEIFA Quintile** | Refers to the [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2033.0.55.001) (IRSD), where 1 is the most disadvantaged quintile, based on the location of the service and the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). |
| **Service type** | Refers to the primary or main type of activity provided by a service. Centre-based services offering more than one type of service are classified as follows: services which provide long day care in addition to any other service type are classified as long day care services; services which provide kindergarten as well as outside school hours care are classified as kindergarten services; services which provide outside school hours care only are classified as outside school hours care services. |
| * **Long day care** | Centre-based early services providing all-day or part-time care, primarily for children aged 0-5 years. Some long day care centres may also provide kindergarten programs and/or care for school aged children before and after school and during school holidays. |
| * **Kindergarten services** | Centre-based services providing structured educational programs to children in the year prior to Prep, during school hours and school terms. |
| * **Limited Hours Care (LHC)/ Occasional Care (OC)** | Centre-based services usually provided on an ad-hoc or casual basis or for short periods, primarily for children under school age. |
| * **Outside school hours care** | Centre-based services providing care, primarily for school age children, before school, after school, during school holidays and on pupil free days. |
| * **State delivered early childhood services** | Services provided by state schools for children prior to Prep including [kindergarten programs](https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/early-years/kindergarten/state-delivered-kindergarten), [Early Childhood Development programs](https://education.qld.gov.au/student/Documents/ecdp-factsheet-for-parents.pdf#search=ECDP) and [eKindy](https://education.qld.gov.au/about-us/budgets-funding-grants/grants/state-schools/core-funding/ekindy). |
| * **Family day care** | Home-based services providing small group care for children primarily in the homes of family day care educators. Care is primarily aimed at 0–5 year olds, but primary school children may also receive care before and after school, and during school holidays. Educators are registered or engaged by a service and monitored and supported by co-ordination unit staff. |
| **Services providing kindergarten** | Refers to centre-based services that provide funded or unfunded kindergarten programs for children in the year prior to Prep.  A kindergarten program is a structured play-based learning program aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework or other curriculum recognised by the NQF, which is primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full time schooling.  For the purpose of the Census, each kindergarten program (or group) is a program which:   * is designed for children who are in the year before Prep (typically aged at least 4 years by 30 June in the relevant year), although younger children may attend * may include those that are not funded under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme * is delivered to an identifiable group of children * may include multi-aged rooms. |
| **Enrolments** | Children for whom an enrolment form has been completed and whose enrolment is current. Includes children who are not currently in attendance but are expected to return to the service. Excludes children on waiting lists or for whom a place is not available. Children may be counted multiple times if they are enrolled in multiple services. |
| * **Age** | Child’s age as at 1 July of the respective calendar year. |
| * **Disability** | Children with diagnosed or suspected disability i.e. a child that has a need for additional assistance in any of the following areas (learning and applying knowledge, education; communication; mobility; self-care; interpersonal interactions and relationships; other - including general tasks, domestic life, community and social life) compared to children of a similar age, that is related to underlying long term health condition or disability (long term is longer than six months).  Disability refers to a condition attributable to a physical, intellectual, hearing, vision or speech-language impairment, or a developmental delay; or an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD); or a combination of these. |
| * **Indigenous** | Children who identify, or who have been identified by their parents, as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. |
| * **NESB** | Children from non-English speaking backgrounds |
| **Kindergarten enrolments** | Children enrolled in a kindergarten program delivered in a centre-based service, in the year or two prior to Prep. |
| **Staff** | Staff members are defined as those people employed at this service in either a paid or unpaid capacity, who provide care and education for children or who provide administrative support in the day to day management of the service.  It includes all staff on paid or unpaid leave, staff employed at the service through a relief agency and other unpaid staff members (volunteers) engaged to work with children (excluding parent helpers).  This includes all staff who undertake duties that mainly involve direct contact with children as well as those who are involved in administration and food preparation but not those involved in maintaining the physical environment e.g., cleaners, gardeners and maintenance workers.  It does not include executives, directors or administration workers of organisations who have no involvement in the day to day management of the service. |
| **Staff positions** | The position held by the staff member during the census reference period. If the staff member worked in more than one position, the position in which they worked the most hours during the census reference period. |
| * **Director (not the Teacher)** | The person with overall responsibility for managing the service - may also be referred to as principal, director, nominated supervisor or manager |
| * **Coordinator** | A qualified person generally responsible for the operation of the service including monitoring, supporting and developing educators. OSHC coordinators may also deliver educational programs. |
| * **Manager/ Senior coordinator** | The person who generally has responsibility for overseeing the management of the service. |
| * **Early Childhood Teacher (ECT)** | A degree qualified ECT (or equivalent) who provides education and care for a group of young children. This includes ECTs who are also the Director. |
| * **Other Educator (Group Leader / Assistant / Aide)** | Other staff members who are educators providing education and care to a group of children. |
| * **Other Worker / Administrator / Not Stated** | Any staff members not included above. |
| **Staff qualifications** | The highest level of qualification each staff member has obtained in a field of study relevant to early childhood education and care, as reported by the service. Qualifications are grouped based on [Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) levels](https://www.aqf.edu.au/aqf-levels).   * Level 1 & 2 = Certificate I or II * Level 3 & 4 = Certificate III or IV * Level 5 = Diploma * Level 6 = Advanced Diploma * Level 7+ = AQF Level 7 to Level 10 = Bachelor Degree (3 or 4 years, or equivalent), Bachelor Honours degree, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Post graduate degree.   Relevant fields are Teaching, Other early childhood related including child care and children’s services or, for OSHC service staff, another relevant field. |

#### Attachment 1 – Outline of questions from the 2022 ECEC Services Census

| **Section** | **Questions asked** |
| --- | --- |
| **Service details** | Service details, Contact person |
| **Service enrolments** | Number of children enrolled, Number of vacancies |
| **Funded/Unfunded services providing kindergarten programs#** | Kindergarten program provision, Average daily fee, Average daily hours. |
| **Staff information** | Staff information: Number of staff at service |
| **Staff details** | Staff details: Name, Sex, Indigenous status, NESB status, Age group, Position type, Employment status, Actual hours worked, Kindergarten program delivery##,Type of work performed, Years worked in sector, Years worked in service, Field of highest ECEC qualification completed, Level of highest ECEC qualification completed, QCT registration, Field of highest ECEC qualification currently studied, Level of highest qualification currently studied, Study completion date, In-service training, In-service training focus. |
| **FDC educators**  **(FDC only)** | FDC Educators - Aggregate data only  Number of FDC educators registered, Number of new FDC educators joining, FDC educator qualifications completed or studying, Number of FDC educators not qualified or studying, Number of FDC educators providing care, Number of FDC educators providing overnight or weekend care, Number of FDC assistants. |
| **Funded and Unfunded services providing a kindergarten program#** | Kindergarten teacher indicator, Number of enrolments in program, Kindergarten program weeks operating, Kindergarten program hours of operation (unfunded services only).  Kindergarten program child questions (*Unfunded services only*):  Number of children with a Health Care Card, Number of children enrolled by demographic groups, Number of children attending by demographic groups. |
| **Child details – children enrolled in funded service only#** | Child name, Date of birth, sex, Indigenous status, Disability status, Non-English Speaking Background status, Residential address, Hours enrolled in typical week, Hours attended in reference week, Kindergarten repeater indicator, Health Care Card. |

# this information is only required for services offering a kindergarten program.

## this information is not required for family day care services or outside school hours care.