

NATIONAL PRESCHOOL CENSUS 2009

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS
AND ALL STUDENTS

SUMMARY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2010

PROJECT: DEEWR/17

National Preschool Census 2009

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and All Students

Summary Report

September 2010

Client: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Project: DEEWR/17

Lead Consultants: Donna Hill
Petra Roberts

Data Analysis Australia Pty Ltd
97 Broadway
Nedlands, Western Australia 6009
(PO Box 3258 Broadway, Nedlands 6009)
Website: www.daa.com.au
Phone: (08) 9386 3304
Facsimile: (08) 9386 3202
Email: daa@daa.com.au
A.C.N. 009 304 956
A.B.N. 68 009 304 956

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Preschool Census (formerly the National Indigenous Preschool Census) has been conducted on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations annually since 1993.

The Census consists of separate data collections for Government and non-Government preschools each year. Data is collected from State and Territory Government preschools via censuses conducted by the individual State and Territory Education departments. A Supplementary Census is conducted by Data Analysis Australia of all non-Government preschools across Australia. Data from all censuses is collated by Data Analysis Australia for analysis and reporting.

For the 2009 Census, Government preschool data was provided by all State and Territory education departments, with the exception of Victoria as all preschools in Victoria are included in the Supplementary Census. The response rate for the Supplementary Non-Government Census has traditionally been over 95% and this was maintained for 2009 with responses received from 98% of all centres approached to participate.

The key results from the 2009 National Preschool Census were:

- The total number of children enrolled in preschools across Australia was 219,741, an increase of 2% from 2008;
- The total number of Indigenous children enrolled in preschools was 10,687, which was a 7% increase from 2008;
- The total number of preschools across Australia was 4,676, a decrease of less than 1% from 2008;
- The number of preschools that reported Indigenous enrolments was 2,011, an increase of 11% from 2008;
- Only 17% of Indigenous children were enrolled for six or more sessions per week, although this figure varied from less than 2% in South Australia and Western Australia to over 30% in New South Wales and Queensland;
- The number of children enrolled in Victoria increased by 7%, from 73,475 in 2008 to 78,505 in 2009. At the same time the number of Indigenous children enrolled in Victoria increased by 27%, from 677 to 860.
- In non-Government preschools 43% of teachers have a four-year degree, 28% have a three-year degree and the remaining 29% have other or unknown levels of qualification.
- Absentee rates reported in non-Government preschools were higher for Indigenous children than overall in all States and Territories.

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1. INTRODUCTION

One of the objectives of the Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000 is to ensure equity of participation by Indigenous people. To this end the Commonwealth, through the Indigenous Education and Training Program, provides Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (SRA) to education providers with Indigenous enrolments on a per capita basis.

The National Preschool Census has been conducted by Data Analysis Australia every year since 1993 (with the exception of 1994) on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Only data collected from 2006 onwards is presented in this report. For earlier figures, see summary reports from previous National Preschool Censuses.

The Census provides important continuing statistical data, assists in policy formulation and is a valuable research resource. Since 1998, the level of SRA funding provided has been linked to the Indigenous enrolment figures collected during these Censuses. These figures also set the level of the initial 2010 payment.

We would like to thank the following people for their input and guidance:

Name	Department/Agency
Lucy Lu	NSW Department of Education and Training
Jenny Cirillo	SA Department of Education and Children's Services
Alistair Hutchinson	WA Department of Education and Training
Patricia Lloyd	TAS Department of Education
Susan Barnes	NT Department of Education and Training
Carol Vayanos	QLD Department of Education and Training
Marli Ayrton	ACT Department of Education and Training
Michael Stapleton,	Data Services Unit
Matthew Gibbins	Benchmarks and Reporting Branch
John Fraser.	Schools Funding and Reporting Group
	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Gisella Wilson	KU Children's Services

2. DEFINITIONS

When interpreting data collected by a Census, such as this, it is necessary to consider the definitions used in the collection. In addition, where the data

collection cannot be perfect, the methodology of the collection should be taken into account.

Definitional issues included enrolment, Indigenous children and preschool education programs.

A student is classed as enrolled if, during Census Week, they were on the roll and had attended a preschool education program in the last month.

Every attempt was made to use the definition of an Indigenous child as "*Any child who is identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by the parent or guardian and is recognised as such by the community*". Guidelines were given to assist the person completing the form on how to identify an Indigenous child.

While the definition of a preschool program varies from State to State, for the purposes of the Census children enrolled in Year One Minus One (or Pre-Year One) are considered to be in primary school rather than preschool. In order to avoid confusion, State and Territory specific definitions and terms were used on the Census form and accompanying instruction sheet. In this report, the term preschool is used in the generic sense, encompassing all State and Territory specific terminology, such as kindergarten, pre-primary or Child Parent Centre.

3. COLLECTION OF STATE AND TERRITORY DATA

The Census consisted of two parts - the Government Census and the Non-Government Supplementary Census. Where possible, equivalent data was collected for both parts of the Census. The information was provided in various formats from each State and Territory. All the information was converted into a common database format.

The provision of pre-Year 1 through Queensland State schools in the form of two years of preschool in Indigenous communities occurred for a number of years up until 2006, however it was not previously reported in the National Preschool Census. Since the introduction of the Preparatory (Prep) Year in 2007, this two-year preschool provision changed to Prep and pre-Prep. Information on these pre-Prep enrolments was collected as part of Queensland's August enrolment census of all Queensland state schools, and these data were subsequently reported for the 2009 National Preschool Census.

4. METHODOLOGY OF THE NON-GOVERNMENT SUPPLEMENTARY CENSUS

The following steps outline the process used in the Non-Government Supplementary Census.

1. A consolidated list of non-Government preschools across Australia was drawn up from lists provided by State and Territory authorities.
2. A comprehensive Census form was mailed to all non-Government preschools (see Appendix B). All preschools were requested to complete and return the form by facsimile or reply-paid envelope regardless of whether any Indigenous children were enrolled.

The Census form collected the following preschool information:

- whether a preschool also offered a childcare program;
- total number of all children currently enrolled in the preschool education program, by age and gender;
- total number of Indigenous children currently enrolled in the preschool education program;
- number of staff employed, position at preschool, level of qualification and number of Indigenous staff;
- number of all children absent for one or more sessions during Census Week;
- number of Indigenous children absent for one or more sessions during Census Week; and
- number of all children expected to be enrolled in formal schooling next year.

For each Indigenous child the Census recorded:

- date of birth;
 - gender;
 - sessions for which the child was enrolled;
 - total hours for which the child was enrolled; and
 - whether enrolled in formal schooling next year.
3. Faxed reminders and intensive telephone follow-up were used to achieve a high response rate.
 4. A raffle of three prizes of \$900 for preschool equipment was held to encourage timely responses.

5. ANALYSIS

The aim of the Census collection was to be able to have access to school level data but also report information at state level. DEEWR provides remoteness classifiers for each school in the Census. From this it was possible to tabulate enrolment data according to:

- Metropolitan, Provincial and Remote Zones using the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) geographic classification system.

For comparison purposes, historical data is also provided in many of the tables.

5.1 METROPOLITAN, PROVINCIAL AND REMOTE REGIONS

The MCEECDYA Classification of Geographic Location developed for reporting educational outcomes has been used for reporting summary results. The SDs used in this report are the current SDs last updated in 2006. The map below displays the metropolitan (pink), provincial (green) and remote (cream) regions.

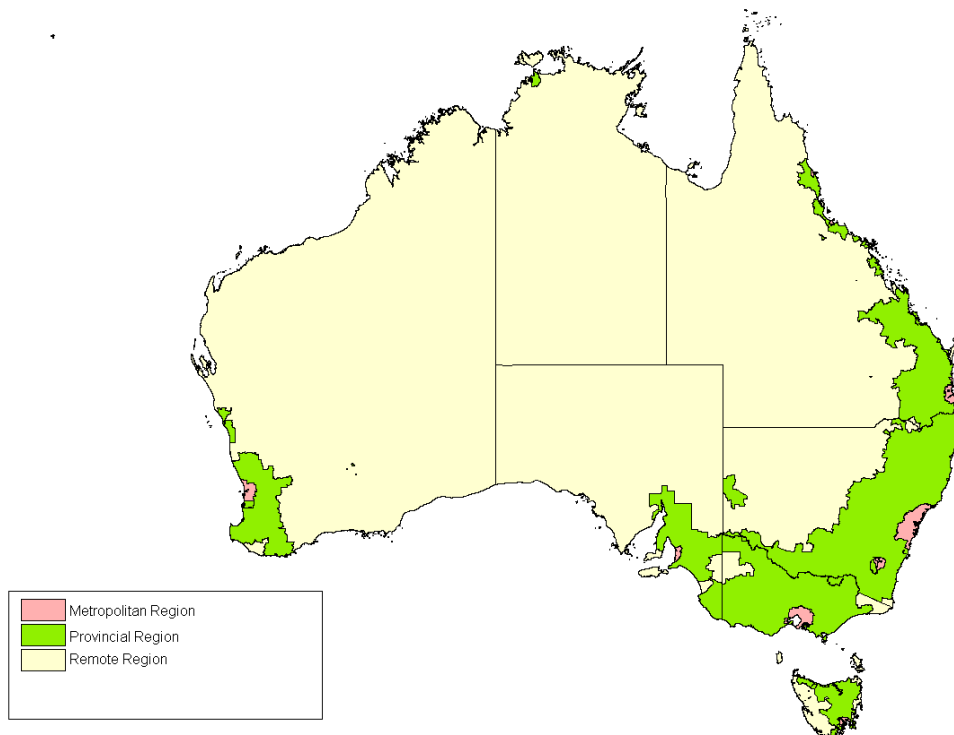
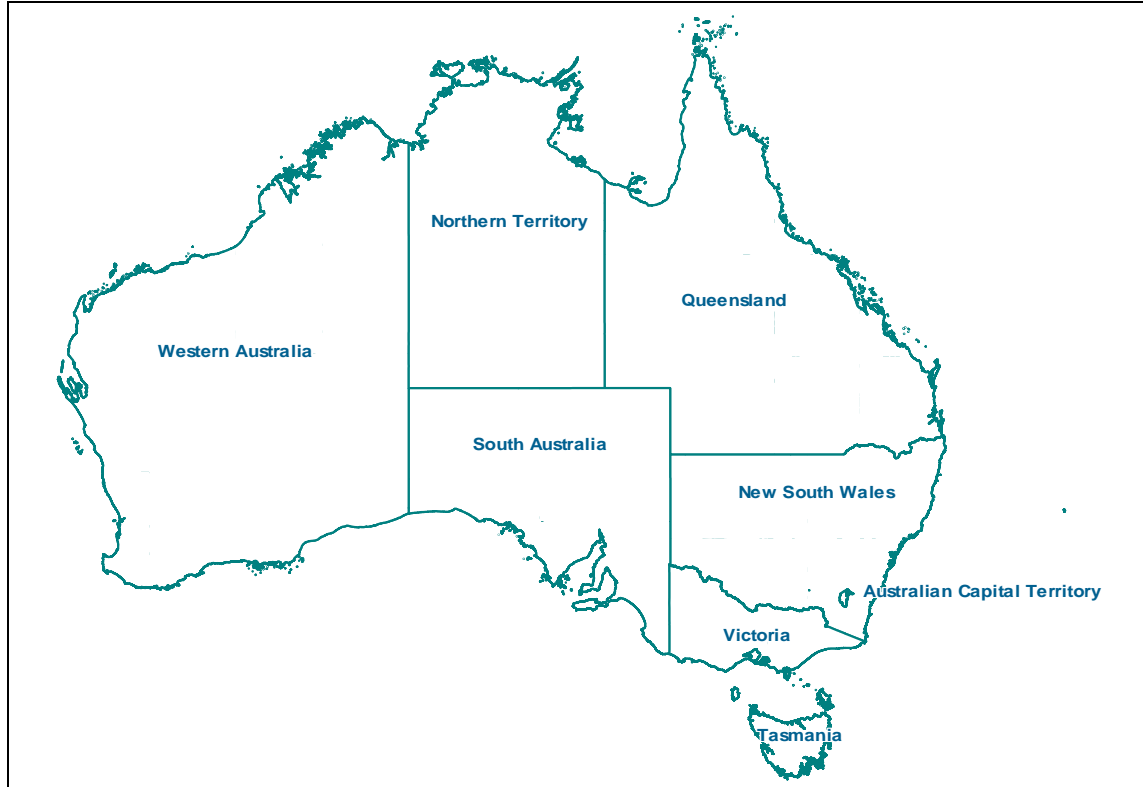


Figure 1. MCEECDYA Classification of Geographic Location.

6. NATIONAL RESULTS

Summaries of the national results of the Indigenous Preschool collections are provided below.

6.1 TOTAL PRESCHOOLS



PRESCHOOLS

	Preschools Participating in 2009 Census*		Preschools with Indigenous Enrolments		Total Enrolments		Total Indigenous Enrolments	
	Gov	Non**	Gov	Non	Gov	Non	Gov	Non
New South Wales	99	893	72	391	4,211	55,910	491	2,616
Victoria		1,519		363		78,505		860
Queensland	26	365	26	114	536	17,200	515	841
South Australia	390	83	234	35	15,850	4,850	1,073	289
Western Australia	631	238	397	70	20,274	8,313	1,823	240
Tasmania	164	57	115	20	4,328	1,661	303	46
Northern Territory	121	9	119	8	3,113	278	1,289	126
Australian Capital Territory	67	14	45	2	4,026	686	170	5
Total	1,498	3,178	1,008	1,003	52,338	167,403	5,664	5,023

*Adjusted after removal of duplicate records for preschools appearing in both Government and supplementary Non-Government Collections.

**Excludes centres that were contacted but did not respond to the Census or responded but indicated they were not a preschool under the definitions provided.

6.2 TOTAL ENROLMENTS

TOTAL CHILDREN ENROLLED

	2006	2007	2008	2009
New South Wales	63,799	62,304	60,679	60,121
Victoria	76,333	74,530	73,475	78,505
Queensland	14,962	17,638	17,736	17,736
South Australia	19,784	19,446	22,560	20,700
Western Australia	24,841	24,745	27,336	28,587
Tasmania	5,859	6,148	5,929	5,989
Northern Territory	3,485	3,561	3,319	3,391
Australian Capital Territory	3,935	4,030	4,492	4,712
Metropolitan Zone	147,586	146,775	150,494	152,655
Provincial Zone	57,936	57,825	57,274	59,254
Remote Zone	7,476	7,802	7,758	7,832
Total Children	212,998	212,402	215,526	219,741

GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SECTORS

	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Gov	Non	Gov	Non	Gov	Non	Gov	Non
New South Wales	4,273	59,526	4,167	58,137	4,205	56,474	4,211	55,910
Victoria	0	76,333	0	74,530	0	73,475	0	78,505
Queensland*	0	14,962	518	17,120	521	17,215	536	17,200
South Australia	17,338	2,446	16,161	3,285	16,238	6,322	15,850	4,850
Western Australia	18,770	6,071	18,594	6,151	19,223	8,113	20,274	8,313
Tasmania	4,514	1,345	4,510	1,638	4,327	1,602	4,328	1,661
Northern Territory	3,242	243	3,286	275	3,041	278	3,113	278
Australian Capital Territory	3,494	441	3,623	407	3,935	557	4,026	686
Metropolitan Zone	33,478	114,108	32,922	113,853	33,855	116,639	34,402	118,253
Provincial Zone	13,175	44,761	12,690	45,135	12,554	44,720	12,603	46,651
Remote Zone	4,978	2,498	5,247	2,555	5,081	2,677	5,333	2,499
Total Children	51,631	161,367	50,859	161,543	51,490	164,036	52,338	167,403

* Queensland Government preschools included for the first time in 2007.

GENDER

	2006			2007			2008			2009		
	Male	Female	Not Stated	Male	Female	Not Stated	Male	Female	Not Stated	Male	Female	Not Stated
New South Wales	33,311	30,275	213	30,906	28,291	3,107	31,526	28,942	211	31,349	28,772	0
Victoria	39,338	36,790	205	37,573	34,656	2,301	37,842	35,070	563	40,503	37,881	121
Queensland	7,655	7,307	0	8,817	8,487	334	8,971	8,765	0	9,063	8,673	0
South Australia	10,108	9,616	60	9,828	9,042	576	11,756	10,526	278	10,672	10,028	0
Western Australia	12,994	11,847	0	12,576	12,105	64	14,041	13,245	50	14,729	13,858	0
Tasmania	3,044	2,815	0	3,131	3,017	0	3,094	2,835	0	3,127	2,862	0
Northern Territory	1,859	1,626	0	1,843	1,718	0	1,705	1,614	0	1,743	1,648	0
Australian Capital Territory	2,001	1,934	0	2,042	1,988	0	2,326	2,166	0	2,417	2,295	0
Metropolitan Zone	76,602	70,565	419	73,845	68,120	4,810	77,822	71,670	1,002	79,086	73,448	121
Provincial Zone	29,812	28,065	59	28,978	27,413	1,434	29,423	27,751	100	30,513	28,741	0
Remote Zone	3,896	3,580	0	3,893	3,771	138	4,016	3,742	0	4,004	3,828	0
Total Children	110,310	102,210	478	106,716	99,304	6,382	111,261	103,163	1,102	113,603	106,017	121

AGE (YEARS)

	2006				2007				2008				2009			
	≤3	4	≥5	n/s	≤3	4	≥5	n/s	≤3	4	≥5	n/s	≤3	4	≥5	n/s
New South Wales	17,283	32,444	13,530	542	16,647	32,352	12,825	480	16,564	31,304	12,487	324	16,127	31,388	12,456	150
Victoria	12,903	38,096	25,035	299	10,497	37,872	25,822	339	9,137	39,016	24,896	426	11,518	39,980	26,818	189
Queensland	4,693	8,352	1,831	86	2,693	12,961	1,882	102	1,910	13,724	2,054	48	1,714	13,745	2,277	0
South Australia	1,874	16,901	889	120	2,016	16,140	845	445	3,199	18,028	1,055	278	2,692	17,078	930	0
Western Australia	805	22,972	1,064	0	724	23,063	958	0	841	25,192	1,303	0	1,034	26,261	1,292	0
Tasmania	73	2,870	2,916	0	179	3,016	2,953	0	40	3,004	2,885	0	52	3,043	2,894	0
Northern Territory	458	2,657	370	0	441	2,870	250	0	385	2,694	240	0	478	2,666	247	0
Australian Capital Territory	229	2,541	1,165	0	233	2,648	1,149	0	302	2,939	1,251	0	415	3,331	966	0
Metropolitan Zone	27,104	87,753	31,904	825	23,453	90,934	31,231	1,157	22,537	95,483	31,648	826	23,451	96,651	32,401	152
Provincial Zone	9,980	33,599	14,135	222	8,879	34,001	14,750	195	8,682	34,449	13,893	250	9,473	34,847	14,747	187
Remote Zone	1,234	5,481	761	0	1,098	5,987	703	14	1,159	5,969	630	0	1,106	5,994	732	0
Total Children	38,318	126,833	46,800	1,047	33,430	130,922	46,684	1,366	32,378	135,901	46,171	1,076	34,030	137,492	47,880	339

n/s = not stated.

The total number of children enrolled in preschools across Australia increased by 2% for 2009, double the increase seen in 2008. While New South Wales continued its downward trend in enrolments, Victoria saw a 7% increase following three consecutive years of incremental decline. Queensland enrolments remained steady and most other states showed a small to moderate level increase except for New South Wales and South Australia. Although the decline in New South Wales was less than 1%, South Australian enrolments showed the largest change from 2008 with a decline in enrolments of 8%. This drop was more keenly felt in the non-Government sector, which had a 23% decline in enrolments. Some of this decline can be attributed to a corresponding decrease (25%) in the number of non-government preschools.

6.3 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

TOTAL INDIGENOUS CHILDREN ENROLLED

	2006	2007	2008	2009
New South Wales	2,763	2,679	2,780	3,107
Victoria	597	589	677	860
Queensland	810	1,301	1,347	1,356
South Australia	1,066	1,097	1,297	1,362
Western Australia	2,127	1,981	2,042	2,063
Tasmania	322	358	324	349
Northern Territory	1,477	1,519	1,399	1,415
Australian Capital Territory	113	103	148	175
Metropolitan Zone	2,578	2,581	2,712	3,124
Provincial Zone	3,674	3,724	3,996	4,287
Remote Zone	3,023	3,322	3,306	3,276
Total Indigenous Children	9,275	9,627	10,014	10,687

GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SECTORS

	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Gov	Non	Gov	Non	Gov	Non	Gov	Non
New South Wales	422	2,341	403	2,276	409	2,371	491	2,616
Victoria	0	597	0	589	0	677	0	860
Queensland	0	810	509	792	503	844	515	841
South Australia	989	77	1,008	89	998	299	1,073	289
Western Australia	1,801	326	1,692	289	1,746	296	1,823	240
Tasmania	285	37	310	48	285	39	303	46
Northern Territory	1,338	139	1,369	150	1,250	149	1,289	126
Australian Capital Territory	96	17	102	1	146	2	170	5
Metropolitan Zone	1,418	1,160	1,484	1,097	1,440	1,272	1,647	1,477
Provincial Zone	1,404	2,270	1,471	2,253	1,491	2,505	1,561	2,726
Remote Zone	2,109	914	2,438	884	2,406	900	2,456	820
Total Indigenous Children	4,931	4,344	5,393	4,234	5,337	4,677	5,664	5,023

GENDER

	2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
New South Wales	1,444	1,319	1,373	1,306	1,423	1,357	1,619	1,488
Victoria	315	282	305	284	339	338	445	415
Queensland	430	380	675	626	686	661	693	663
South Australia	536	530	565	532	647	650	696	666
Western Australia	1,076	1,051	961	1,020	1,011	1,031	1,026	1,037
Tasmania	181	141	186	172	165	159	177	172
Northern Territory	798	679	788	731	732	667	704	711
Australian Capital Territory	56	57	52	51	75	73	90	85
Metropolitan Zone	1,372	1,206	1,327	1,254	1,373	1,339	1,624	1,500
Provincial Zone	1,904	1,770	1,905	1,819	2,002	1,994	2,181	2,106
Remote Zone	1,560	1,463	1,673	1,649	1,703	1,603	1,645	1,631
Total Indigenous Children	4,836	4,439	4,905	4,722	5,078	4,936	5,450	5,237

AGE (YEARS)

	2006				2007				2008				2009			
	≤3	4	≥5	n/s	≤3	4	≥5	n/s	≤3	4	≥5	n/s	≤3	4	≥5	n/s
New South Wales	875	1,501	387		879	1,340	460	0	922	1,472	385	1	1,030	1,577	500	0
Victoria	30	340	227		18	316	255	0	62	369	246	0	129	452	279	0
Queensland	237	404	169		243	985	72	1	242	993	112	0	244	1,017	95	0
South Australia	411	623	32		467	572	58	0	539	712	46	0	557	750	55	0
W. Australia	234	1,804	89		212	1,712	57	0	255	1,702	85	0	214	1,794	55	0
Tasmania	0	156	166		0	180	178	0	0	171	153	0	0	168	181	0
Northern Territory	233	986	258		251	1,105	163	0	230	1,028	141	0	284	1,001	130	0
Australian Capital Territory	20	60	33		29	54	20	0	27	86	35	0	52	101	21	1
Metro Zone	524	1,650	404		559	1,653	369	0	635	1,749	328	0	724	1,983	416	1
Provincial Zone	876	2,221	577		936	2,181	607	0	997	2,420	579	0	1,089	2,534	664	0
Remote Zone	640	2,003	380		604	2,430	287	1	645	2,364	296	1	697	2,343	236	0
Total Indigenous Children	2,040	5,874	1,361		2,099	6,264	1,263	1	2,277	6,533	1,203	1	2,510	6,860	1,316	1

n/s = not stated.

SESSIONS -

	2006				2007			2008			2009		
	≤5	≥6	n/s	%≥6	≤5	≥6	%≥6	≤5	≥6	%≥6	≤5	≥6	%≥6
New South Wales	1,957	805	1	29.1	1,672	1,007	37.6	1,823	957	34.4	2,160	947	30.5
Victoria	549	48	0	8.0	528	61	10.4	606	71	10.5	761	99	11.5
Queensland	450	360	0	44.4	871	430	33.1	910	437	32.4	930	426	31.4
South Australia	1,066	0	0	0	1,095	2	0.2	1,290	7	0.5	1,340	22	1.6
Western Australia	2,090	37	0	1.7	1,937	44	2.2	1,989	53	2.6	2,023	40	1.9
Tasmania	319	3	0	0.9	350	8	2.2	316	8	2.5	270	79	22.6
Northern Territory	1,444	33	0	2.2	1,498	21	1.4	1,343	56	4.0	1,204	211	14.9
Australian Capital Territory	113	0	0	0	103	0	0.0	146	2	1.4	157	18	10.3
Metro Zone	2,081	497	0	19.3	2,071	510	19.8	2,146	566	20.9	2,461	663	21.2
Provincial Zone	3,171	502	1	13.7	3,051	673	18.1	3,346	650	16.3	3,644	643	15.0
Remote Zone	2,736	287	0	9.5	2,932	390	11.7	2,931	375	11.3	2,740	536	16.4
Total Indigenous Children	7,988	1,286	1	13.9	8,054	1,573	16.3	8,423	1,591	15.9	8,845	1,842	17.2

n/s = not stated.

In 2009, a total of 10,687 Indigenous children were enrolled in Government and non-Government preschools Australia-wide, a 7% increase from 2008. This follows a four percent increase in 2008 and 2007. All states and territories showed an increase in Indigenous enrolments, with Victoria (27%), New South Wales (12%) and the Australian Capital Territory (18%) recording the highest changes.

Overall, there were slightly more Indigenous enrolments in Government schools (53%) compared to the non-Government sector (47%), however this ratio varied considerably between States and Territories. Around 84% of New South Wales enrolments, 62% of Queensland enrolments and all Victorian enrolments were in the non-Government sector. The Victorian result is not unexpected as there are no Government preschools in this State. In all other States and Territories, over 78% of enrolments were in the Government sector. The Government sector provides for three quarters (75%) of enrolments located in the Remote zone, while most of the enrolments in the Provincial zone (64%) are in the non-Government sector.

Age distributions are affected by a number of separate issues. In particular, the three year old numbers are strongly affected by entrance conditions and availability - if there is a shortage of preschool places they are likely to be reserved for older children. Five year old numbers are affected by whether it is possible for children to attend primary school at that age. Four year olds are the largest age group, comprising 64% of total Indigenous enrolments (where age was known) compared with 24% for three year olds and 12% for five year olds.

In all States and Territories most Indigenous children participated in five or fewer half-day sessions per week. The highest proportion of children attending six or more sessions per week was 31% in Queensland, closely followed by New South Wales (30%).

7. STATE AND TERRITORY RESULTS

7.1 NEW SOUTH WALES

7.1.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS –

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	4,273	4,167	4,205	3,609	497	105	4,211
In Non-Govt. preschools	59,526	58,137	56,474	35,623	19,606	681	55,910
Males	33,311	30,906	31,526	20,482	10,446	421	31,349
Females	30,275	28,291	28,942	18,750	9,657	365	28,772
Gender not stated	213	3,107	211	0	0	0	0
Age ≤3 yrs	17,283	16,647	16,564	10,242	5,665	220	16,127
Age 4 yrs	32,444	32,352	31,304	21,254	9,738	396	31,388
Age ≥5 yrs	13,530	12,825	12,487	7,666	4,620	170	12,456
Age not stated	542	480	324	70	80	0	150
Total Children	63,799	62,304	60,679	39,232	20,103	786	60,121

7.1.2 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	422	403	409	227	182	82	491
In Non-Govt. preschools	2,341	2,276	2,371	552	1,789	275	2,616
Males	1,444	1,373	1,423	422	1,014	183	1,619
Females	1,319	1,306	1,357	357	957	174	1,488
Age ≤3 yrs	875	879	922	238	664	128	1,030
Age 4 yrs	1,501	1,340	1,472	406	979	192	1,577
Age ≥5 yrs	387	460	385	135	328	37	500
Age not stated	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
≤5 sessions per week	1,957	1,672	1,823	466	1,474	220	2,160
≥6 sessions per week	805	1,007	957	313	497	137	947
Sessions not stated	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage ≥ 6 sessions	29.1%	37.6%	34.4%	40.2%	25.2%	38.4%	30.5%
Total Indigenous Children	2,763	2,679	2,780	779	1,971	357	3,107

Children are required to be enrolled in compulsory schooling in New South Wales by their sixth birthday, however children may begin formal schooling at the beginning of the school year provided they turn five by 31 July of that year. Children usually attend non-compulsory preschool for the year before they enter school. Enrolment for children outside these age groups is considered under special circumstances.

7.2 VICTORIA

7.2.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Non-Govt. preschools	76,333	74,530	73,475	60,611	17,808	86	78,505
Males	39,338	37,573	37,842	31,303	9,164	36	40,503
Females	36,790	34,656	35,070	29,187	8,644	50	37,881
Gender not stated	205	2,301	563	121	0	0	121
Age ≤3 yrs	12,903	10,497	9,137	9,268	2,231	19	11,518
Age 4 yrs	38,096	37,872	39,016	31,760	8,179	41	39,980
Age ≥5 yrs	25,035	25,822	24,896	19,501	7,291	26	26,818
Age not stated	299	339	426	82	107	0	189
Total Children	76,333	74,530	73,475	60,611	17,808	86	78,505

7.2.2 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009		Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial/ Remote	
In Govt. preschools	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Non-Govt. preschools	597	589	677	322	538	860
Males	315	305	339	165	280	445
Females	282	284	338	157	258	415
Age ≤3 yrs	30	18	62	31	98	129
Age 4 yrs	340	316	369	172	280	452
Age ≥5 yrs	227	255	246	119	160	279
≤5 sessions per week	549	528	606	251	510	761
≥ 6 sessions per week	48	61	71	71	28	99
Percentage ≥ 6 sessions	8.0%	10.4%	10.5%	22.0%	5.0%	11.5%
Total Indigenous Children	597	589	677	322	538	860

All preschools in Victoria are run by non-Government bodies. They are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Community Services and not an education authority as in most States and Territories.

Compulsory schooling in Victoria begins in the year the child turns five years old and must have commenced by the child's sixth birthday. The age for priority placing/enrolment into a non-compulsory preschool program is four years of age (by 30 April of that year). Enrolment for children outside these age groups or in special circumstances is determined under a set of specific guidelines.

7.3 QUEENSLAND

7.3.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	0	518	521	0	104	432	536
In Non-Govt. preschools	14,962	17,120	17,215	10,189	5,919	1,092	17,200
Males	7,655	8,817	8,971	5,216	3,089	758	9,063
Females	7,307	8,487	8,765	4,973	2,934	766	8,673
Gender not stated	0	334	0	0	0	0	0
Age ≤3 yrs	4,693	2,693	1,910	650	844	220	1,714
Age 4 yrs	8,352	12,961	13,724	8,121	4,483	1,141	13,745
Age ≥5 yrs	1,831	1,882	2,054	1,418	696	163	2,277
Age not stated	86	102	48	0	0	0	0
Total Children	14,962	17,638	17,736	10,189	6,023	1,524	17,736

7.3.2 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	0	509	503	0	103	412	515
In Non-Govt. preschools	810	792	844	363	252	226	841
Males	430	675	686	195	184	314	693
Females	380	626	661	168	171	324	663
Age ≤3 yrs	237	243	242	92	76	76	244
Age 4 yrs	404	985	993	233	249	535	1,017
Age ≥5 yrs	169	72	112	38	30	27	95
Age not stated	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
≤5 sessions per week	450	871	910	163	276	491	930
≥ 6 sessions per week	360	430	437	200	79	147	426
Percentage ≥ 6 sessions	44.4%	33.1%	32.4%	55.1%	22.3%	23.0%	31.4%
Total Indigenous Children	810	1,301	1,347	363	355	638	1,356

In 2007 a Preparatory year (Prep) replaced preschool in Queensland. Prep is part of the primary schooling provided through state and non-state schools but is not compulsory. Children must be five by 30 June in the year they start Prep. Education prior to Prep is generally met by non-Government schools and between 2005 and 2006 there were no Government preschools included in the Census. In 2007 a small number of Government preschools were included and a similar number participated in the 2009 Census. Indigenous enrolments have seen a small but steady increase since 2007.

7.4 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

7.4.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	17,338	16,161	16,238	11,026	3,934	890	15,850
In Non-Govt. preschools	2,446	3,285	6,322	3,808	967	75	4,850
Males	10,108	9,828	11,756	7,675	2,503	494	10,672
Females	9,616	9,042	10,526	7,159	2,398	471	10,028
Gender not stated	60	576	278	0	0	0	0
Age ≤3 yrs	1,874	2,016	3,199	2,105	430	157	2,692
Age 4 yrs	16,901	16,140	18,028	12,098	4,224	756	17,078
Age ≥5 yrs	889	845	1,055	631	247	52	930
Age not stated	120	445	278	0	0	0	0
Total Children	19,784	19,446	22,560	14,834	4,901	965	20,700

7.4.2 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	989	1,008	998	481	401	191	1,073
In Non-Govt. preschools	77	89	299	161	88	40	289
Males	536	565	647	332	245	119	696
Females	530	532	650	310	244	112	666
Age ≤3 yrs	411	467	539	267	188	102	557
Age 4 yrs	623	572	712	352	285	113	750
Age ≥5 yrs	32	58	46	23	16	16	55
≤5 sessions per week	1,066	1,095	1,290	639	489	212	1,340
≥ 6 sessions per week	0	2	7	3	0	19	22
Percentage ≥ 6 sessions	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	8.2%	1.6%
Total Indigenous Children	1,066	1,097	1,297	642	489	231	1,362

The entry age of children for compulsory schooling in South Australia is six years old, however most children enrol in school in the term following their fifth birthday. Preschool is provided to all children in the year prior to school entry. Generally the child will be four or five years old. Indigenous children can be enrolled as young as three and as old as six years of age. Early and extended enrolments are approved under special conditions.

7.5 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

7.5.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	18,770	18,594	19,223	13,997	4,136	2,141	20,274
In Non-Govt. preschools	6,071	6,151	8,113	6,432	1,484	397	8,313
Males	12,994	12,576	14,041	10,593	2,840	1,296	14,729
Females	11,847	12,105	13,245	9,836	2,780	1,242	13,858
Gender not stated	0	64	50	0	0	0	0
Age ≤3 yrs	805	724	841	757	115	162	1,034
Age 4 yrs	22,972	23,063	25,192	18,710	5,260	2,291	26,261
Age ≥5 yrs	1,064	958	1,303	962	245	85	1,292
Total Children	24,841	24,745	27,336	20,429	5,620	2,538	28,587

7.5.2 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	1,801	1,692	1,746	670	440	713	1,823
In Non-Govt. preschools	326	289	296	56	28	156	240
Males	1,076	961	1,011	364	219	443	1,026
Females	1,051	1,020	1,031	362	249	426	1,037
Age ≤3 yrs	234	212	255	52	39	123	214
Age 4 yrs	1,804	1,712	1,702	660	419	715	1,794
Age ≥5 yrs	89	57	85	14	10	31	55
≤5 sessions per week	2,090	1,937	1,989	715	467	841	2,023
≥ 6 sessions per week	37	44	53	11	1	28	40
Percentage ≥ 6 sessions	1.7%	2.2%	2.6%	1.5%	0.2%	3.2%	1.9%
Total Indigenous Children	2,127	1,981	2,042	726	468	869	2,063

It is compulsory in Western Australia for a child who has turned six by 30 June to be enrolled at a school. Children must be four by 30 June to be eligible for enrolment in kindergarten, however kindergarten and pre-primary are not compulsory.

7.6 TASMANIA

7.6.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	4,514	4,510	4,327	1,771	2,468	89	4,328
In Non-Govt. preschools	1,345	1,638	1,602	904	749	8	1,661
Males	3,044	3,131	3,094	1,413	1,662	52	3,127
Females	2,815	3,017	2,835	1,262	1,555	45	2,862
Age ≤3 yrs	73	179	40	25	27	0	52
Age 4 yrs	2,870	3,016	3,004	1,391	1,599	53	3,043
Age ≥5 yrs	2,916	2,953	2,885	1,259	1,591	44	2,894
Total Children	5,859	6,148	5,929	2,675	3,217	97	5,989

7.6.2 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009			Total
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Remote	
In Govt. preschools	285	310	285	112	180	11	303
In Non-Govt. preschools	37	48	39	18	28	0	46
Males	181	186	165	62	110	5	177
Females	141	172	159	68	98	6	172
Age ≤3 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age >=4 yrs	322	358	324	130	208	11	349
≤5 sessions per week	319	350	316	83	181	6	270
≥ 6 sessions per week	3	8	8	47	27	5	79
Percentage ≥ 6 sessions	0.9%	2.2%	2.5%	36.2%	13.0%	45.5%	22.6%
Total Indigenous Children	322	358	324	130	208	11	349

The total number of Indigenous children enrolled in preschool in Tasmania is relatively small, so there are limits to what can be read into the results of the Census in this State.

The compulsory age for starting school in Tasmania is five years of age when children can be enrolled in preparatory. Children can be enrolled in kindergarten if they have turned four years old by 1 January of the year of enrolment (which is non-compulsory). Provisions are made for early entry enrolment of children into kindergarten based on mobility and giftedness.

7.7 NORTHERN TERRITORY

7.7.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009		
	Total	Total	Total	Provincial	Remote	Total
In Govt. preschools	3,242	3,286	3,041	1,437	1,676	3,113
In Non-Govt. preschools	243	275	278	118	160	278
Males	1,859	1,843	1,705	796	947	1,743
Females	1,626	1,718	1,614	759	889	1,648
Age ≤3 yrs	458	441	385	150	328	478
Age 4 yrs	2,657	2,870	2,694	1,350	1,316	2,666
Age ≥5 yrs	370	250	240	55	192	247
Total Children	3,485	3,561	3,319	1,555	1,836	3,391

7.7.2 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009		
	Total	Total	Total	Provincial	Remote	Total
In Govt. preschools	1,338	1,369	1,250	242	1,047	1,289
In Non-Govt. preschools	139	150	149	4	122	126
Males	798	788	732	123	581	704
Females	679	731	667	123	588	711
Age ≤3 yrs	233	251	230	16	268	284
Age 4 yrs	986	1,105	1,028	222	779	1,001
Age ≥5 yrs	258	163	141	8	122	130
≤5 sessions per week	1,444	1,498	1,343	234	970	1,204
≥ 6 sessions per week	33	21	56	12	199	211
Percentage ≥ 6 sessions	2.2%	1.4%	4.0%	4.9%	17.0%	4.9%
Total Indigenous Children	1,477	1,519	1,399	246	1,169	1,415

The Northern Territory is unusual in having no areas defined as "Metropolitan" under the MCEECDYA classifications - Darwin is considered provincial and the rest of the Territory is remote. The boundary between provincial and remote is effectively on the outskirts of Darwin itself, an area where many Indigenous people reside. Consequently, the total figures must be considered far more reliable than the breakdown by provincial and remote.

Entry age of children for compulsory schooling in the Northern Territory is five years of age. Attendance at preschool is not compulsory and priority placing is given to four year olds. Three year olds may attend preschool provided that the child is accompanied by a parent.

7.8 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

7.8.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009		
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Total
In Govt. preschools	3,494	3,623	3,935	3,999	27	4,026
In Non-Govt. preschools	441	407	557	686	0	686
Males	2,001	2,042	2,326	2,404	13	2,417
Females	1,934	1,988	2,166	2,281	14	2,295
Age ≤3 yrs	229	233	302	404	11	415
Age ≥4 yrs	3,706	3,797	4,190	2,353	16	4,297
Total Children	3,935	4,030	4,492	4,685	27	4,712

7.8.2 INDIGENOUS ENROLMENTS

	2006	2007	2008	2009		
	Total	Total	Total	Metro	Provincial	Total
In Govt. preschools	96	102	146	157	13	170
In Non-Govt. preschools	17	1	2	5	0	5
Males	56	52	75	84	6	90
Females	57	51	73	78	7	85
Age ≤3 yrs	20	29	27	44	8	52
Age 4 yrs	60	54	86	96	5	101
Age ≥5 yrs	33	20	35	21	0	21
Age not stated	0	0	0	1	0	1
≤5 sessions per week	113	103	146	158	13	171
≥ 6 sessions per week	0	0	2	4	0	4
Percentage ≥ 6 sessions	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	2.5%	0.0%	4.9%
Total Indigenous Children	113	103	148	162	13	175

Similar to Tasmania, the total number of Indigenous children attending preschool in the Australian Capital Territory is relatively small so there are limits to what can be read into the results of the Census in this Territory.

Children should turn five years old by 30 April to be enrolled in compulsory schooling in the Australian Capital Territory. The entry age for non-compulsory preschool is four years before 30 April of the current year. Special conditions exist for preschool enrolment of younger children, special needs and other circumstances.

Jervis Bay preschools, although situated in New South Wales, are reported under the Australian Capital Territory.