

Overview of the 2026 National Workforce Census (the Census)

Phase	Key actions	Timeframe
Phase 1 Register for the Census	There are two ways to access the registration portal: Option 1: Via email 1. Locate the email sent from nwc@srcentre.com.au 2. Click the unique registration link provided in the email. 3. This link will take you directly to the registration portal. No Login Code or additional login details are required. Option 2: Via the login code 1. If you have received a hard copy letter, go to: education.gov.au/early-childhood/nwc 2. Click the 'Login' button and enter the service Login Code provided in this letter Once you have accessed the registration portal, you will be asked to: Confirm the service contact details, nominate a key contact person and provide the total number of workers expected to be working during the reference week.	Family Day Care, In-Home Care, OSHC (Before and/or after School Care), Centre Based Day Care and dedicated Preschools and Kindergartens in all states register before 14 September 2026 OSHC (Vacation Care services) in VIC, QLD, SA, NSW, ACT and NT register before 28 September 2026 Vacation services in TAS, WA register before 5 October 2026
Phase 2 Review and prepare the Census data	Before the Census opens for completion: 1. Review the Census information available at National Workforce Census - Social Research Centre 2. Review the PDF containing the list of questions that will be asked as part of the Census here. 3. Gather the information you will need to answer each of the Census question from relevant sources, which may include staff records, service records, HR or payroll systems, the Child Care Management System (CCMS), service managers, or other staff. Have this information ready for when the Census opens for completion. 4. Distribute the Privacy Notice.	July – August 2026
Phase 3 Complete the Census	When the Census opens for completion: 1. Enter the prepared data into the Census portal. 2. Submit Census data The Census will request information for each service based on a seven-day period, referred to as the 'reference week'. The 2026 reference weeks and Census opening dates by service type and state are as follows: Reference week 1: Monday 14 September – Sunday 20 September 2026 For Family Day Care, In-Home Care, OSHC (Before and/or after School Care), Centre Based Day Care, and dedicated Preschools and Kindergartens in all states. The Census opens on Monday 21 September 2026 Reference week 2: Monday 28 September – Sunday 4 October 2026 For OSHC (Vacation Care services) in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. The Census opens on Monday 5 October 2026. Reference week 3: Monday 5 October – Sunday 11 October 2026 For OSHC (Vacation Care services) in Tasmania and Western Australia. The Census opens on Monday 12 October 2026.	September – December 2026

If support is required at any stage, please contact the NWC team:
1800 800 996 (free call from 9:00am to 5:00pm AEST on Monday to Friday) or email: nwc@srcentre.com.au