

2026 Early Childhood Education and Care National Workforce Census

Reference weeks and key deadlines by service type, states and territories

Reference week	States and territories	Service type	Registration closing date	Census opening date
Reference week 1 Monday 14 September – Sunday 20 September 2026	All states and territories	Family day care (FDC)	14 September 2026	21 September 2026
Reference week 1 Monday 14 September – Sunday 20 September 2026	All states and territories	In home care (IHC)	14 September 2026	21 September 2026
Reference week 1 Monday 14 September – Sunday 20 September 2026	All states and territories	OSHC (Before and/or after School Care)	14 September 2026	21 September 2026
Reference week 1 Monday 14 September – Sunday 20 September 2026	All states and territories	Centre based day care (CBDC)	14 September 2026	21 September 2026
Reference week 1 Monday 14 September – Sunday 20 September 2026	All states and territories	Preschools and Kindergartens	14 September 2026	21 September 2026
Reference week 2 Monday 28 September – Sunday 4 October 2026	Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory	OSHC - Vacation Care services	28 September 2026	5 October 2026
Reference week 3: Monday 5 October – Sunday 11 October 2026	Tasmania and Western Australia	OSHC - Vacation Care services	5 October 2026	12 October 2026

*Note: The National Workforce Census will collect information about a seven-day period or 'reference week'. Please review the reference week and key deadlines relevant to your service type and state or territory.