

Key findings

- ◆ International and world-first study finds where you live affects your access to childcare.
- ◆ The study examined accessibility for more than 10 million children across nine nations. Accessibility by country varies but each country has areas with 'childcare deserts' where there are more than three children per available place.
- ◆ The research uses data from publicly available and official datasets – usually government registers of providers - to measure the relative accessibility of childcare to provide a world-first overview of childcare provision down to neighbourhood level.
- ◆ Note: A childcare 'desert' is where there more than three children per childcare place or 0.333 places per child. Locations with less than 0.333 are considered a desert.

Access to childcare for zero to five years old

Ranking	Country	Percent of childcare deserts
1	Norway	6%
2	Sweden	7%
3	Scotland	10%
4	Australia	24%
5	Netherlands	25%
6	Wales	27%
7	Northern Ireland	37%
8	England	45%
9	France (for children under three years)	86%

◆ What happens when government gets involved?

- ◆ Most countries have a mixed model approach, which means for-profit and not-for-profit services operate in a market alongside another model that looks more like the school system with providers receiving direct funding for services. Accessibility differs within countries according to the model.
- ◆ Market-based approaches can result in more accessibility in advantaged areas. There is evidence that providers also choose to operate in areas where they can charge higher fees.

The report confirms that government incentives matter and programs that target more disadvantaged areas have an impact creating greater equity and access.

Source: *International childcare report: Mapping the deserts*.

The full international study: *International childcare report: Mapping the deserts* will be released from early September.

Australian data can be found [here](#).