



Education Report: Design of a new funding model for playcentre

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education Hon David Seymour, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	5 February 2024	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	Budget Sensitive	METIS No:	1318509
Drafter:	Julia Marshall	DDI:	462 8089
Key Contact:	Siobhan Murray	DDI:	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Purpose of Report

1. This paper provides information on the Budget 2024 playcentre initiative to inform your Budget discussion this week, and seeks your direction on the playcentre initiative.

Summary

2. Playcentre Aotearoa provides parent-led licensed early childhood education (ECE) for around 8,400 children, through 389 playcentres nationwide. Playcentre enrolments are predominantly from families from higher socioeconomic backgrounds. It plays an important role in the ECE network, particularly in small urban and rural areas where the population is not large enough to support teacher-led ECE provision.
3. Playcentre enrolments have been declining for many years as more caregivers and parents have entered the labour market and family sizes have reduced. When combined with the low funding rates playcentre generates under the cost based ECE funding model, this has led to significant financial viability issues for Playcentre Aotearoa. 9(2) [REDACTED] (ba)(i) [REDACTED]
4. To address these concerns the previous Minister directed us to work with Playcentre Aotearoa on a new funding model for playcentre. This work proposes three options:
 - **Including centre coordinator and visiting support costs in playcentre funding** to reduce its reliance on parental volunteers for service delivery
 - **A separate property funding stream** to support playcentre to meet large one-off costs, such as building remediation works, which is difficult due to their very small funding base and limited economies of scale, and/or
 - **Introducing an additional mechanism to recognise and fund quality in playcentre**, as only 10% of playcentres currently qualify for the quality funding band.

5. The Ministry has developed an initiative for Budget 2024 based on these options which includes:

Budget option	Description	Four year total
Full Funding	9(2)(f)(iv)	
Scaled		
Minimum Viable	Provides funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a property funding stream 9(2)(f)(iv) funding all playcentre enrolments at the higher under-2s funding rates and introducing an additional mechanism to access quality funding rates 9(2)(f)(iv) 	9(2)(f)(iv)

6. Playcentre Aotearoa prefers a funding model that includes full funding for centre coordinators and additional visiting support. It considers the administrative load on parents is a major barrier to participation and that a model where paid coordinators take on administration tasks and facilitate sessions will increase participation.
7. The Ministry prefers either the scaled option or the MVO because:
- The Full Funding option would result in playcentre funding rates that are only slightly lower than the rates for education and care services. This is not justified as education and care centres are required to employ degree-qualified staff, whereas playcentre would continue to have unpaid parent volunteers responsible for education delivery, albeit supported by paid coordinators
 - Fully funding the new operating model may not increase participation, as the wider pressures on parents to work may outweigh the benefit to the shift to greater use of paid co-ordinators across the playcentre network.
8. We consider the scaled option balances these risks by providing a smaller amount of funding for the operating model developed by Playcentre Aotearoa. This places more onus on Playcentre Aotearoa to grow participation and maintain an incentive to keep parents directly involved in the delivery of playcentre, which is core to the parent-led philosophy it wants to maintain.
9. We seek your direction on which options the Ministry should submit as part of the Vote Education Budget package on 16 February.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **indicate** which options the Ministry should continue to develop as part of a Budget 2024 playcentre initiative:
- i. Fully funded option: 9(2)(f)(iv)
- [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] not recommended)

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Education

Agree / Disagree
Associate Minister of Education

ii. Scaled option: 9(2)(f)(iv)

(recommended)

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Education

Agree / Disagree
Associate Minister of Education

iii. Minimum viable option: incorporating a scaled property funding stream as well as increasing the 2s and overs funding rate to the level of the under 2s rate and providing an additional mechanism to access the quality funding band, 9(2)(f)(iv) (recommended)

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Education

Agree / Disagree
Associate Minister of Education

Proactive Release

b. **agree** that this briefing is considered for release as part of the Budget 2024 proactive release, with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Education



John Brooker
General Manager
Te Pou Kaupapahere
5/02/2024

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education
//____

Hon David Seymour
Assoc. Minister of Education
//____

Background

1. Playcentre is a parent-led service type operating since 1941 that provides licensed early childhood education (ECE) to around 8,400 children in its 389 playcentres¹. Playcentre is exempt from the requirement that 50% of staff must be qualified teachers, instead parents/caregivers volunteers are directly involved in the delivery of the curriculum. Playcentres must still meet all other licensing requirements in the Regulations for centre-based services. Playcentres must be affiliated to Playcentre Aotearoa.
2. Like other ECE services, playcentres are bulk funded on a per child per hour basis (funded child hours). In the 2021/22 financial year, Playcentre Aotearoa received just under \$14 million in Ministry of Education subsidy funding, generated through around 2.4 million funded child hours². Information on funded child hours and total subsidy funding over time is in Annex 5.
3. Parents and caregivers of children in playcentre can also undertake the New Zealand Certificate in the Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4) (the Certificate). In this way, playcentre offers both ECE for children and equips parents and caregivers with skills and knowledge to support their child's development and education. Information on enrolments and completions of playcentre qualifications is in Annex 6.

What playcentre brings to the ECE network

4. Playcentres play an important role in the ECE network as playcentres are more likely than other licensed service types to be located in small urban and rural areas where the population is not large enough to support teacher-led ECE provision. A higher proportion of playcentres are in areas classified as rural³ (33%) compared to other service types (9%). A higher proportion of playcentres are considered isolated compared to other service types⁴.
5. Key features of playcentres are:
 - Children attend playcentre for on average 4 hours per week. This compares to 23.3, 24.5 and 17.3 hours per week for education and care services, home-based services and kindergartens respectively.
 - Playcentres have relatively low occupancy rates compared to other service types.
 - Young children making up a greater proportion of playcentre enrolments compared to other service types.
 - Children attending playcentre are predominantly NZ European/Pākeha and a low proportion of playcentre enrolments are from deprived areas compared to other service types.
 - Children attending playcentre are predominantly from higher socioeconomic backgrounds.
6. Further information on the demographic profile of children attending playcentres are in the annexes.

¹ Data on number of playcentres and participation is sourced from the 2022 ECE Census.

² A Funded Child Hour is an occupied child-place that is funded for one hour. Funded child hours are the main unit of funding for early childhood services.

³ Defined as "rural settlement" or "rural other" in Stats NZ's Urban Rural 2023 update.

⁴ Using the Ministry of Education's Isolation Index 2001.

Playcentre Aotearoa faces significant viability concerns

7. Declining enrolments, combined with low funding rates, have resulted in long-standing financial difficulties for Playcentre Aotearoa.
8. The number of children enrolled in playcentre has been declining for many years. Our view is that this is caused by an increase labour market participation by primary caregivers, meaning parent-led provision, which requires parental participation, has declined. Smaller families and other demographic factors are also at play.
9. Government funding for playcentre, like other licensed services, is volume driven and the per child per hour funding rates are based on the cost of provision. Playcentre per child per hour funding rates are lower than other service types, as they have much lower operating costs than teacher-led services which are required to employ qualified teachers. Playcentres rely in large part on parental volunteers, and the lower level playcentre qualifications they undertake, to meet licensing requirements.
10. These lower funding rates, when combined with falling participation and very low attendance hours, mean the funding base for playcentre is very low. This means that Playcentre Aotearoa is struggling financially and has particular difficulty meeting fixed costs such as property costs.
11. Playcentre's ability to operate a lower cost funding model is not sustainable, given the impact of parental labour market participation on the ability of parents to contribute their time, both on-session and in study.
12. 9(2)(ba)(i)

Playcentre Aotearoa and the Ministry have been working to address viability concerns

Playcentre Aotearoa has made changes to organisational governance

13. Playcentre Aotearoa identified that the existing playcentre constitution was not fit for purpose. 9(2)(ba)(i)

14. Therefore, in late 2022, a vote was held to replace Playcentre Aotearoa's constitution with a Trust Deed. The vote passed and the adoption of the Trust Deed has now been confirmed in the High Court.
15. Under the new Trust Deed, the Trustees have the responsibility to govern and manage Playcentre Aotearoa and can exercise all the powers of the organisation to do so. This includes managing all the finances of Playcentre Aotearoa, including organising the payment and distribution of government funding. This allows Playcentre Aotearoa to run a centralised funding system across its network.

The Ministry worked with Playcentre Aotearoa to develop options for a new funding model

16. The previous Minister directed the Ministry to work with Playcentre Aotearoa on a new funding model. This was also incorporated into the Early Learning Action Plan as action

5.7. The Ministry and Playcentre Aotearoa agreed the following objectives of a new funding model for playcentre:

- playcentre continues as a viable parent-led early childhood service, keeping playcentres open and licensed
- participation increases, including through lessening the administrative and compliance burden of volunteers.

17. The options were developed using principles agreed with Playcentre Aotearoa, which were that:

- funding varies by centre size, using FCHs as the unit of funding
- both government and parents contribute to playcentre provision, with parents' contribution mainly through their time as volunteers
- quality of provision is important – the new operating model (and the funding model that goes with it) needs to support quality curriculum delivery.

18. The Ministry and Playcentre Aotearoa identified three initial options for changing the funding model for playcentres:

- **Including centre coordinator and visiting support costs in playcentre funding** to reduce its reliance on parental volunteers for service delivery
- **A separate property funding stream** to support playcentre to meet large one-off costs, such as building remediation works, which is difficult due to their very small funding base and limited economies of scale
- **Introducing an additional mechanism to recognise and fund quality in playcentre**, as only 10% of playcentres currently qualify for quality funding rates.

Introduction of centre coordinators and expansion of visiting support

19. Playcentre Aotearoa is proposing to adopt a new operating model, in which most sessions are run by a Centre Coordinator, with oversight by Visiting Support staff. [REDACTED]

9(2)(ba)(i)

20. The introduction of the centre coordinator is intended to remove administrative burden from parent volunteers to enable them to focus on the full delivery of the curriculum and to engage with playcentre's parental education. The proposed responsibilities of centre coordinators would include:

- ensuring compliance with health and safety standards, and with statutory and licensing requirements
- carrying out administrative duties
- financial duties, and some management tasks
- being the person responsible.

21. Visiting Support roles would provide line management for centre coordinators and provide assurance of compliance.

22. Playcentre already has some paid staff undertaking similar roles to those proposed in the new operating model:

- around 55% of playcentre sessions are run by a session facilitator paid by Playcentre Aotearoa, which recoups this cost from individual playcentres.

9(2)(ba)(i)

- Playcentre Aotearoa employs 26 FTE in Centre Advisor roles. 9(2)(ba)(i)

23. 9(2)(ba)(i)

Separate funding stream for playcentre property costs

24. Relatively early in the co-design process, the Ministry identified that funding generated through the ECE Funding Subsidy and 20 Hours ECE was unlikely to be sufficient for supporting property remediation. This is because these funds are generated by FCHs which are both very low per playcentre and declining. This makes it difficult for playcentres to meet large one-off costs, such as building remediation works.
25. We propose a separate funding stream for property costs that is not linked to FCHs. Such a funding stream could be structured in a similar way to the yearly property grant for Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust, which is provided via a contract. This would also align with funding recently provided to puna reo⁵ services through Budget 2023. Neither of these funding streams cover all the property costs for these services. The Crown also has a Treaty obligation to protect te reo Māori that is engaged in relation to kōhanga reo and puna reo, which is not present in relation to Playcentre Aotearoa.
26. Playcentre Aotearoa has identified a range of property-related costs. This includes costs associated with remedial work identified through tranches one and two of the condition assessments, and ongoing maintenance costs identified in ten-year maintenance plans written by WSP. 9(2)(ba)(i)

Introducing an additional mechanism for recognising and funding for quality in playcentre

27. Playcentre funding is differentiated through standard and quality bands. Playcentres must ensure that they can meet group supervision requirements associated with these funding bands, using various combinations of adults with varying qualifications.
28. Accessing quality funding is difficult for the majority of playcentres, and currently only around 10% receive this higher rate of funding. To receive the quality rate, playcentres must meet higher qualification requirements.
29. To support playcentres to increase their FCH-linked funding, we could introduce an additional mechanism for accessing quality funding. This would involve a certain number of lower-level “backing qualifications” (the qualification requirements for those adults required in addition to the person responsible and first aider requirement) are accepted alongside improved adult to child ratios (above the current 1:5 ratio).
30. By amending these settings, we expect that more playcentres would be able to receive quality funding. This links to the original intention of “parent-led” services, that is, they were still able to provide quality using an alternative mix of qualified adults and improved ratios. The existing settings for recognising quality in playcentre focus solely on the qualification component; the addition of a new mechanism would enable the quality improvement of having better adult to child ratios to be recognised and funded.
31. This change would also more closely align with the settings used for quality funding in kōhanga reo. In kōhanga reo, lower levels of qualification can be recognised for quality funding when adult to child ratios are improved.

⁵ Puna reo are kaupapa Māori education and care services. They are funded as education and care services. They provide immersion or bilingual te reo Māori education and care.

Assessment of the options

Introduction of centre coordinators and expansion of visiting support

32. The introduction of a new operating model for playcentre may increase each playcentre's ability to run sessions and generate subsidy funding as filling the role of person responsible for each session would be more straightforward with a paid staff member.
33. Providing additional government funding for the new operating model may not increase participation as the wider pressures on parents to work may outweigh the benefit to the shift to greater use of paid facilitators across the playcentre network.
34. This option potentially dilutes the parent-led nature of playcentre. Parent volunteers would still be involved in curriculum delivery, but increased reliance on a paid person responsible is likely to reduce parental incentive to complete the playcentre qualification.
35. Even though the additional funding is low compared to the overall Early Learning baseline, the increase to playcentre funding rates would be substantial. 9(2)(f)(iv)
[Redacted]
36. Raising rates in this way would mean playcentre funding rates become out of step compared to other service types. 9(2)(f)(iv)
[Redacted]
[Redacted] The base rates for education and care services are provided to services that attest to paying their certificated teachers at or above a salary of \$57,358 per annum (equivalent to \$27.58 per hour). Base funding rates are lower than the three pay parity opt in rates.

Figure 1: Playcentre quality funding rates incorporating fully funded or scaled Option 1, as a percentage of base rates for education and care services



⁶ 9(2)(f)(iv)
[Redacted]

Separate funding stream for playcentre property costs

37. Providing separate property funding would support Playcentre Aotearoa to maintain their centres and, if funding is well administered, could reduce the risk that maintenance is deferred as it has been in the past. It would also free up subsidy funding for other uses.
38. A key risk with progressing this component is that it could set a precedent for other service types to seek similar forms of funding. It also creates a risk that government will be called upon to increase the level of funding as costs change.

Introducing an additional mechanism for recognising and funding for quality in playcentre

39. Playcentre Aotearoa has advised that introducing an additional mechanism for accessing quality funding could result in around 40-50 percent of playcentres accessing the higher funding rate.
40. This option would be relatively simple to implement and would support playcentres to increase their subsidy revenue relatively quickly following implementation. However, the increase in revenue from this option alone would likely be insufficient to support ongoing sustainability of the service type. This option would only be effective if combined with a separate property stream (as proposed in the Budget initiative).

The Ministry has developed a Budget 2024 initiative based on these options

41. The Ministry has used the options described to develop three options for Budget 2024.

Table 1: Summary of Budget 2024 options for supporting playcentre

Options for Budget 2024	\$ over 4 years	Co-design options incorporated
Full Funding	9(2)(f)(iv)	
Scaled		
Minimum Viable	9(2)(f)(iv)	Scaled separate property funding stream 9(2)(f)(iv) Additional mechanism to access quality funding + increase 2s and overs funding rate 9(2)(f)(iv)
9(2)(f)(iv)		

The Ministry does not recommend fully funding centre coordinators & visiting support

42. The Full Funding option provides funding for additional Centre Coordinator FTE, including administration hours. It also provides funding for additional Visiting Support Staff. The Scaled option provides lower levels of funding for each of these three components. Annex 1 provides more detail on the assumptions underpinning these costings, including an FTE breakdown.
43. Playcentre Aotearoa's preference is a new operating model that introduces a centre coordinator role supported by a greater network of visiting support. This is Playcentre Aotearoa's response to its view that the administrative load on parent volunteers is too high. Playcentre Aotearoa's assumption is that removing this load from parents will lead to more parents enrolling their children in playcentre.

44. As noted above, this operating model may not lead to increased participation. Without increased participation, playcentre is likely to remain unsustainable. However, without increased investment, the playcentre service type is likely to cease to exist within the next 2-3 years.
45. The Ministry does not recommend the Full Funding option because playcentre funding rates would become very close to funding for education and care services. Given Playcentre Aotearoa's preference for the new operating model, the Ministry recommends putting forward a scaled version as part of Budget 2024.
46. If the proposed new operating model is supported through Budget 2024, the Ministry considers that qualification attainment expectations for parent volunteers should be agreed with Playcentre Aotearoa to maintain the intent of playcentre as a parent-led service type where parents lead and deliver the curriculum. The development of skills that parents apply outside of playcentre is core its benefits and wider adoption of paid staff could dilute this if fewer parents engage with the Playcentre qualification.

The Ministry considers property funding a priority

47. All Budget 2024 options include a separate property funding stream. This would contribute to, rather than fully meet, playcentre property costs. The Ministry considers supporting safe premises for children attending playcentre should be a priority.
48. We consider that a separate funding stream could be set at 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]. This figure pro-rated based on similar funding for kōhanga reo property.

Funding rate changes in the MVO

49. The MVO includes increasing the ECE Subsidy rates for 2s and overs to the same rates as those for under 2s. The age differential links to teachers used in regulated ratios. This does not necessarily make sense in the playcentre context which requires a minimum adult:child ratio of 1:5 to ensure quality provision. The adult to child ratio may be closer to one-to-one in many sessions, as children under 2½ must be accompanied by a parent. A flat rate for all age groups may be more appropriate as the costs may be relatively uniform across age groups and would simplify how playcentres are funded.
50. The additional mechanism for playcentres to access quality rate funding would make it easier for playcentres to access quality funding but would not support viability on its own.

Next steps

51. Budget initiative templates are due to be submitted to Treasury on 16 February. We seek your direction on the playcentre cost pressure initiative ahead of this date.
52. The changes proposed in this paper to the Playcentre Funding model are significant. We would therefore recommend you seek specific Cabinet approval, alongside the Budget process for these options.

Proactive Release

53. The Ministry recommends that this Education Report is considered for release as part of the Budget 2024 proactive release, with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1: Assumptions underpinning costings for centre coordinators & visiting support in the Full Funding and Scaled options

Annex 2: Playcentres by region and rural/urban area

Annex 3: Playcentres by socioeconomic status

Annex 4: Demographic information on children attending playcentre

Annex 5: Playcentre funded child hours and total subsidy funding, 2001/02 – 2021/22

Annex 6: Enrolments in Playcentre Aotearoa's parent education qualification

Proactively released

Annex 1: Assumptions underpinning costings of centre coordinators & visiting support

9(2)(f)(iv)



Proactively released

Annex 2: Playcentres by region and rural/urban area

Number of playcentres by region (as per the ECE Census 2022)

Regional Council	Number of playcentres	Number of children	% of children
Northland	34	462	6%
Auckland	70	1771	21%
Waikato	56	1185	14%
Bay of Plenty	25	742	9%
Gisborne	5	77	1%
Manawatu-Wanganui	19	266	3%
Taranaki	17	388	5%
Hawke's Bay	13	161	2%
Wellington	39	1234	15%
Tasman	10	166	2%
Marlborough	5	83	1%
West Coast	4	67	1%
Nelson	3	83	1%
Canterbury	54	1119	13%
Otago	23	387	5%
Southland	12	161	2%
Total	389	8352	100%

Percentage of licensed ECE services by rural/urban area 2023

Service type	Major urban area	Large urban area	Medium urban area	Small urban area	Rural settlement	Other Rural
Playcentres	29%	9.4%	7.0%	21%	17%	16%
Other licensed services	51%	17%	9.6%	14%	3.4%	5.8%

Note: These classifications are defined by StatsNZ (Urban Rural 2023 generalised). Urban areas are defined using several criteria, including the size of their estimated resident population:

- major urban area (100,000 or more residents)
- large urban area (30,000–99,999 residents)
- medium urban area (10,000–29,999 residents)
- small urban area (1,000–9,999 residents).

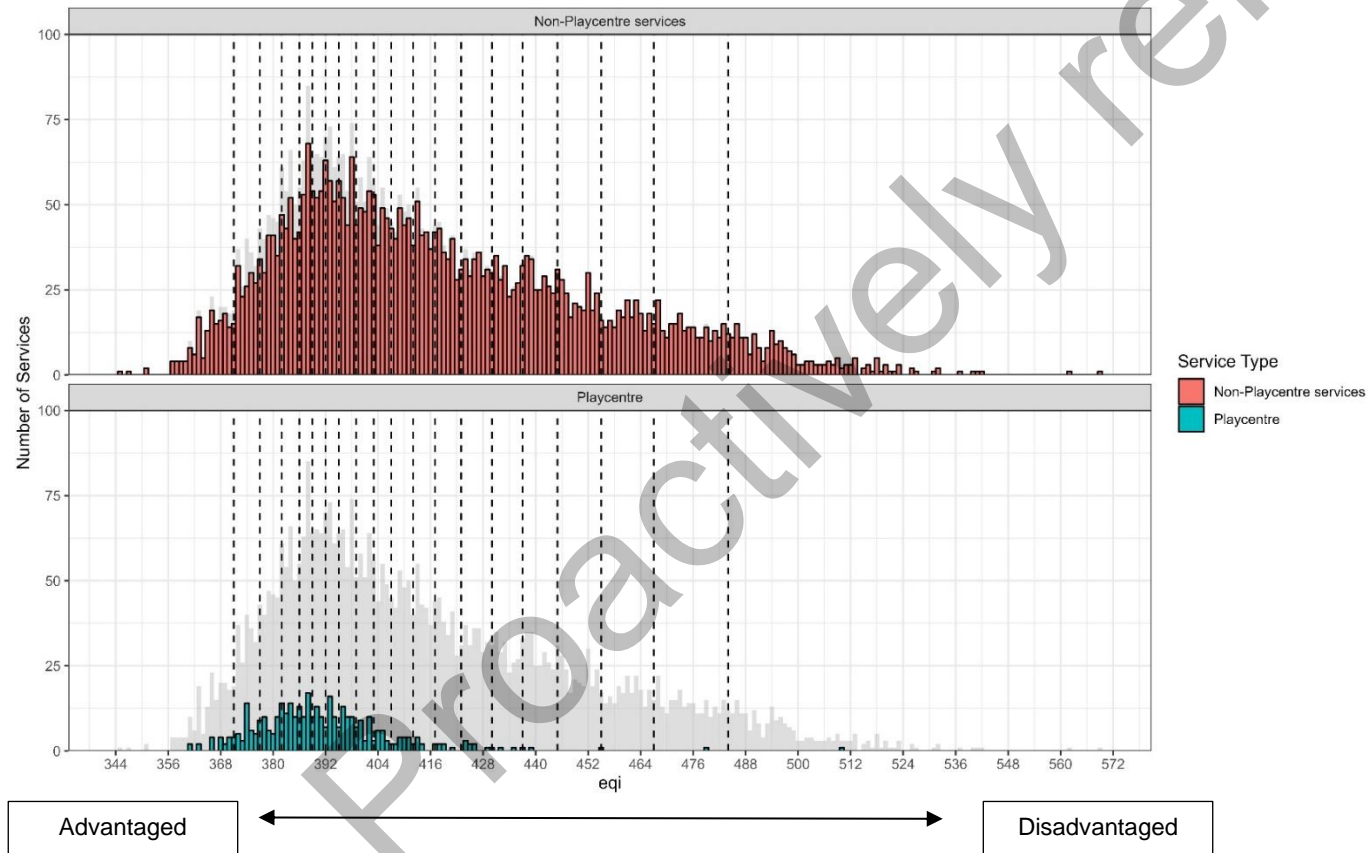
A rural settlement is a cluster of residential dwellings about a place that usually contains at least one community or public building.

Other rural areas are the mainland areas and islands located outside urban areas or rural settlements. Other rural areas include land used for agriculture and forestry, conservation areas, and regional and national parks

Annex 3: Playcentres by socio-economic status

The Ministry is currently developing a new equity index for early learning using data in the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI). This is similar to the work undertaken in schooling where an IDI-based equity index replaced deciles. The two graphs below show the distribution of playcentres and non-playcentre ECE services by the draft IDI-based equity index. This shows that three playcentres have a high proportion of children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Almost all playcentres draw children from socioeconomically advantaged families.

The index is still subject to refinement and the overall shape of the distribution may change (the distribution below is skewed, and we are investigating the applicability of a methodology that would result in a normal distribution). However, we do not expect the ranking of services by level of socioeconomic disadvantage to change. We intend to brief you on the equity index work, and seek your direction on next steps, in March.

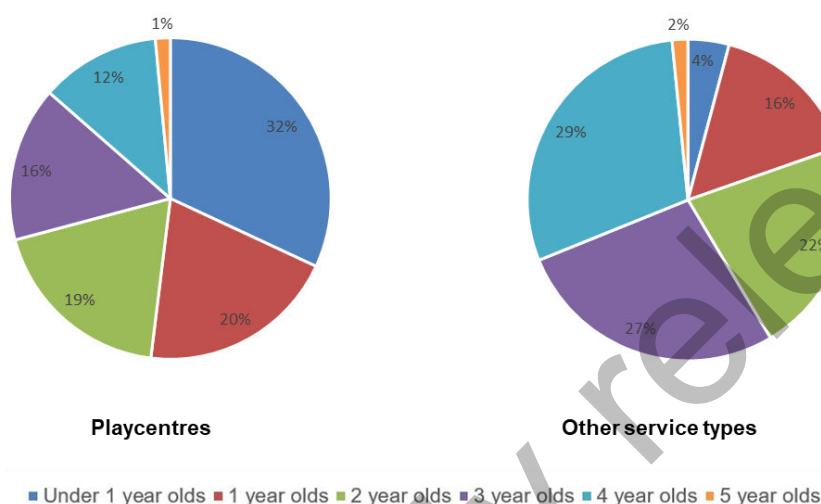


Annex 4: Demographic information on children attending playcentre

The graphs below show that 52% of children enrolled in playcentre are under two-years-old, meaning that they are attending playcentre with a parent or caregiver.

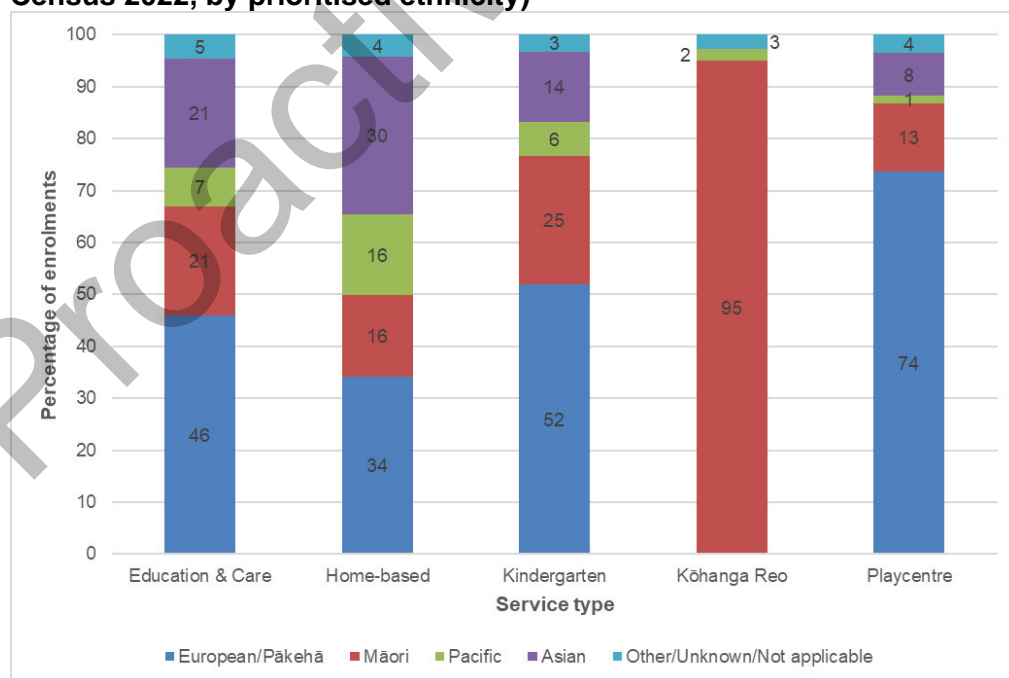
By contrast, the majority of children in other service types are three or older (58% of children enrolled) and only 20% of children are under the age of two.

Ages of children enrolled in playcentres (as a percentage of total) compared to other service types (2022)



The graph below shows that 74% of children enrolled in playcentre are European/Pākehā, which is a higher proportion compared to other service types.

Ethnicity of children enrolled in playcentres compared to other service types (ECE Census 2022, by prioritised ethnicity)



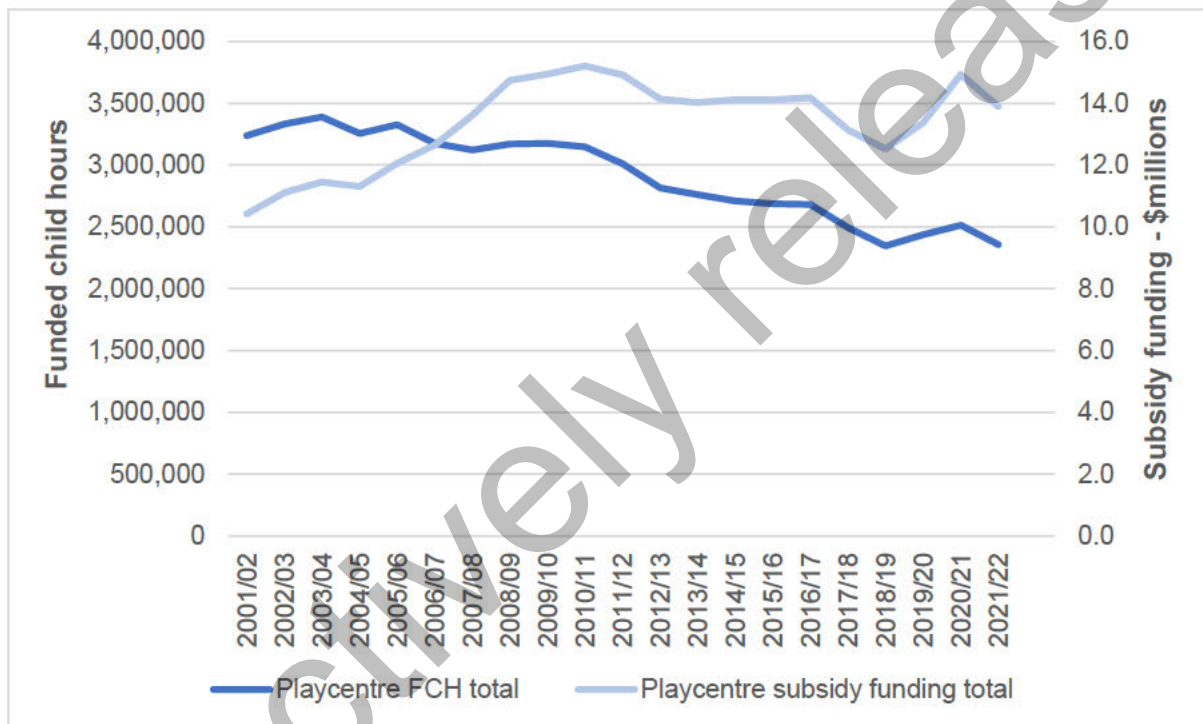
Note: Prioritised ethnicity is where children that identify with more than one ethnicity are only counted in only one ethnicity. They are prioritised in the order of Māori, Pasifika, Asian, European/Pākehā, and Other.

Annex 5: Playcentre funded child hours and total subsidy funding, 2001/02 – 2021/22

The unit of funding for licensed ECE services is funded child hours (FCHs). FCHs closely relate to children’s enrolment and attendance at a service.

The graph below shows that participation in playcentre has declined over the last twenty years. Playcentre FCHs have declined by 30% between 2003/04 and 2021/22. In contrast, FCHs in education and care services have grown by 177% over the same period.

Subsidy rates have increased over this time (for example, through cost adjustments and playcentre-specific increases in Budgets 2006 and 2020), which is reflected in the graph below. However, the factor multiplying these rates (i.e. funded child hours) is too low to generate sufficient income.

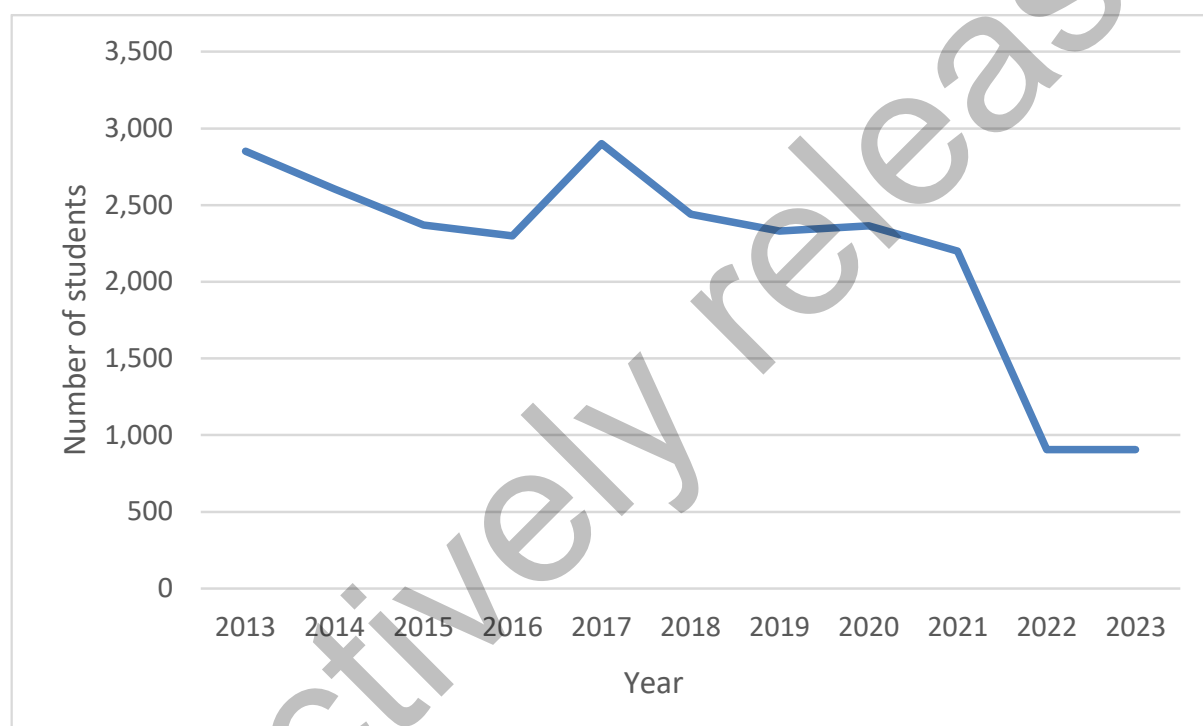


Annex 6: Participation in Playcentre Aotearoa’s parent education qualification

As a result of the New Zealand Qualification’s Targeted Review of Qualifications, Playcentre’s qualification transitioned from the playcentre-specific Playcentre Diploma in Early Childhood and Adult Education to the NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4). The Level 4 Certificate is the only early childhood education qualification available at level 4 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF). Tertiary providers that offer this qualification develop their own programmes that meet the outcomes of this qualification. Playcentre Aotearoa’s programme leading to this qualification is playcentre-specific.

The graph below shows the number of students enrolled in playcentre qualifications has declined over the last ten years.

Figure 2: Number of students enrolled in playcentre qualifications, 2013-2023



Note: From 2013-2017, the playcentre qualification was the Playcentre Diploma in Early Childhood and Adult Education. The figures for 2020-2023 are in the Level 4 ECE Certificate only. Enrolments in 2018 and 2019 are a mixture of both qualifications.

The table below provides more detail on Playcentre Aotearoa’s tertiary enrolments for the period when only the Level 4 ECE Certificate was available. The Level 4 ECE Certificate is a 60 credit qualification, or 0.5 Equivalent Full Time Students (EFTS), meaning that a student studying full time should complete the qualification in six months. The table below shows that the average credits per student is increasing, but is still very low – a student completing 9.9 credits per year would need just over six years to complete the full qualification.

Table 1: Number of students and EFTS enrolled in Playcentre Aotearoa’s NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4), 2020-2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Students	2,365	2,200	905	905
Equivalent Full Time Students (EFTS)	115	155	65	75
Average credits per student per year	5.8	8.5	8.6	9.9

The table below shows that Playcentre Aotearoa’s qualification completions are very low. This likely reflects that achieving a qualification is not a key motivation of parents when enrolling their children in playcentre.

Table 2: Number of qualification completions of Playcentre Aotearoa’s qualifications, 2013-2022

Qualifications	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)									110	60
Playcentre Diploma in Early Childhood and Adult Education	5						5			

Proactively released