

Markets, Migration & the Work of Care



FACT SHEET 2: Child Carers

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This fact sheet draws on data from the 2016 Census. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of child carers in Australia increased from 106,558 to 137,736. Those working in child care tend to be young women, around a third of whom were born overseas. As a group they are more likely than the average worker to identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI). Approximately half of all child carers work part-time. They have a lower income than the average worker.

Demographics

Gender

Child care is a starkly gendered occupation. 95.1% of Australia's child carers are female, whereas women make up 47.5% of the total Australian workforce.

Age

Child carers are substantially younger than the rest of Australia's workforce (Figure 1). The median age group for child carers is 20.1% -main English-speaking countries, compared to 20.1% across the total workforce. The top ten countries of birth for those born overseas are: India, England, New Zealand, China, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Iraq and South Africa.

Figure 2: Location of Birth, Child Carers and Total

Education