

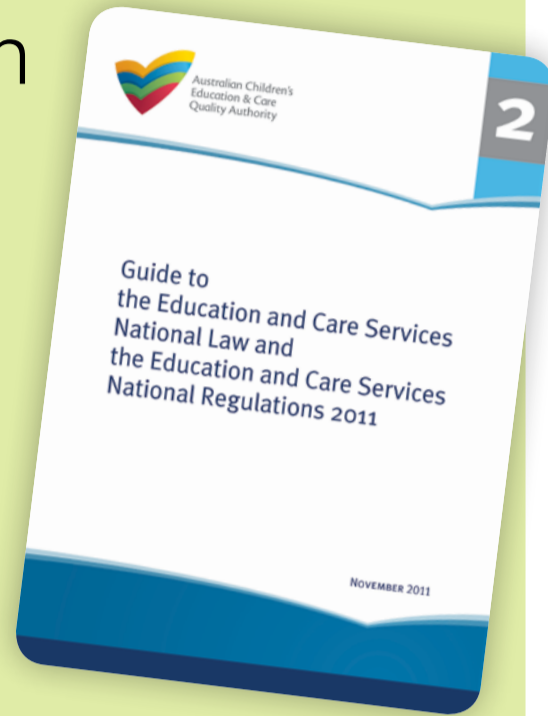
On January the 1st the National Quality Framework (NQF) will be established and will apply to most long day care, family day care, pre-school (Kindergarten), occasional care and outside school hours care services. The NQF aims to raise quality and promote continuous improvement and consistency in education and care services through a:

- National Legislative Framework
- National Quality Standard (NQS)
- National Quality Rating and Assessment Process
- New National regulatory body called ACECQA (Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority) to oversee new system

Requirements such as qualifications (2014), educator to child ratios and other key staffing arrangements will be phased in between 2012 and 2020 (in WA the National ratios are already met but in NT the educator - to - child ratio will be 1:4 for children between birth to 24 months).

The new system will replace the existing state and territory licensing and national quality assurance processes. The unified vision, principles, practices and learning outcomes contained in both learning frameworks offer educators with the foundation upon which all aspects of service provision should be built.

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011



What Does it Mean?

A new national legislative framework has been established and consists of the:

- Education and Care Services National Law ('National Law')
- Education and Care Services National Regulations ('National Regulations')

This creates a jointly governed national approach to the regulation and quality assessment of education and care services across Australia.

How will this affect your service?

- The National Act and Regulations will set out details of application processes and approvals, minimum requirements for operation and supervisor certificates.
- New national quality rating and assessment process means that education and care services will be measured against the National Quality Standard and the National Regulations. (Services will be given an overall rating)
- The National Act and Regulations will provide details of arrangements to move existing services into the NQF
- The National Act and Regulations will also set out the range of transaction and administrative fees applicable to education and care services
- New national body ACECQA will oversee the effective implementation of the NQF across Australia. A regulatory body in every state and territory will be responsible for administering the NQF (Department for Communities in WA / Quality Education and Care in NT). They will be the first point of contact for services
- Under the National Act and Regulations, the Regulatory Authority must consider a range of information when assessing and rating a service including the service's Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and the history of compliance
- The National Act and Regulations prescribe the requirements to meet a rating of Exceeding National Quality Standard
- Under the National Act and Regulations it is a requirement that approved providers must have a copy of each of the National Law and National Regulations available (hardcopy or electronically) at the service at all times.
- The National Act, the National Regulations and the National Quality Standard are the key legislative documents which underpin the NQF

For supporting resources, go to:

ACECQA: www.acecqa.gov.au

Department for Communities:
www.communities.wa.gov.au

Department of Education and Training:
www.det.nt.gov.au

Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents:
www.legislation.vic.gov.au

Belonging, Being and Becoming (EYLF) and My Time, Our Place (FSAC)



What Does it Mean?

The frameworks are not a curriculum or program, they are a framework of Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes with which to build your own play based program on. The frameworks share the same vision for all children in Australia, that every child has a deep sense of Belonging, Being and Becoming.

- The aim of the EYLF is to promote children's learning from birth to five years and through the transition to school. The framework assists services to provide young children with opportunities to maximise their potential and develop a foundation for future success in learning
- The aim of the FSAC is to enrich the wellbeing and development of school age children in education and care settings. It assists services to offer children in school age care with opportunities to engage in stimulating play based experiences and in leisure activities.

How will this affect your service?

- Both the EYLF and the FSAC ask educators to demonstrate the 8 key practices which support and promote children's learning and development. Educators must:
 1. Adopt a holistic approach
 2. Be responsive to children
 3. Plan and implement learning through play
 4. Teach intentionally
 5. Create environments that have a positive impact in children's learning
 6. Value for the cultural and social context of children and family
 7. Provide continuity in experiences and transitions
 8. Assess and monitor children's learning to support them in achieving learning outcomes
- The 5 Principles which underpin the frameworks are:
 1. Secure, respectful relationships
 2. Partnerships
 3. High expectations and equity
 4. Respect for diversity
 5. Ongoing learning and reflective practice
- The 5 Learning Outcomes for children to progress towards whilst on their journey through early and middle childhood are:
 1. **Outcome 1:** Children have a strong sense of identity
 2. **Outcome 2:** Children are connected with and contribute to their world
 3. **Outcome 3:** Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
 4. **Outcome 4:** Children are confident and involved learners
 5. **Outcome 5:** Children are effective communicators
- Both Frameworks will apply to LDC/FDC services caring for middle childhood age children.

For supporting resources, go to:

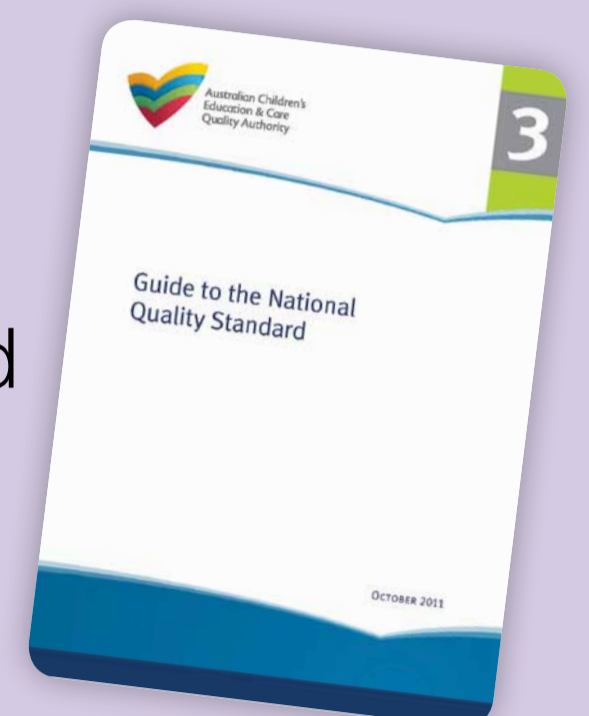
ACECQA: www.acecqa.gov.au

Department Education, Employment and Workplace Relations:
www.deewr.gov.au

Child Australia: www.childaustralia.org.au

Early Childhood Australia: www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

The Guide to the National Quality Standard (NQS)



What Does it Mean?

The NQS sets a new national benchmark for the quality of education and care services across all aspects of service provision and aims to promote:

- The safety, health and wellbeing of children
- A focus on achieving outcomes for children through high quality educational programs
- Families' understanding of what distinguishes a quality service

How will this affect your service?

- The Guide to the National Quality Standard outlines each of the 7 Quality Areas in the NQS. They are:
 1. Educational program and practice (outlines the implementation of the EYLF and FSAC / other approved learning frameworks)
 2. Children's health and safety
 3. Physical environments
 4. Staffing arrangements
 5. Relationships with children
 6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
 7. Leadership and service management
- Each Quality Area begins with a statement which provides the context and rationale, as well as a list of Standards and Elements within that Quality Area
- There is a list of the relevant sections of the National Act and National Regulations that apply to each Quality Area
- Reflective questions for the service to consider when working towards each Standard
- Contained within each Standard are Elements which outline the expected practice. All Elements are applicable to all service types and children of all ages, followed by any specific guidance identified for the service type or age of the children
- Services will be assessed and rated against each of the 7 Quality Areas in the NQS and the National Regulations
- The first requirement of the national Quality Rating and Assessment is for every provider to develop a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) – this needs to be available on request by the Regulatory Authority
- New Self - Assessment and Quality Improvement Plan (replacing the Self Study Report) means service develops their own QIP which is later submitted to an Authorised Officer before their visit to the service is arranged
- An Authorised Officer from each state and territory Regulatory Authority, who have undergone intensive national training, will be responsible for assessing and rating services.
- The EYLF and the FSAC form Quality Area 1 in the NQS

For supporting resources, go to:

ACECQA: www.acecqa.gov.au

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relation: www.deewr.gov.au

PSC Alliance: www.pscalliance.org.au