



NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK PROVIDER APPROVAL

Obtaining a provider approval is a prerequisite to operating one or more approved education and care services.

A provider approval is a nationally recognised approval. This means that an Approved Provider does not need to have a separate provider approval in each jurisdiction in which they operate an Approved Service. Once granted, a provider approval is ongoing, unless suspended or cancelled.

- **Existing services that are licensed or have approval to operate in their state and territory licensing system do not need to apply for approval. The Regulatory Authority in your state or territory will contact existing services about moving into the National Quality Framework.**

Application process

The state or territory Regulatory Authority will assess applications for provider approvals. The process examines whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service.

Where the applicant is an organisation, each person with management and control of that organisation must demonstrate that they are **fit and proper**.

An applicant for provider approval must:

- apply in the jurisdiction in which they ordinarily reside (or, in the case of an entity, in the jurisdiction where the principal office is located)
- provide the information set out in the National Regulations
- pay the application fee of \$200.

The Regulatory Authority may ask for additional information—such as evidence of the applicant's financial circumstances and medical history—that may impact on their ability to operate an education and care service.

Determining fitness and propriety

In determining whether a person is fit and proper, a Regulatory Authority must have regard to the applicant's:

- history of compliance with any current and former education and care services law, children's service law or education law
- criminal history check record or working with vulnerable people check
- any bankruptcy or insolvency issues.

The Regulatory Authority may reassess fitness and propriety at any time.

Conditions on provider approval

A provider approval is subject to a condition that the provider must comply with the National Law. The Regulatory Authority may place additional conditions on a provider approval.

Grant of a provider approval

A Regulatory Authority will determine an application within 60 days after receiving the application or any further information requested (this period may be extended by up to 30 days with the agreement of the applicant).

The Regulatory Authority must advise the applicant in writing of the decision and provide reasons for that decision. The decision is reviewable. If a provider approval is granted, the Regulatory Authority must give a copy of the provider approval to the Approved Provider.

Suspension or cancellation

A Regulatory Authority may suspend or cancel a provider approval on a number of grounds, such as:

- the Approved Provider is no longer considered fit and proper
- there is an unacceptable risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a child.

Before taking action to suspend or cancel a provider approval, the Regulatory Authority must notify the Approved Provider, provide reasons for the action and allow the Approved Provider to respond before making a final decision.

Contact your state or territory Regulatory Authority for further information on approvals. The contact details for Regulatory Authorities are available on the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority's website at www.acecqa.gov.au.