



NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS - WHO WILL SERVICES DEAL WITH?

The National Quality Framework creates a jointly governed uniform national system aimed at improving quality and reducing administrative burden for education and care services.

State and territory Regulatory Authorities

The primary role of Regulatory Authorities is to administer the National Quality Framework. The system has been designed so that 99% of all service interactions are with the jurisdiction-based Regulatory Authority.

This streamlined approach will mean services that have previously been dealing with one or more Regulatory Authorities and a separate accreditation system will only need to deal with one authority and will have more time focus on providing high-quality education and care.

Regulatory Authorities are responsible for:

- **granting all approvals, including provider approval, service approval and supervisor certificates**
- **assessing and rating services against the National Quality Standard and the National Regulations**
- **monitoring and enforcing compliance with the National Law and National Regulations, including receiving and investigating serious incidents and complaints**
- **in collaboration with the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), promoting continuous quality improvement and educating the sector and the broader community about the National Quality Framework.**

In addition to assessing and rating services, Regulatory Authorities have a range of powers and tools to facilitate continuous improvement and ensure compliance with the National Quality Framework, including the ability to enter into enforceable undertakings, issue compliance notices, enter premises and obtain documents.

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

The primary role of ACECQA is to guide the administration of the National Quality Framework to ensure consistent implementation across all states and territories.

ACECQA has a range of functions including:

- **establishing consistent and efficient procedures for the operation of the National Quality Framework**
- **conducting national consistency audits**
- **determining approved qualifications for educators**
- **determining qualifications for authorised officers**
- **publishing ratings, guides and resources**
- **maintaining public registers of national approvals**
- **setting and awarding the highest rating "Excellent"**
- **advising the Ministerial Council on the National Quality Framework**
- **fostering continuous quality improvement.**

ACECQA is an independent body governed by a 13-member board with nominations from each state and territory and the Commonwealth.

The board members have a range of professional skills and expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- **assessment of quality in education and care services or other relevant services**
- **early childhood development**
- **labour market and workforce participation**
- **best practice regulation**
- **research, evaluation and performance**
- **financial management and corporate governance.**

ACECQA has a chief executive officer responsible for the day-to-day management of the authority.

Further information on the National Quality Framework is available on the ACECQA website at www.acecqa.gov.au