



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority

NQF Snapshot Q4 2015

A quarterly report from the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority

February 2016

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Overview

NQF Snapshot Q4 2015 is ACECQA's 12th national report on children's education and care services operating under the National Quality Framework.

It provides analysis and information on the state of the sector, progress of assessment and rating, quality rating of services and waivers held by services. Also included is a profile of the sector, information on quality ratings by provider management type and service sub-types within centre-based services.

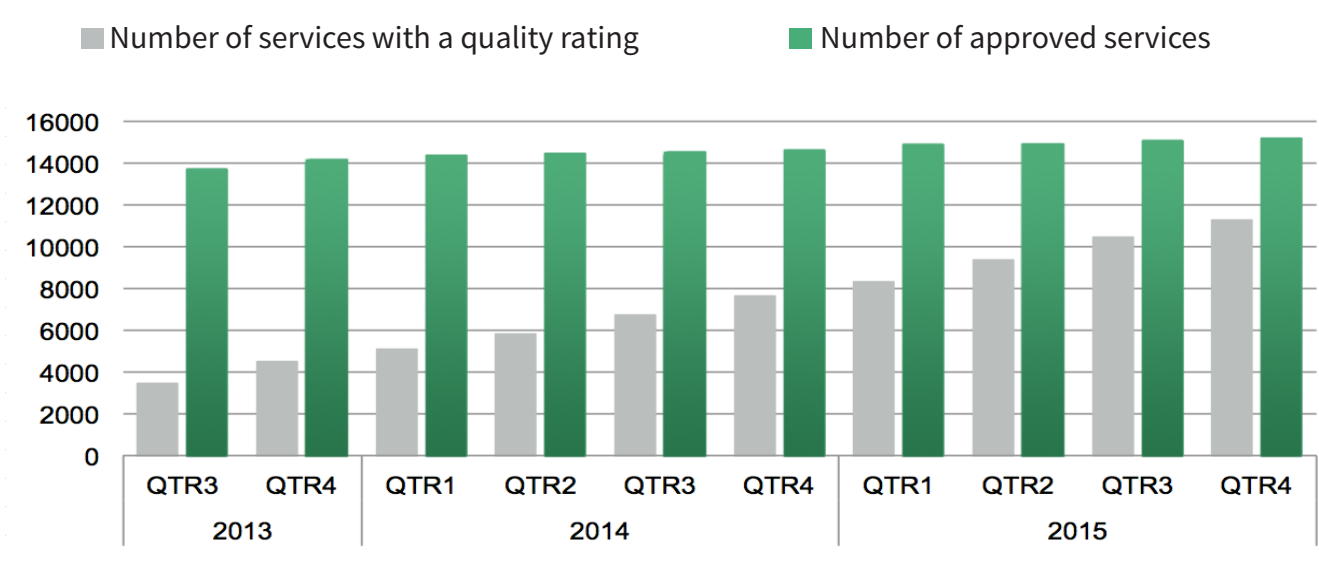
The data presented in this Snapshot was taken from the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA ITS) on 1 January 2016 for the period ending 31 December 2015.



Snapshot highlights

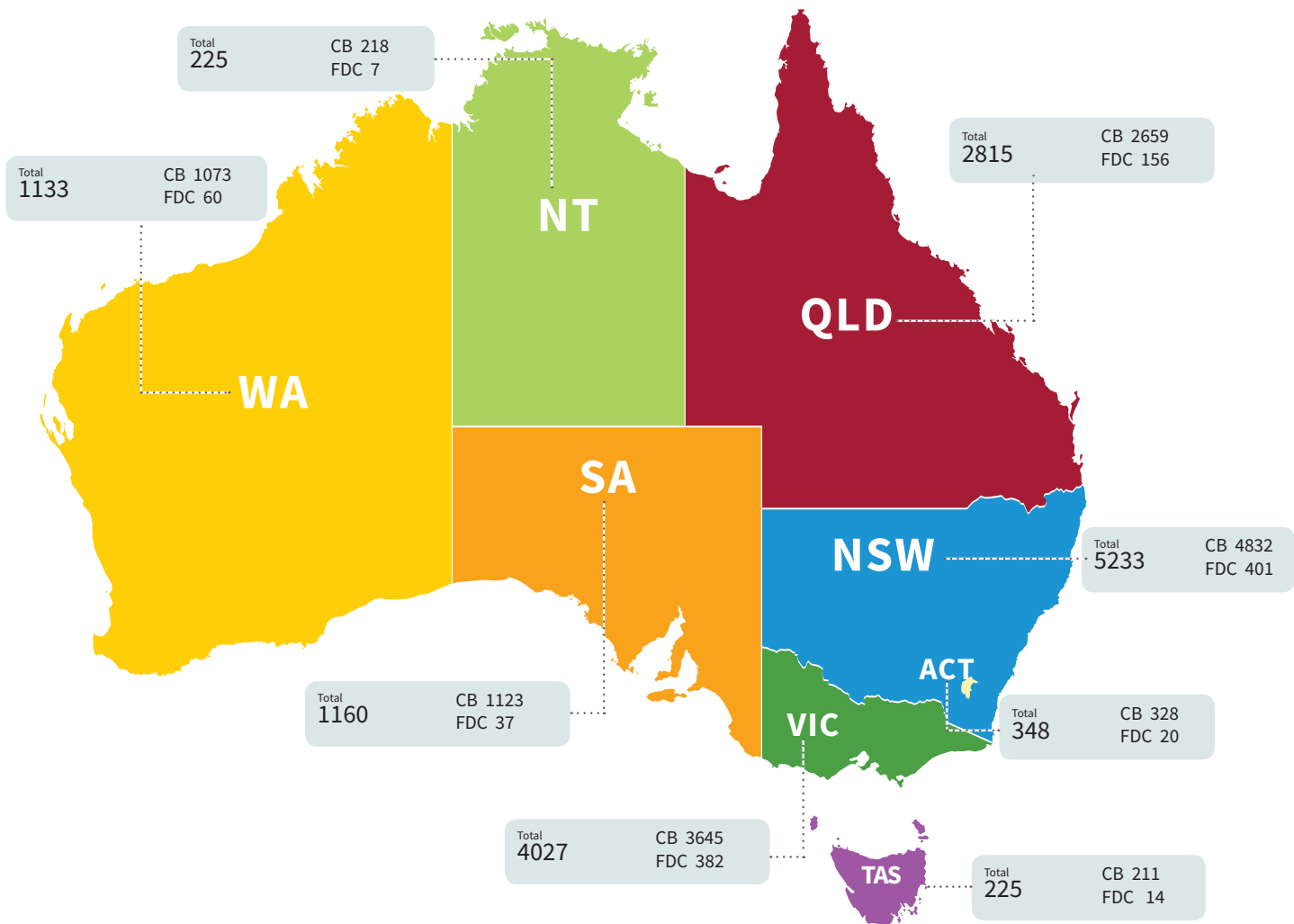
15 166	children's education and care services operating across Australia
11 261 (74%)	services with a quality rating
7684 (68%)	services are Meeting or Exceeding the National Quality Standard
7433	approved providers operating services
6187 (83%)	approved providers operating only one children's education and care service
44	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter on 31 December 2015



State of the sector

Figure 2: Number of approved services by jurisdiction and service type on 31 December 2015



<p>Total Centre-based (CB) ¹</p> <p>14 089</p> <p>3% Increase on Q4 2014</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) ²</p> <p>1077</p> <p>26% Increase on Q4 2014</p>	<p>Total</p> <p>15 166</p> <p>4% Increase on Q4 2014</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------

¹ A centre-based service is an education and care service other than a family day care service. This includes most long day care, preschool and outside school hours care services that are delivered at a centre. It does not include preschools in Tasmania or Western Australia out of scope of the NQF.

² A family day care service (FDC) is an education and care service delivered through the use of two or more educators to provide education and care for children in residences, whether or not the service also provides education and care to children at a place other than a residence. They are sometimes known as family day care schemes and they are administered and supported by central coordination units.

Figure 3: Proportion of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction on 31 December 2015^{1,2,3,4,5}

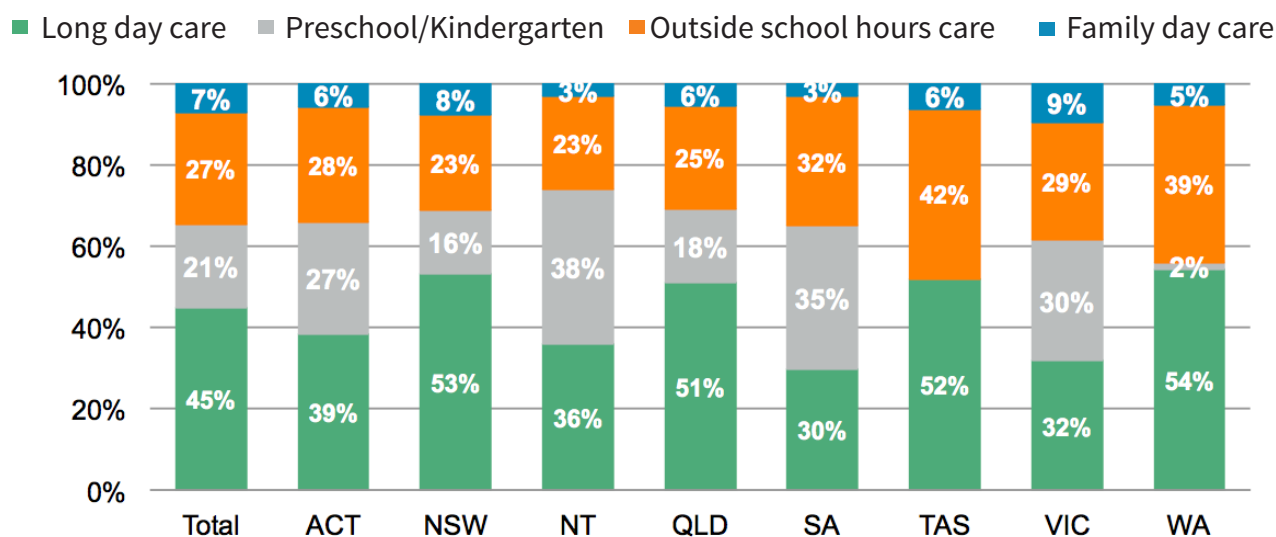


Table 1: The number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction on 31 December 2015

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	20	134	95	99	0	348
NSW	401	2790	813	1229	0	5233
NT	7	80	85	51	2	225
QLD	156	1438	505	712	4	2815
SA	37	346	407	369	1	1160
TAS	14	117	0	94	0	225
VIC	382	1280	1197	1168	0	4027
WA	60	614	19	437	3	1133
TOTAL	1077	6799	3121	4159	10	15 166

Note: Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100%.

¹ NQA ITS data collected on service sub-type is self-reported by providers when applying for service approval, and providers may choose multiple service sub-types. For example, a service providing both long day care and outside school hours care, or one providing both long day care and preschool/kindergarten would tick both boxes.

² Providers are not required to notify changes to this information, and therefore this NQA ITS information may not be current.

³ Centre-based services offering more than one type of service are classified as follows: services which provide long day care in addition to any other service type are classified as long day care services; services which provide preschool/kindergarten services as well as outside school hours care services are classified as preschool/kindergarten services; services which provide outside school hours care services only are classified as outside school hours care services.

⁴ Excludes preschool/kindergarten operating in Tasmania and Western Australia that are out of scope of the NQF.

⁵ 'Nature of Care Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

Profile of the sector

Figure 4: Proportion of approved services by provider management type on 31 December 2015^{1,2,3}

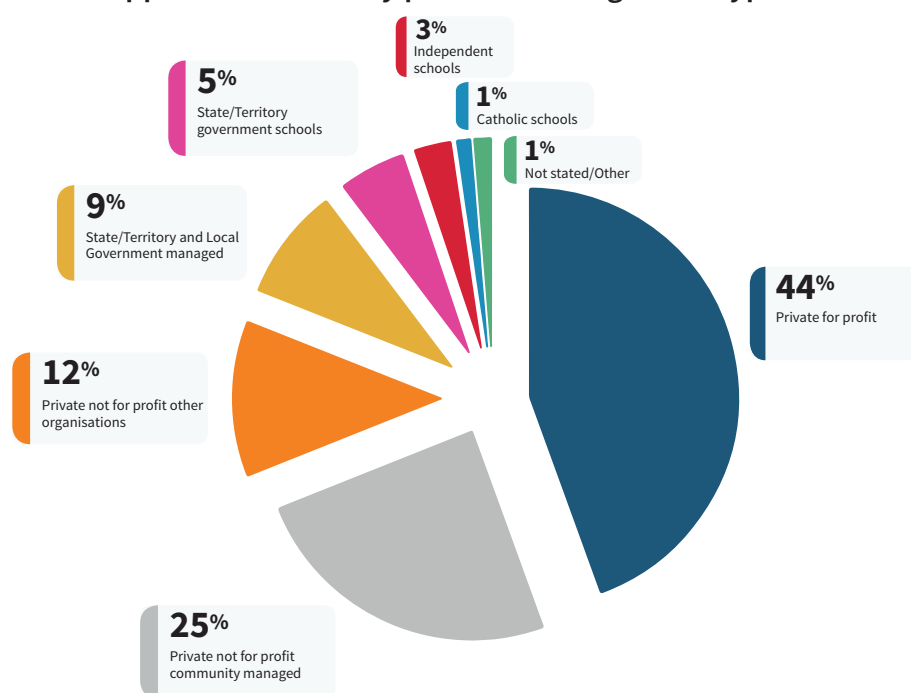


Table 2: Number and proportion of approved services by provider management type on 31 December 2015

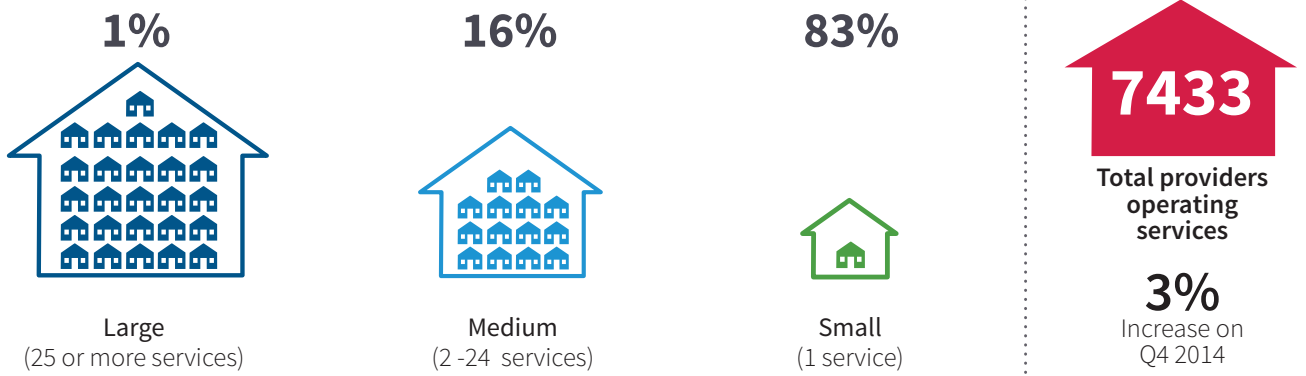
Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	6741	44%
Private not for profit community managed	3717	25%
Private not for profit other organisations	1828	12%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1317	9%
State/Territory government schools	780	5%
Independent schools	428	3%
Catholic schools	197	1%
Not stated/Other	158	1%
TOTAL	15 166	100%

¹ National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS) data collected on provider management type is self-reported by providers when applying for service approval. Reporting on provider management type is not mandatory and therefore, may not be current.

² Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provider management type classifications have been applied for the purposes of Snapshot reporting. The type of services in these categories can vary significantly. In the case of 'State/Territory and local government' managed services, for example, providers include local councils, health departments, the vocational training arms of government, and other government controlled agencies that are not government schools. Provider service sub-type profile also varies significantly across and within jurisdictions. For example, 'Private for Profit' services are predominantly comprised of Long Day Care, while 'State/Territory and local government' managed services are predominantly comprised of Preschool/Kindergarten. More detailed definitions of these classifications can be found at Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014) National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Data Collection Guide, 2013, Cat. No. 4240.0.55.002, ABS, Canberra, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/EDCFD2FC57CD225CA257C93000D13A7?opendocument>

³ For reporting purposes, services with a Provider Management Type category of either 'Not Stated' or 'Other' have been combined.

Figure 5: Proportion of approved providers with services by size on 31 December 2015



Progress of assessment and rating

Table 3: Quality ratings by jurisdiction on 31 December 2015

	Number of services	Proportion of nationally approved services	Number of services with a quality rating	Proportion of services with a quality rating
ACT	348	2%	302	87%
NSW	5233	35%	3803	73%
NT	225	1%	173	77%
QLD	2815	19%	2297	82%
SA	1160	8%	531	46%
TAS	225	1%	210	93%
VIC	4027	27%	3407	85%
WA	1133	7%	538	47%
TOTAL	15 166	100%	11 261	74%

Table 4: Quality ratings by service type on 31 December 2015

	Number of services	Proportion of nationally approved services	Number of services with a quality rating	Proportion of services with a quality rating
Centre-based care	14 089	93%	10 863	77%
Family day care	1077	7%	398	37%
TOTAL	15 166	100%	11 261	74%

Note: Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100%.

Figure 6 shows the proportion of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type. 'Private not for profit community managed' services (84%) and 'Private not for profit other organisations' (81%) had the highest proportion of services with a quality rating.

Figure 6: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type on 31 December 2015

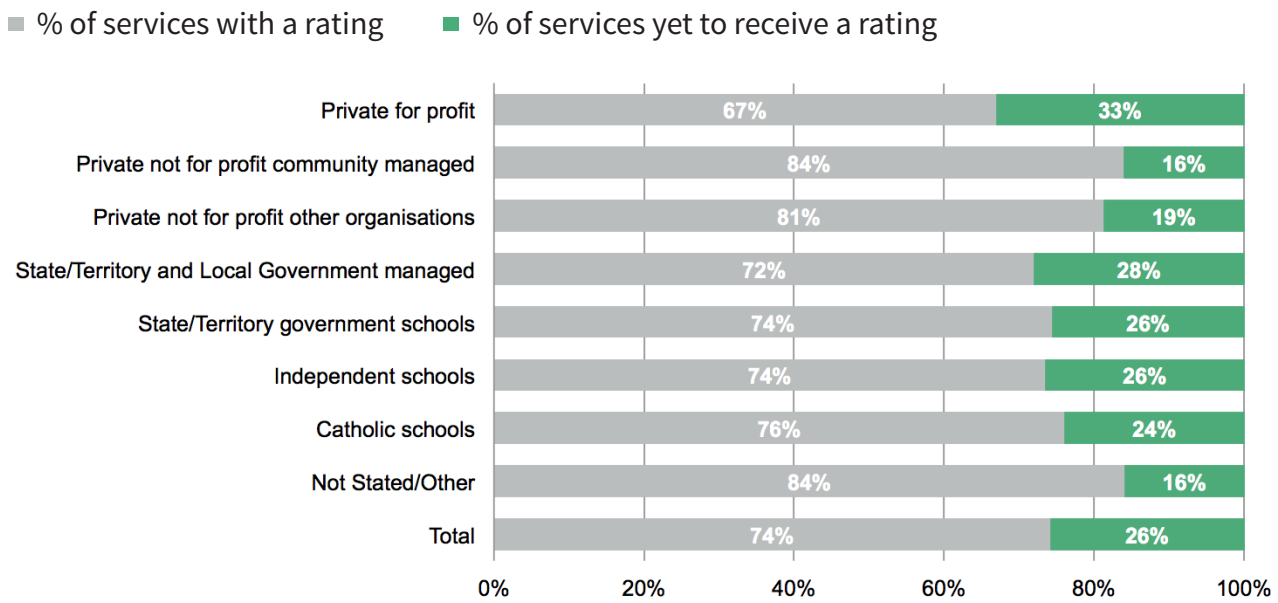


Figure 7 shows the proportion of services with a quality rating by service sub-type in each jurisdiction. The data in Figure 7 can be read in conjunction with the data in Figure 3. For example, Figure 7 shows that 49% of all quality rated services are long day care services, with Figure 3 showing that long day care services make up 45% of all approved services.

Figure 7: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by service sub-type and jurisdiction on 31 December 2015

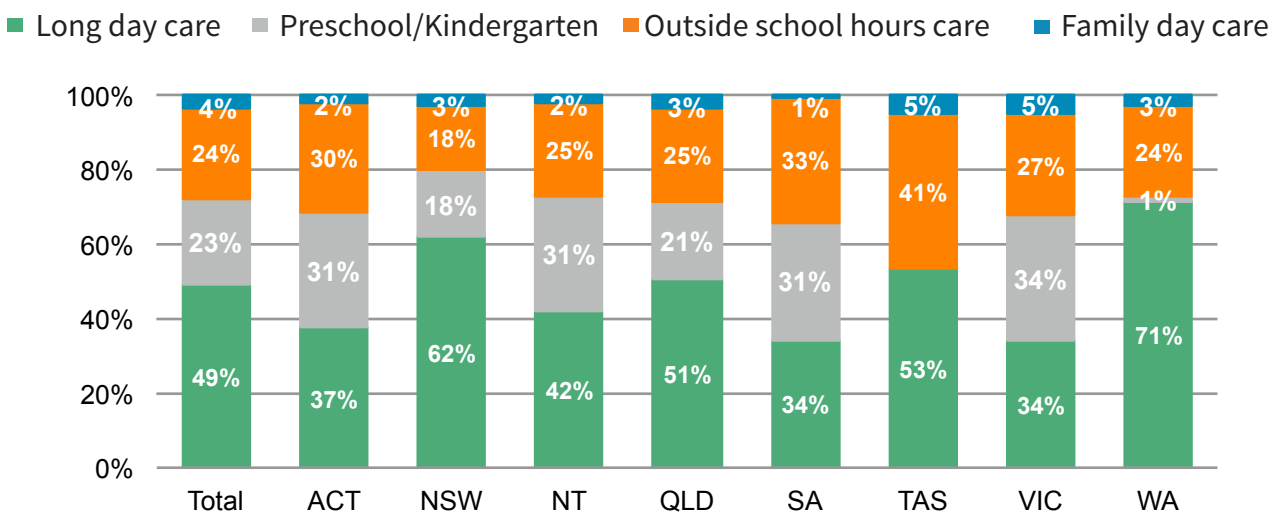


Table 5: Number of services with a quality rating by service sub-type and jurisdiction on 31 December 2015

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	6	113	93	90	0	302
NSW	104	2350	682	667	0	3803
NT	4	72	53	42	2	173
QLD	77	1165	475	579	1	2297
SA	4	183	167	177	0	531
TAS	11	112	0	87	0	210
VIC	176	1156	1144	931	0	3407
WA	16	383	7	131	1	538
TOTAL	398	5534	2621	2704	4	11 261

Overall quality ratings of services

Authorised officers from state and territory regulatory authorities assess and rate services using the seven quality areas, 18 standards and 58 elements that make up the National Quality Standard (NQS). Services are given a rating for each of the seven quality areas and an overall rating.

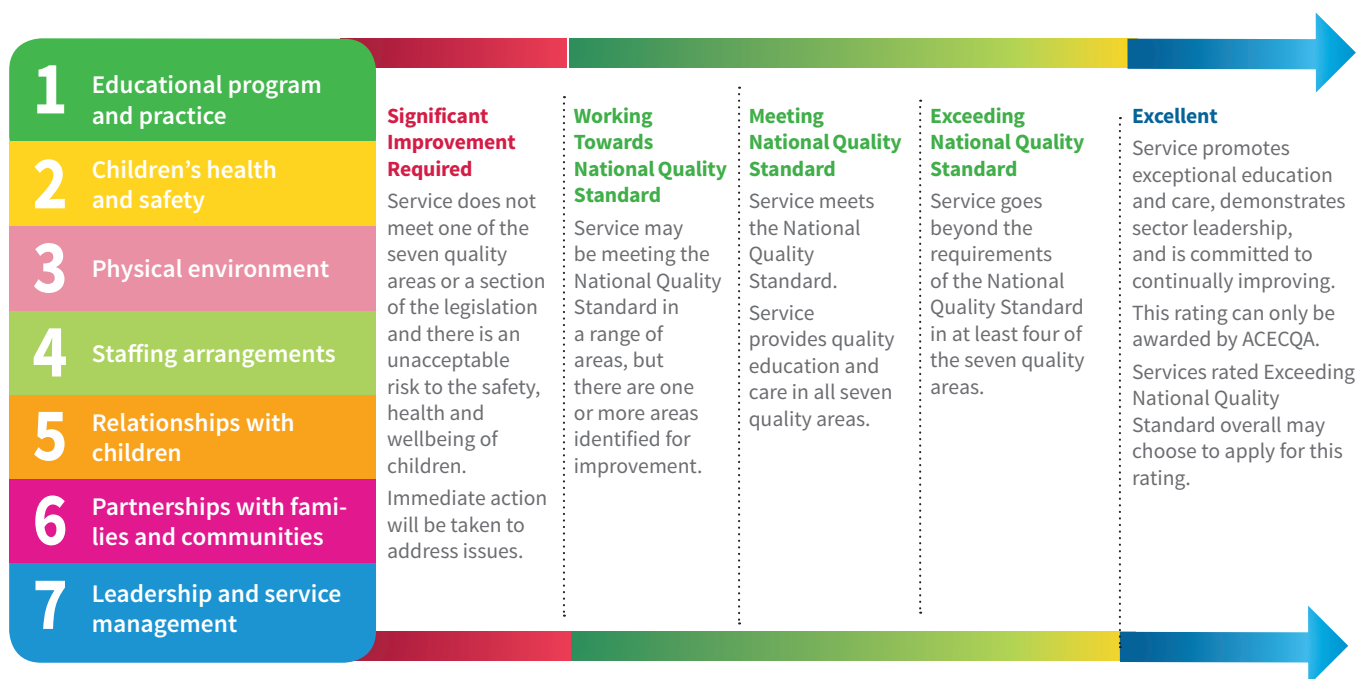


Table 6: Overall quality rating results by jurisdiction on 31 December 2015

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent rated	TOTAL
ACT	0	144 (48%)	59 (20%)	94 (31%)	5	302
NSW	6	1503 (40%)	1418 (37%)	866 (23%)	10	3803
NT	0	137 (79%)	20 (12%)	14 (8%)	2	173
QLD	1	606 (26%)	957 (42%)	722 (31%)	11	2297
SA	0	169 (32%)	129 (24%)	227 (43%)	6	531
TAS	0	74 (35%)	76 (36%)	60 (29%)	0	210
VIC	0	683 (20%)	1579 (46%)	1137 (33%)	8	3407
WA	0	210 (39%)	196 (36%)	130 (24%)	2	538
TOTAL	7	3526 (31%)	4434 (39%)	3250 (29%)	44	11 261

Overall quality ratings by provider management type

Figure 8 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings by overall quality rating level between provider and management type.

For example, 85% of 'State/Territory and Local Government managed' services have been rated as either Meeting or Exceeding, compared to 60% of 'Private for profit' services.

These differences can reflect a range of contextual factors, such as the service profile of these provider types, and historical levels of government investment in different types of provision. For example, half of all 'State/Territory and Local Government managed' services are preschools/kindergartens, with preschools/kindergartens performing better against the NQS than other service types (see Figure 10). In contrast, preschools/kindergartens make up only 1% of 'Private for profit' services.

Figure 8: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level on 31 December 2015

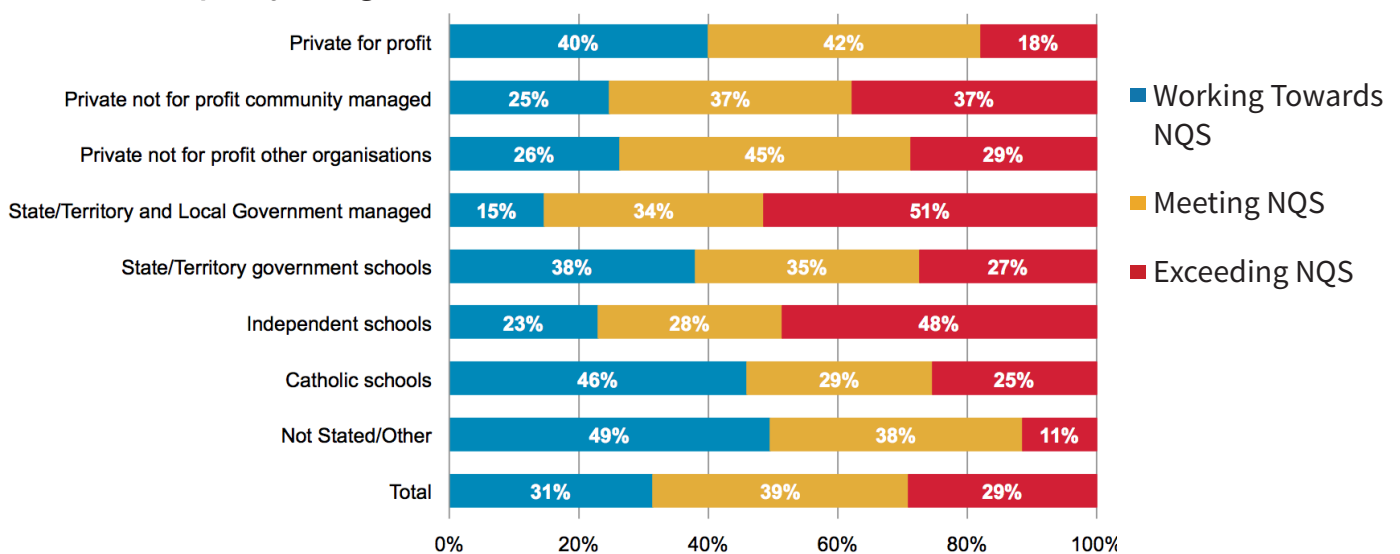


Table 7: Number of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level on 31 December 2015

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
Private for profit	7	1802	1896	807	7	4519
Private not for profit community managed	0	768	1167	1171	19	3125
Private not for profit other organisations	0	392	668	426	2	1488
State/Territory and Local Government managed	0	139	320	485	6	950
State/Territory government schools	0	220	201	158	2	581
Independent schools	0	71	88	150	6	315
Catholic schools	0	69	43	38	0	150
Not Stated/Other	0	65	51	15	2	133
Total	7	3526	4434	3250	44	11 261

Overall quality ratings by service and sub-service type

Figure 9: Quality ratings by quality rating level and service type on 31 December 2015

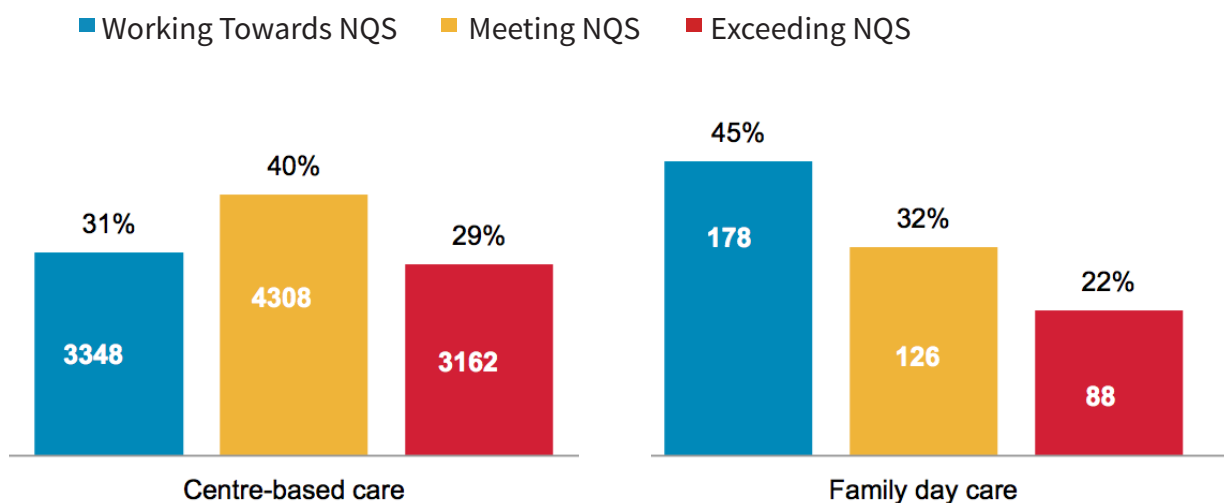
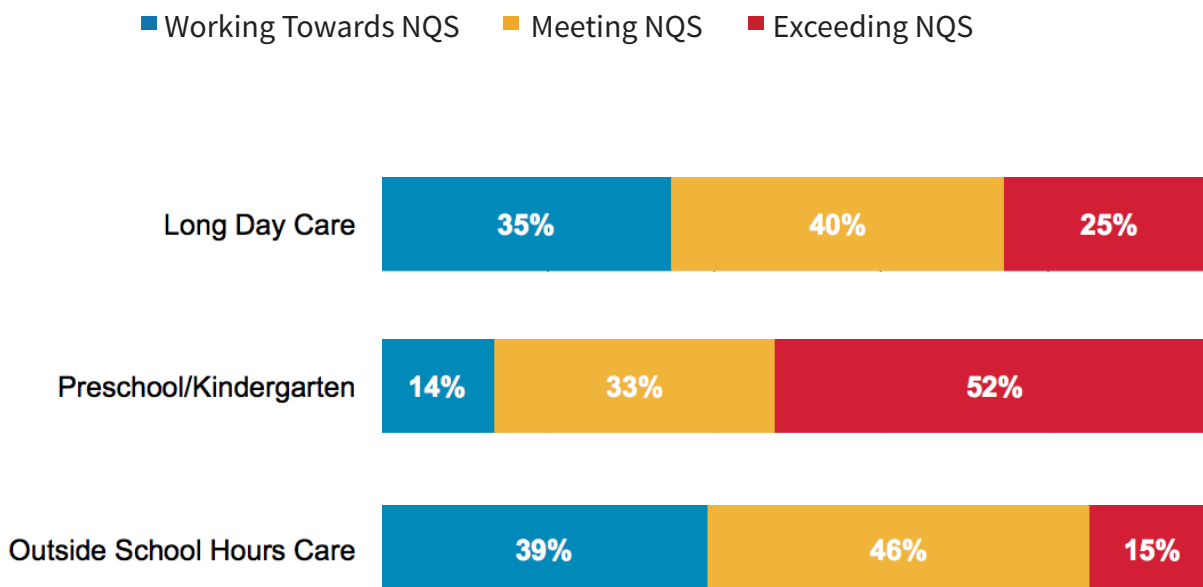
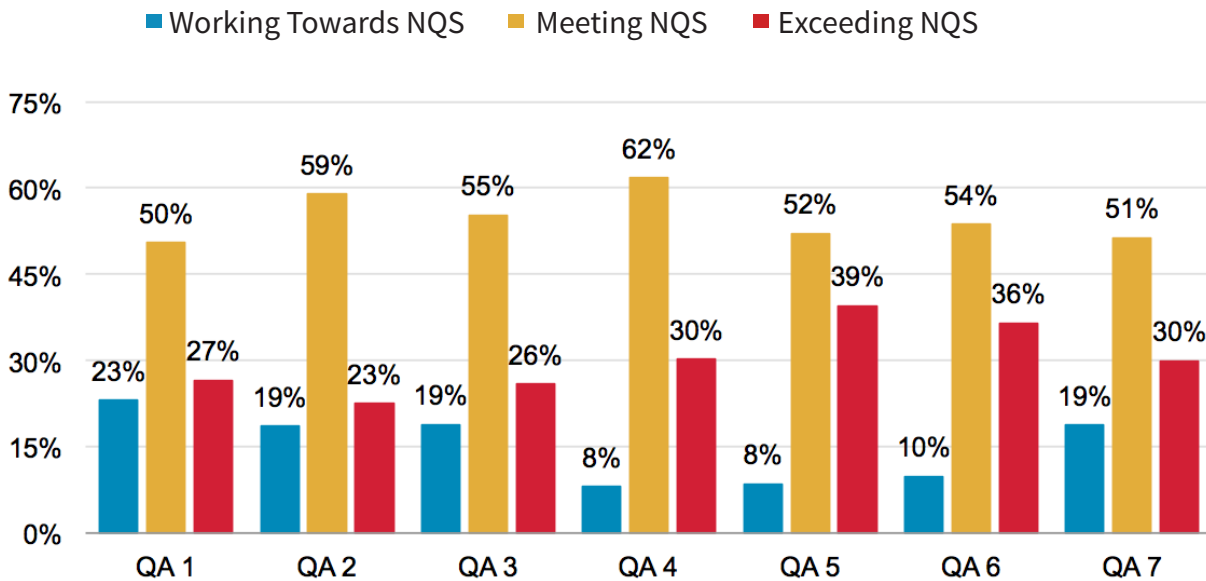


Figure 10: Quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type on 31 December 2015



Quality area ratings

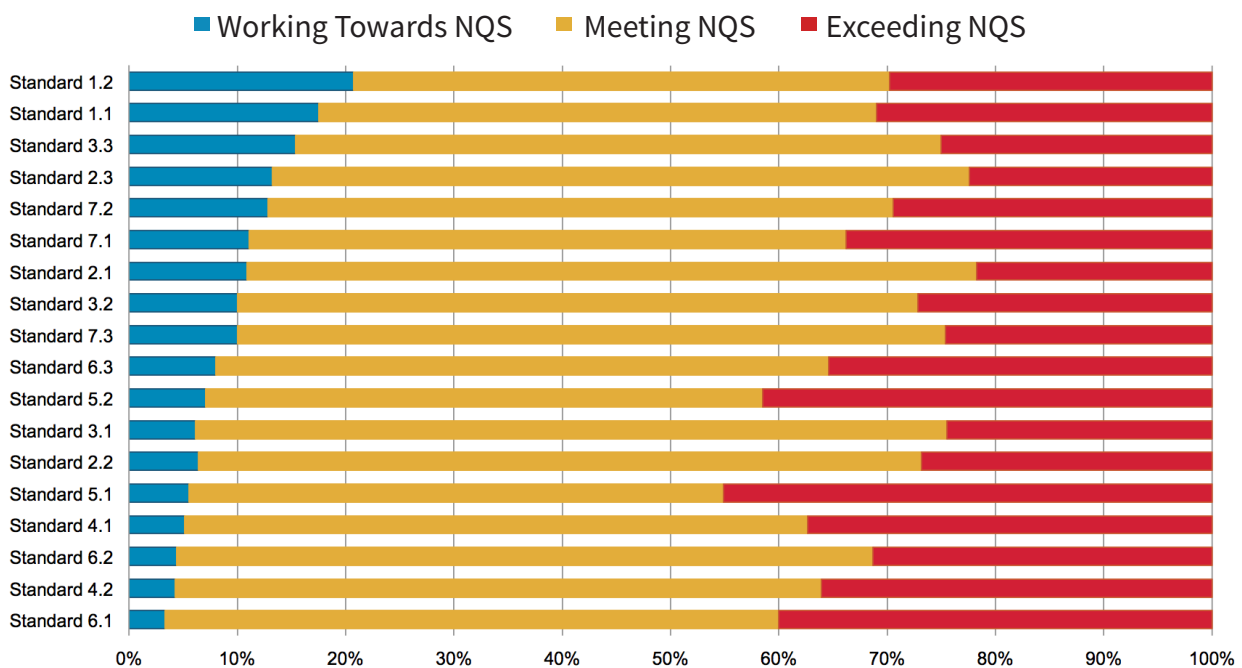
Figure 11: Quality ratings by quality area on 31 December 2015



Standard level ratings

Figure 12 ranks the 18 standards of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each standard.

Figure 12: Standard level ratings on 31 December 2015



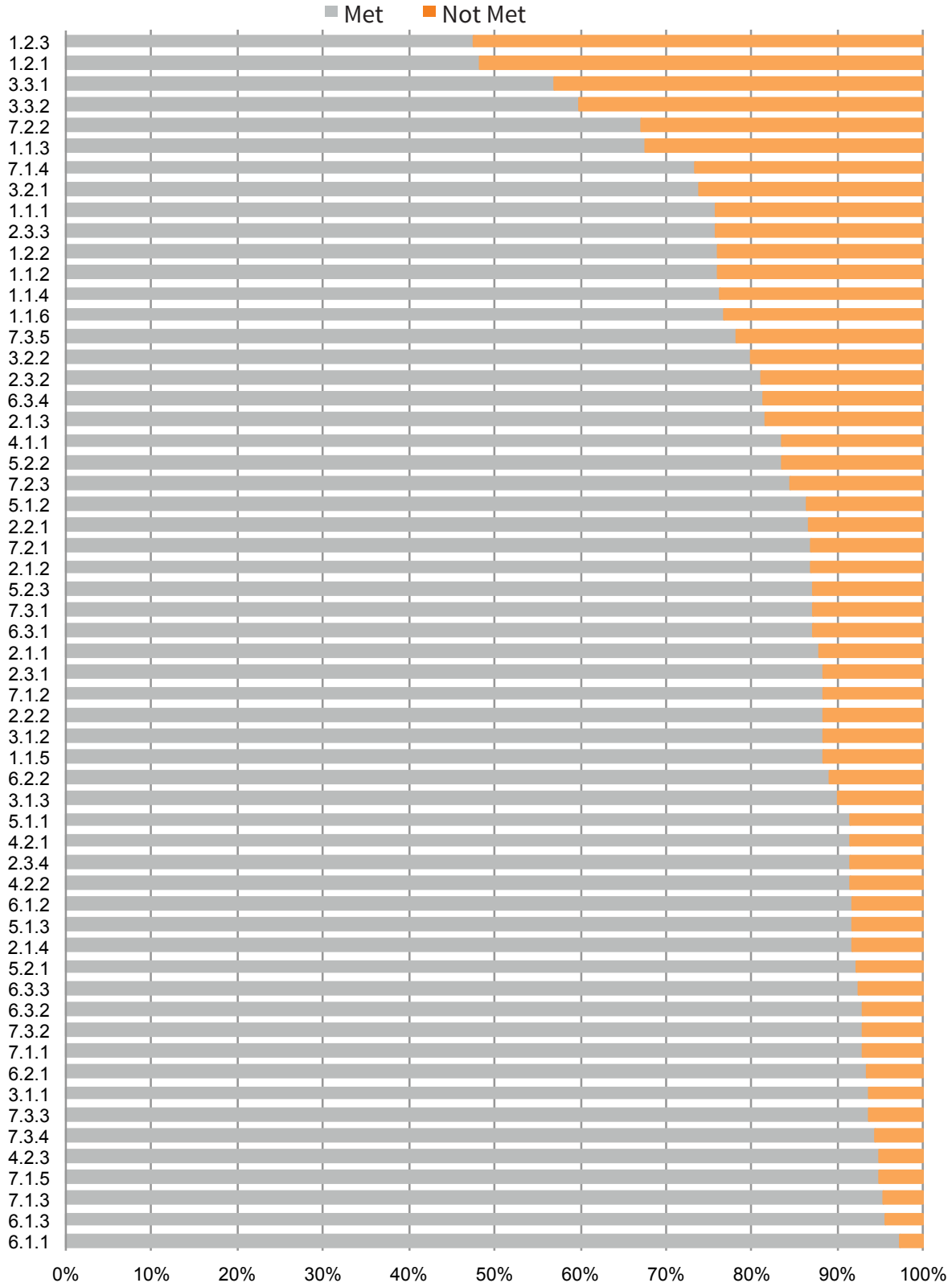
Note: Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100%.

Element level results

The 18 standards of the NQS are outcome statements. Under each standard sit elements that contribute to the standard being achieved. There are 58 elements in total.

Figure 13 looks at the element level results for the 3533 services with a quality rating of Significant Improvement Required or Working Towards NQS and Figure 13 ranks the 58 elements of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of those services that do not meet each element.

Figure 13: Element level results for services rated Significant Improvement Required or Working Towards on 31 December 2015



Services rated Working Towards NQS

A service will receive an overall rating of Working Towards NQS if any of the seven quality areas are rated as Working Towards NQS. A quality area will be rated as Working Towards NQS if any of the standards within that quality area are rated Working Towards NQS.

Figure 14: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of quality areas rated Working Towards on 31 December 2015

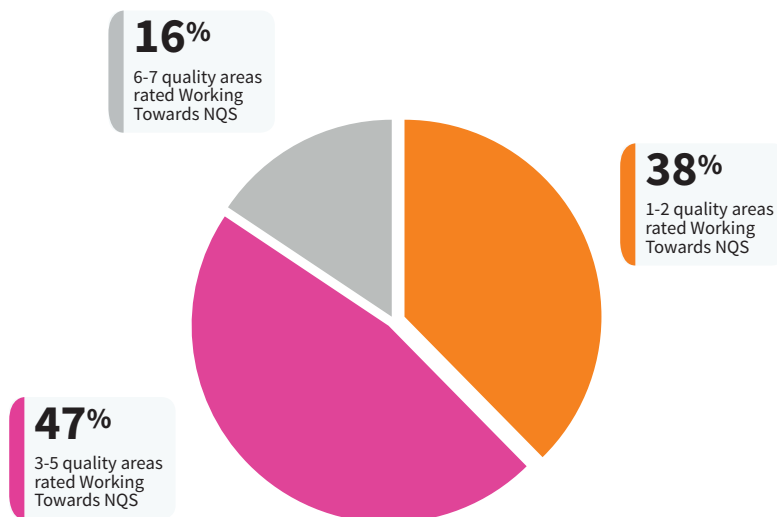
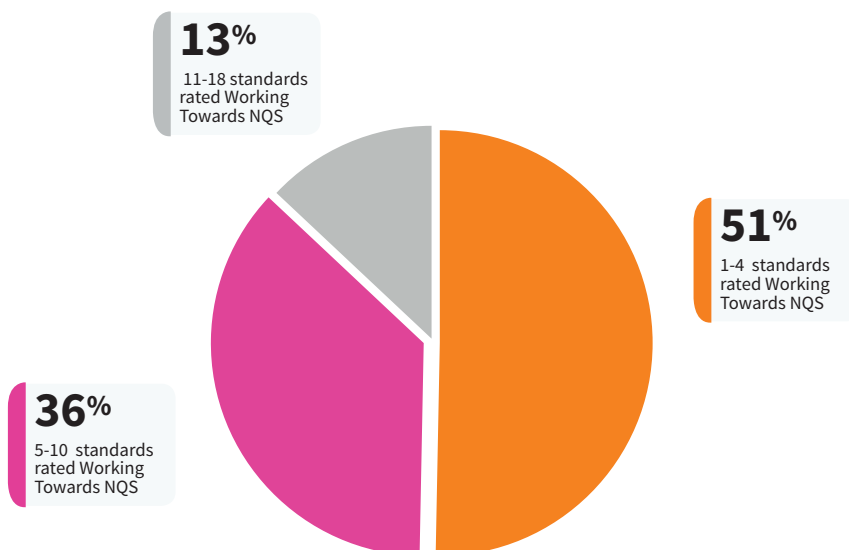


Figure 15: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of standards rated Working Towards on 31 December 2015

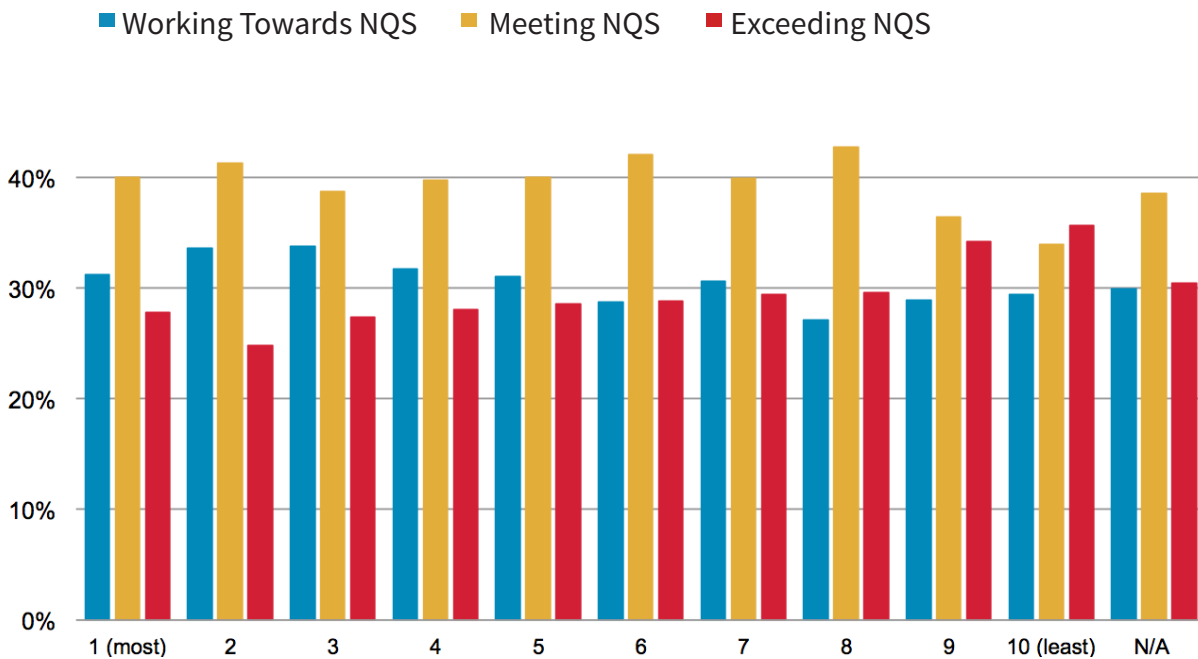


Note: Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100%.

Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA⁴

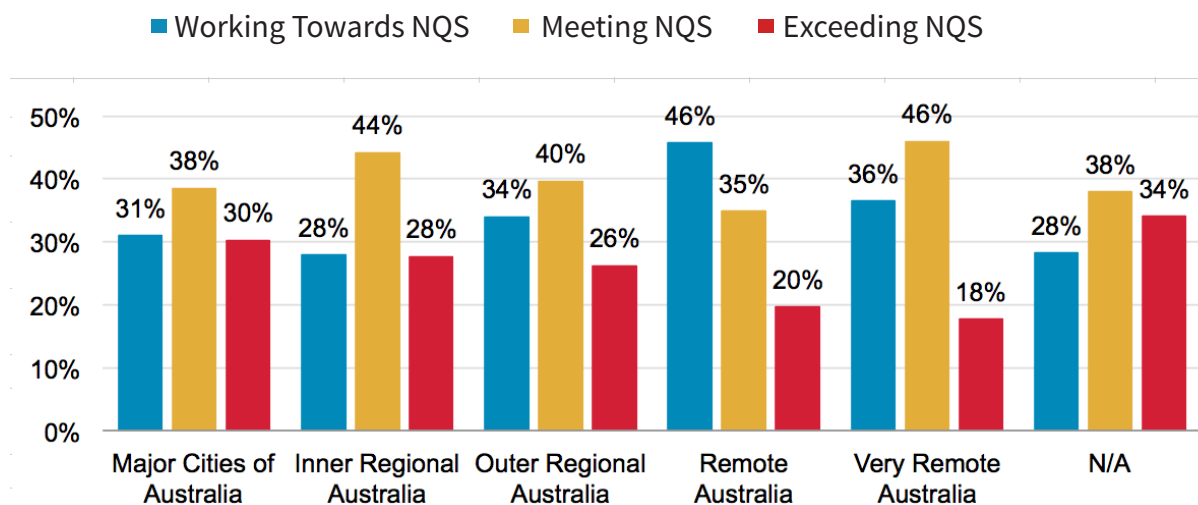
SEIFA is a product that ranks areas according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on census data. Variables used cover a number of areas including household income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other indicators of advantage and disadvantage.

Figure 16: Quality ratings by SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage on 31 December 2015



Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification⁵

Figure 17: Quality ratings by remoteness classification on 31 December 2015



⁴ FDC services are excluded from SEIFA classification because their approval is not specific to one location. The N/A column includes 391 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a SEIFA classification.

⁵ FDC services are excluded from remoteness classification because their approval is not specific to one location. The N/A column includes 103 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a ARIA classification.

Waivers

Under the *Education and Care Services National Law*, an approved provider may apply for a service or temporary waiver from a certain requirement of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, or for a prescribed element/s of the National Quality Standard. Waivers are classified under two broad categories and may be granted for certain staffing requirements or physical environment requirements, or both. A provider can apply for a service waiver, which does not have a specific expiry date, or a temporary waiver which is granted for up to 12 months.

On 31 December 2015, 5% or 819 education and care services are operating with at least one waiver.

Due to the small number of services in some jurisdictions, small changes in the number of services with a waiver across quarters may translate into larger percentages.

Figure 18: Proportion of approved services with a waiver by jurisdiction on 31 December 2015

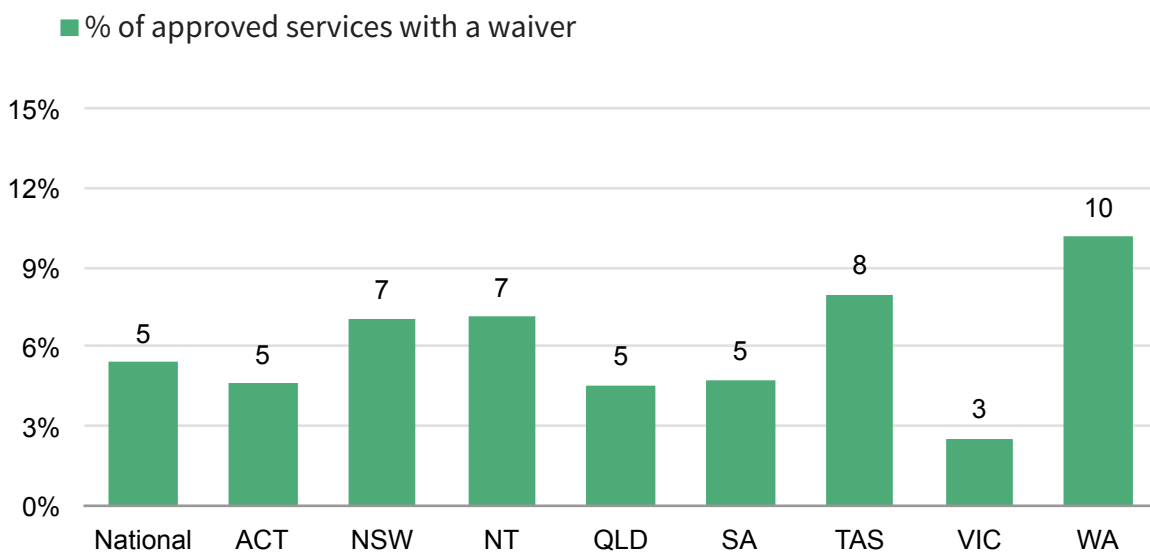
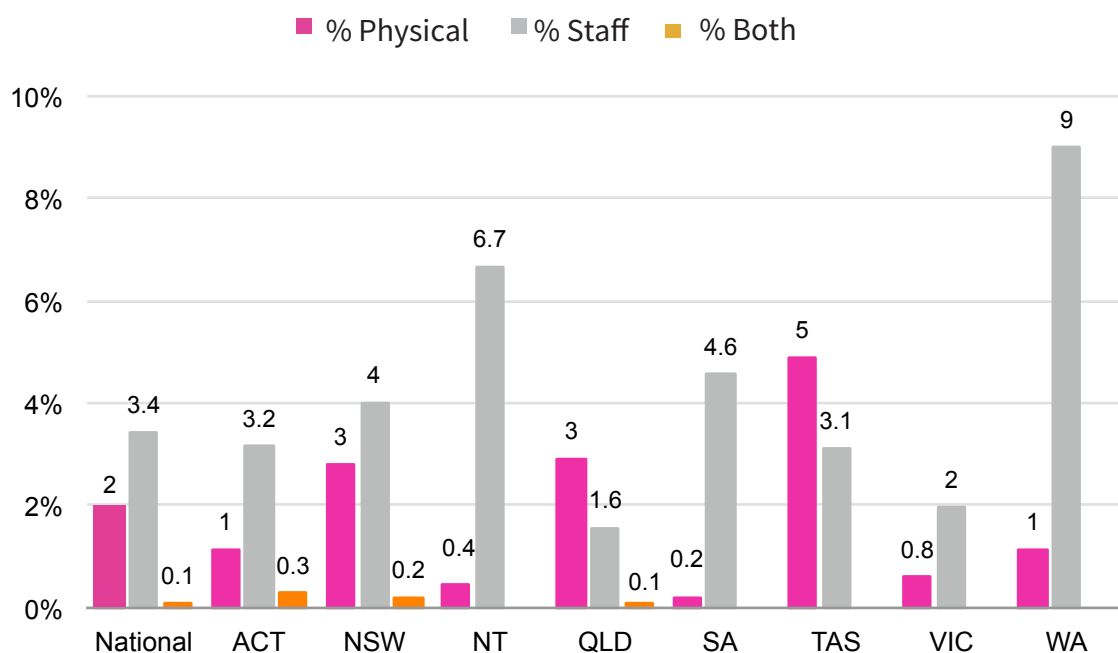


Figure 19: Proportion of approved services with a waiver by jurisdiction and waiver category on 31 December 2015

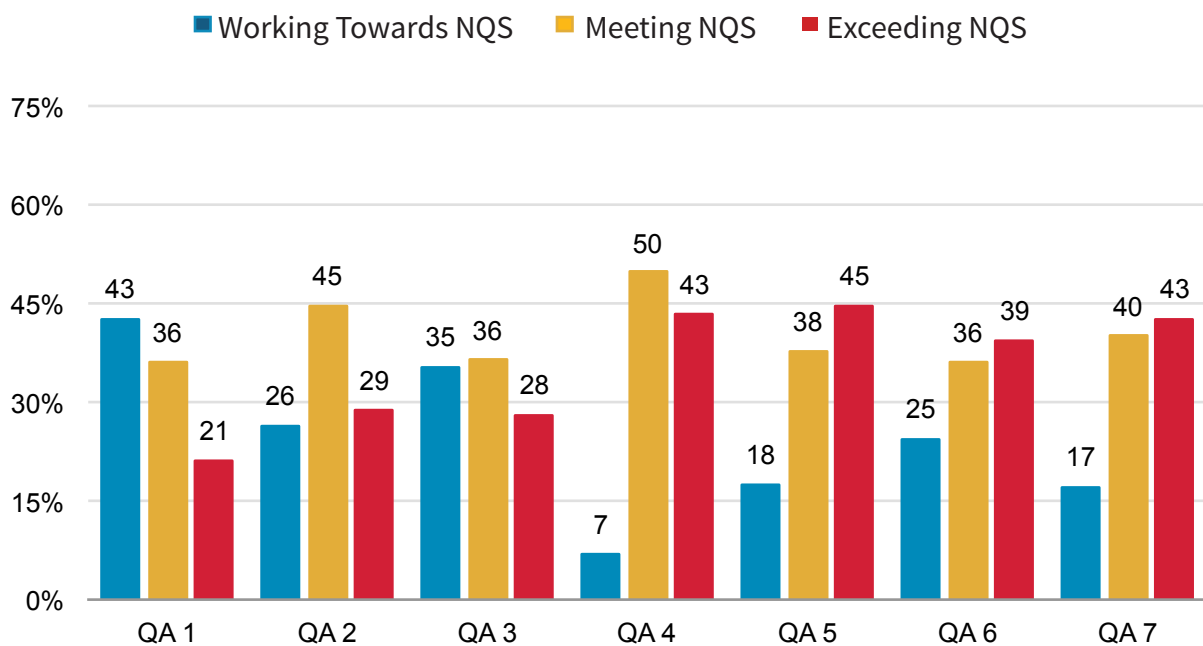


Australian Capital Territory summary

On 31 December 2015 the Australian Capital Territory had:

348	services comprising 328 centre-based services and 20 family day care services
302 (87%)	services with a quality rating
144	services rated Working Towards NQS
59	services rated Meeting NQS
94	services rated Exceeding NQS
5	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 20: ACT services with a quality rating by quality area on 31 December 2015



Contact details

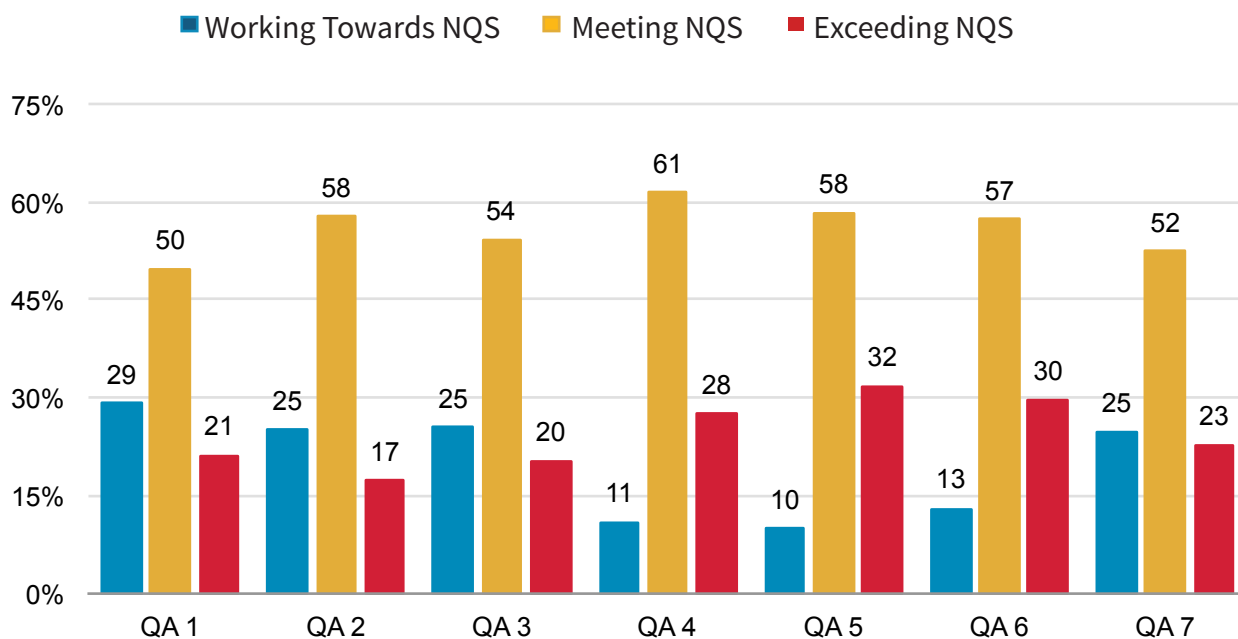
Children's Education and Care Assurance
www.det.act.gov.au

New South Wales summary

On 31 December 2015 New South Wales had:

5233	services comprising 4832 centre-based services and 401 family day care services
3803 (73%)	services with a quality rating
6	services rated Significant Improvement Required
1503	services rated Working Towards NQS
1418	services rated Meeting NQS
866	services rated Exceeding NQS
10	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 21: NSW services with a quality rating by quality area on 31 December 2015



Contact details

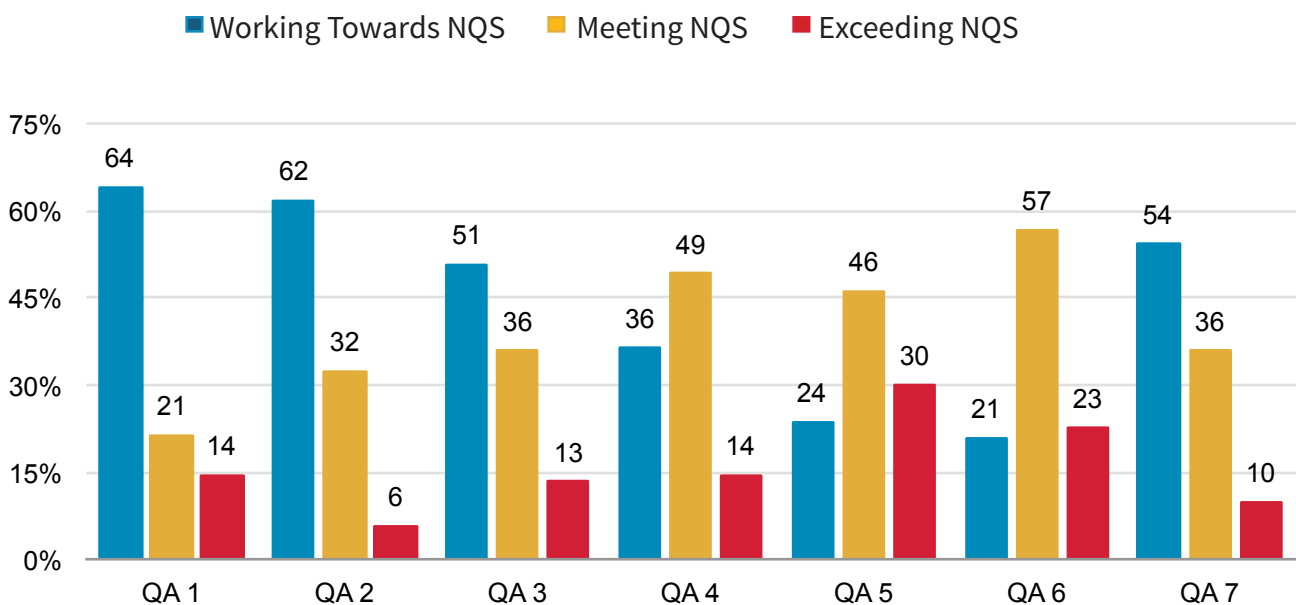
Department of Education
 Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec

Northern Territory summary

On 31 December 2015 the Northern Territory had:

225	services comprising 218 centre-based services and seven family day care services
173 (77%)	services with a quality rating
137	services rated Working Towards NQS
20	services rated Meeting NQS
14	services rated Exceeding NQS
2	service rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 22: NT services with a quality rating by quality area on 31 December 2015



Contact details

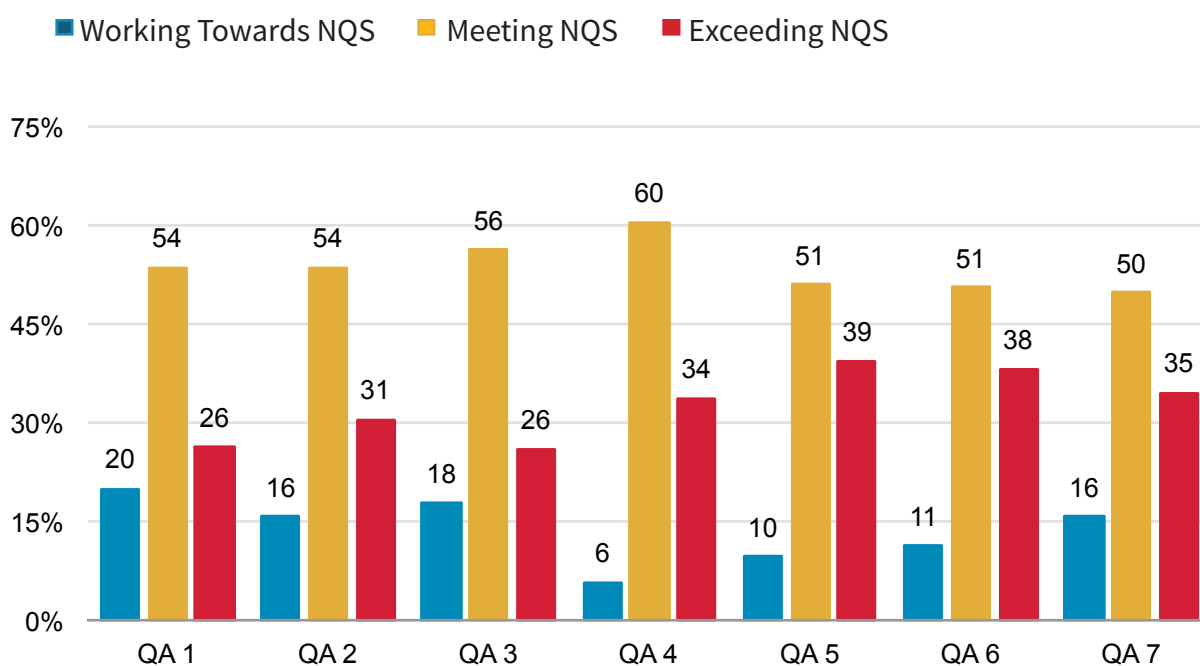
Department of Education
Quality Education and Care NT
www.education.nt.gov.au

Queensland summary

On 31 December 2015 Queensland had:

2815	services comprising 2659 centre-based services and 156 family day care services
2297 (82%)	services with a quality rating
1	service rated Significant Improvement Required
606	services rated Working Towards NQS
957	services rated Meeting NQS
722	services rated Exceeding NQS
11	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 23: Qld services with a quality rating by quality area on 31 December 2015



Contact details

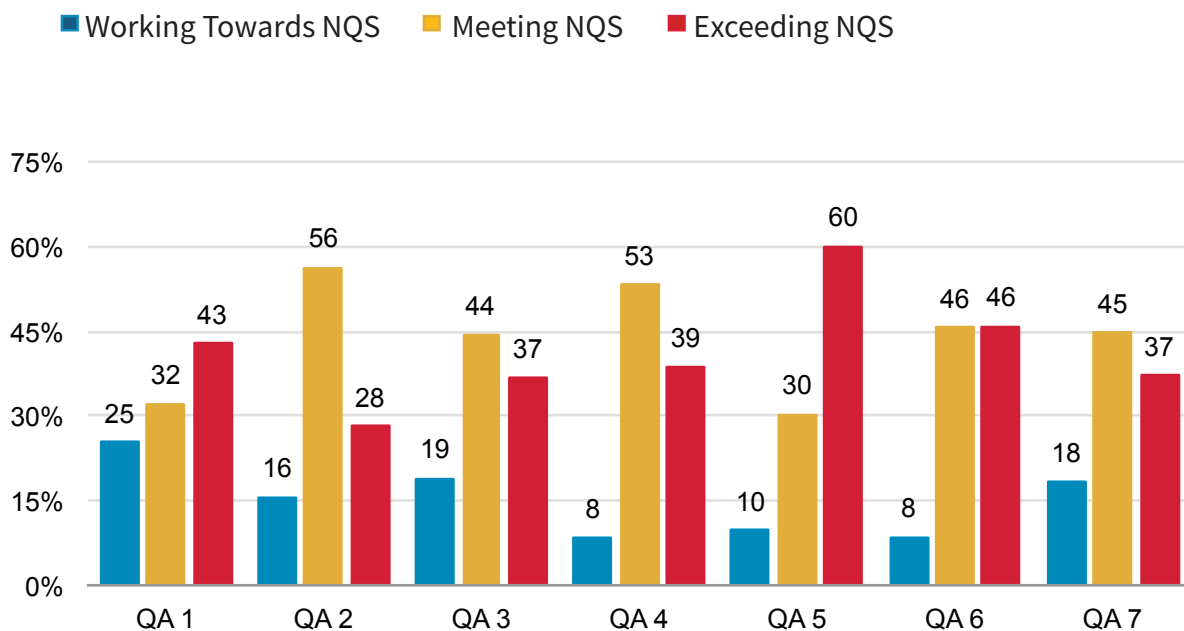
Department of Education and Training
 Early Childhood Education and Care
www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood

South Australia summary

On 31 December 2015 South Australia had:

1160	services comprising 1123 centre-based services and 37 family day care services
531 (46%)	services with a quality rating
169	services rated Working Towards NQS
129	services rated Meeting NQS
227	services rated Exceeding NQS
6	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 24: SA services with a quality rating by quality area on 31 December 2015



Contact details

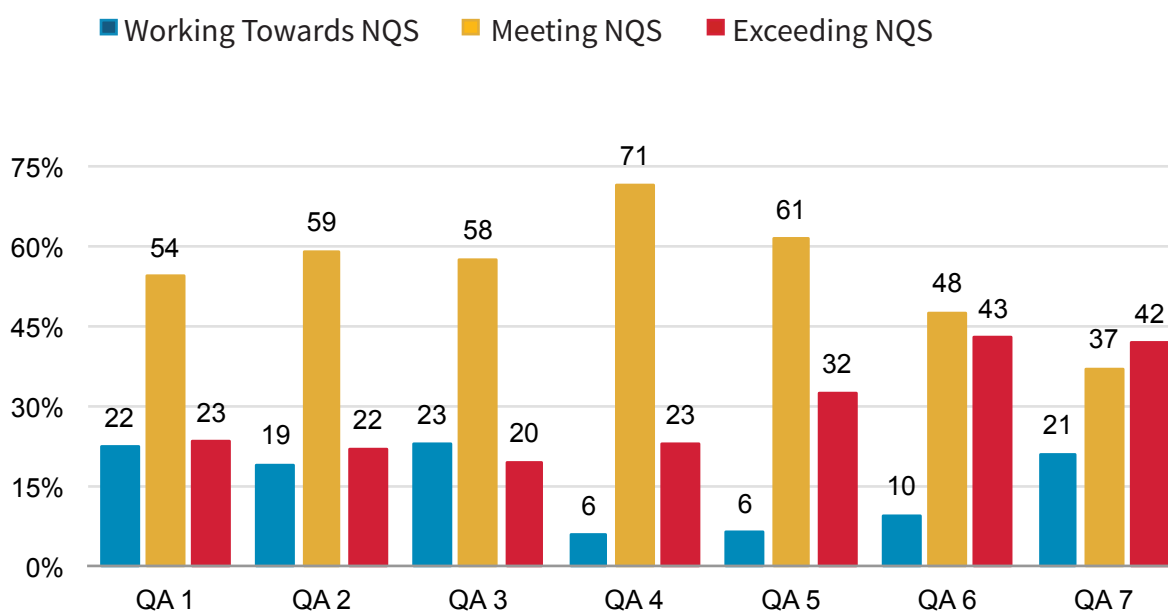
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards
Board of South Australia
www.eecrsb.sa.gov.au

Tasmania summary

On 31 December 2015 Tasmania had:

225	services comprising 211 centre-based services and 14 family day care services
210 (93%)	services with a quality rating
74	services rated Working Towards NQS
76	services rated Meeting NQS
60	services rated Exceeding NQS

Figure 25: Tas services with a quality rating by quality area on 31 December 2015



Contact details

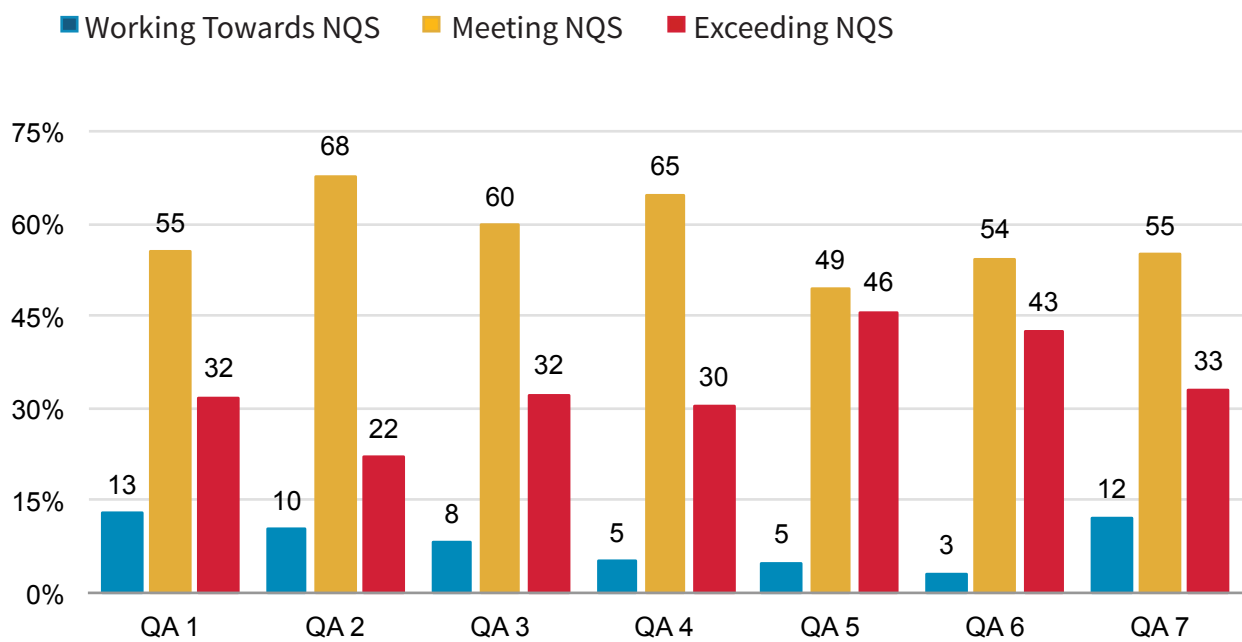
Department of Education
Education and Care Unit
www.education.tas.gov.au

Victoria summary

On 31 December 2015 Victoria had:

4027	services comprising 3645 centre-based services and 382 family day care services
3407 (85%)	services with a quality rating
683	services rated Working Towards NQS
1579	services rated Meeting NQS
1137	services rated Exceeding NQS
8	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 26: Vic services with a quality rating by quality area on 31 December 2015



Contact details

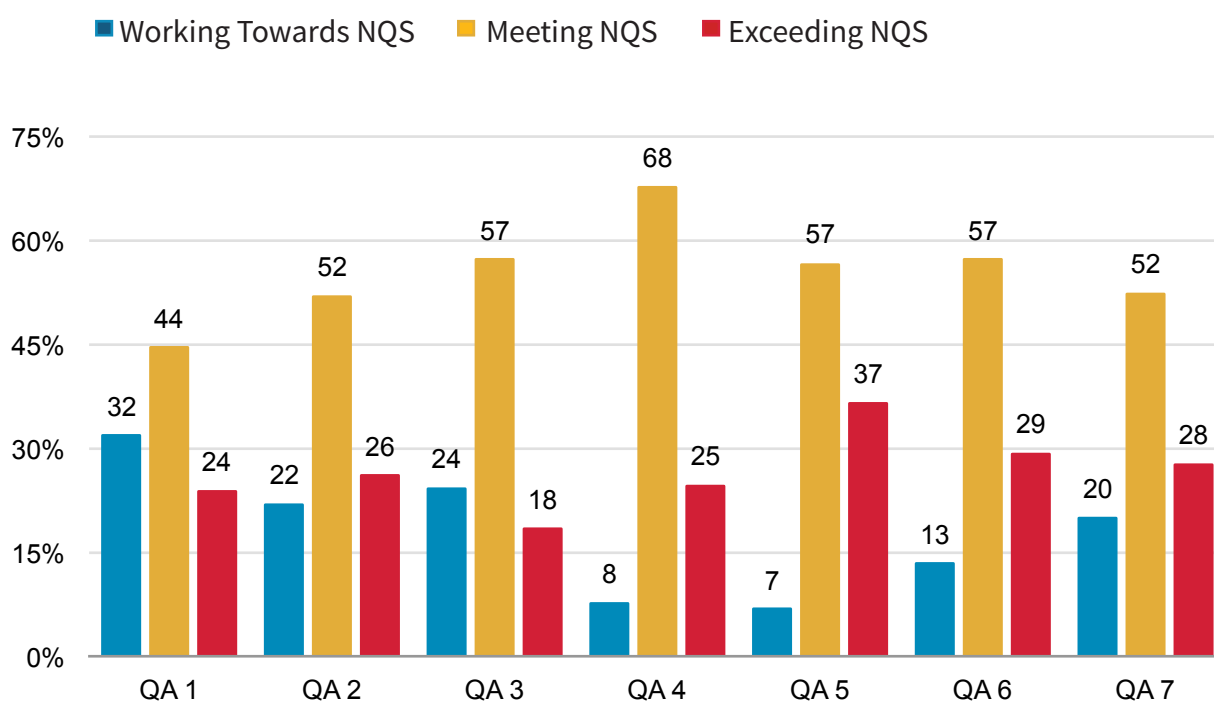
Department of Education and Training
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division
www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation

Western Australia summary

On 31 December 2015 Western Australia had:

1133	services comprising 1073 centre-based services and 60 family day care services
538 (47%)	services with a quality rating
210	services rated Working Towards NQS
196	services rated Meeting NQS
130	services rated Exceeding NQS
2	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 27: WA services with a quality rating by quality area on 31 December 2015



Contact details

Department of Local Government and Communities
 Education and Care Regulatory Unit
www.dlgc.wa.gov.au



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