



NQF Snapshot

Q4 2017



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority™

A quarterly report from
the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority
February 2018

Table of contents



Overview	3
Snapshot highlights	4
Profile of the sector	5
Progress of assessment and rating	9
Quality improvement	10
Overall quality ratings	11
Overall quality ratings by provider management type	12
Overall quality ratings by service type	13
Quality area ratings	14
Standard level ratings	14
Element level results	15
Services rated Working Towards NQS	16
Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA	17
Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification	17
Jurisdiction summaries	18

Overview

NQF Snapshot Q4 2017 is ACECQA's 20th national report on children's education and care services operating under the National Quality Framework (NQF).

It provides analysis and information on the profile of the sector, progress of assessment and rating and the quality ratings of services against the National Quality Standard (NQS).

An interactive online version of the Snapshot is available on the ACECQA website.

The data presented in this Snapshot was taken from the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA ITS) on 1 January 2018 for the period ending 31 December 2017.

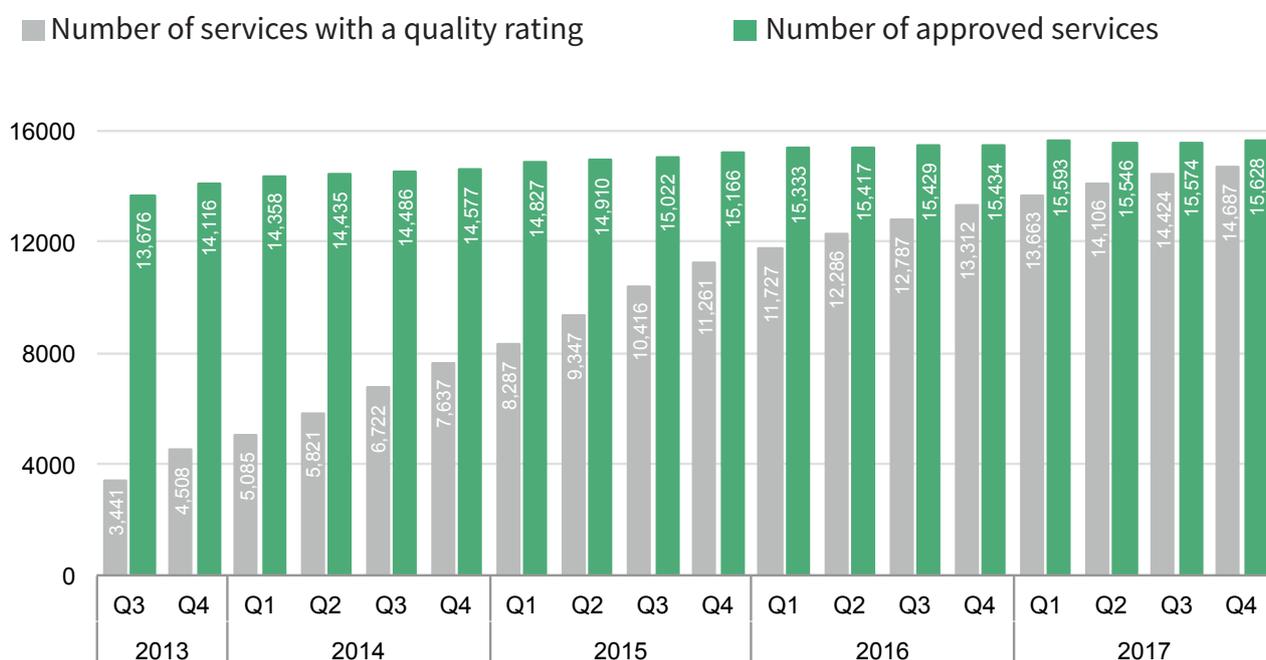
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



Snapshot highlights

15,628	children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF
14,687 (94%)	services with a quality rating
11,253 (77%)	services with a quality rating of Meeting NQS or above
7421	providers approved to operate
6145	providers approved to operate only one service
50	services rated Excellent by ACECQA ¹
3776	quality rating reassessments completed
68%	of services rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment

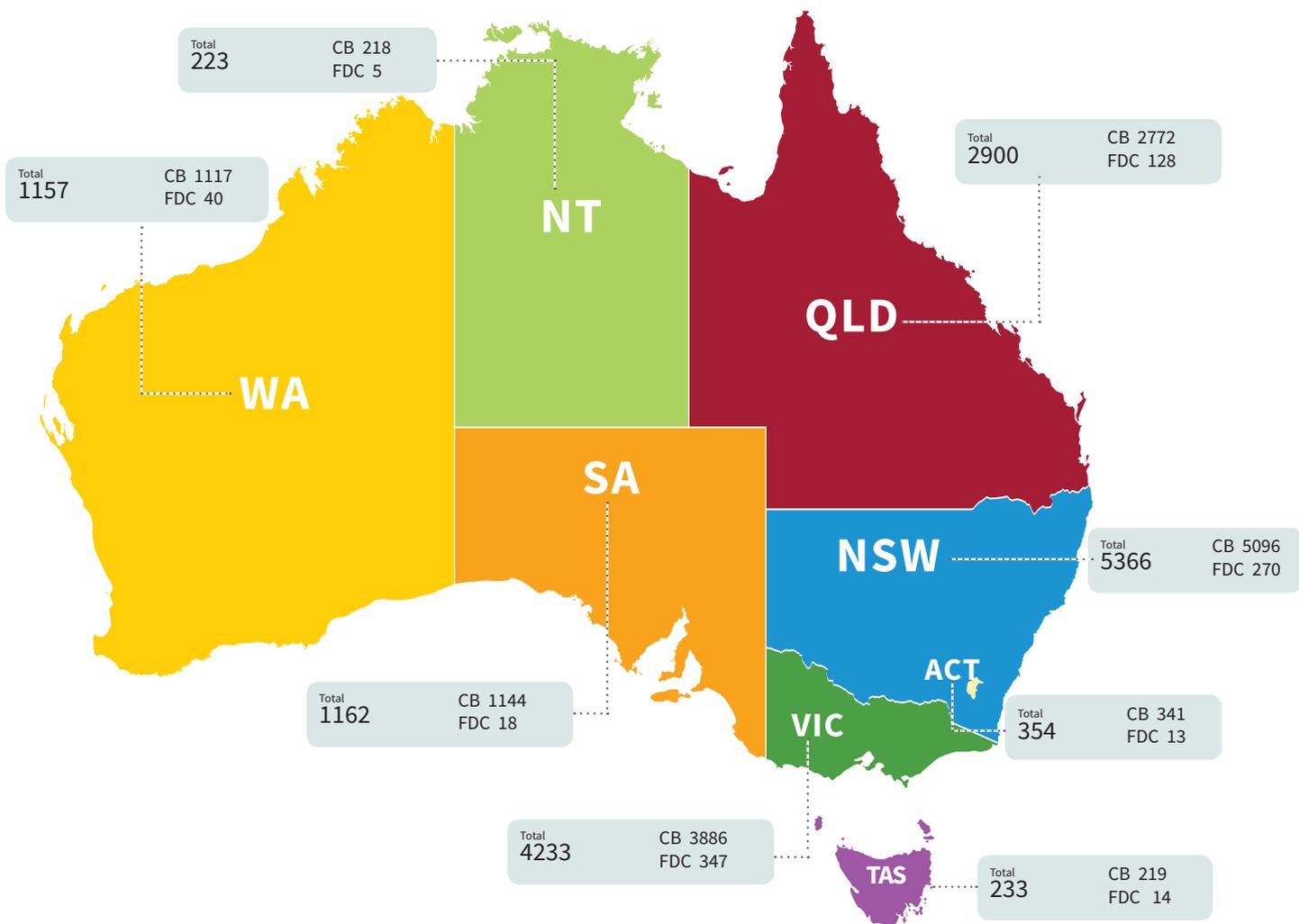
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



¹ The Excellent rating is awarded for a period of three years. Unless a reapplication for the Excellent rating is received, a service's rating will revert back to Exceeding NQS after this three year period. The Snapshot includes the current number of Excellent rated services.

Profile of the sector

Figure 2: Number of approved services by jurisdiction and service type



<p>Total Centre-based (CB) ¹</p> <p>14,793 (95%)</p> <p>2% Increase on Q4 2016</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) ²</p> <p>835 (5%)</p> <p>17% Decrease on Q4 2016</p>	<p>Total</p> <p>15,628</p> <p>1% Increase on Q4 2016</p>
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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, as well as other services that aren't regulated under the National Law.

² A family day care service is an education and care service delivered through a network of educators operating from residences and other approved venues. 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 ^{1,2,3,4,5}

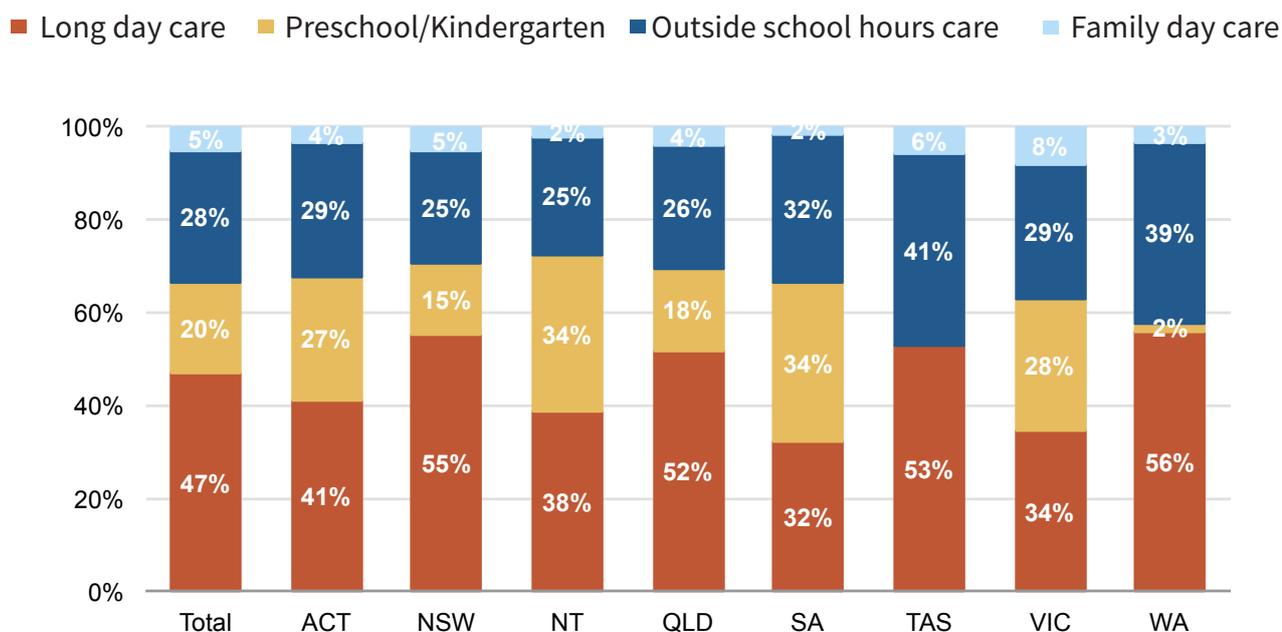


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	13	145	95	101	0	354
NSW	270	2973	798	1325	0	5366
NT	5	85	75	56	2	223
QLD	128	1501	514	755	2	2900
SA	18	372	398	374	0	1162
TAS	14	123	0	96	0	233
VIC	347	1457	1205	1224	0	4233
WA	40	644	23	448	2	1157
TOTAL	835	7300	3108	4379	6	15,628

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 multiple 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 services operating in Tasmania and Western Australia that are out of scope of the NQF, as well as other services that aren't regulated under the National Law.

5 Six services categorised as 'Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

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

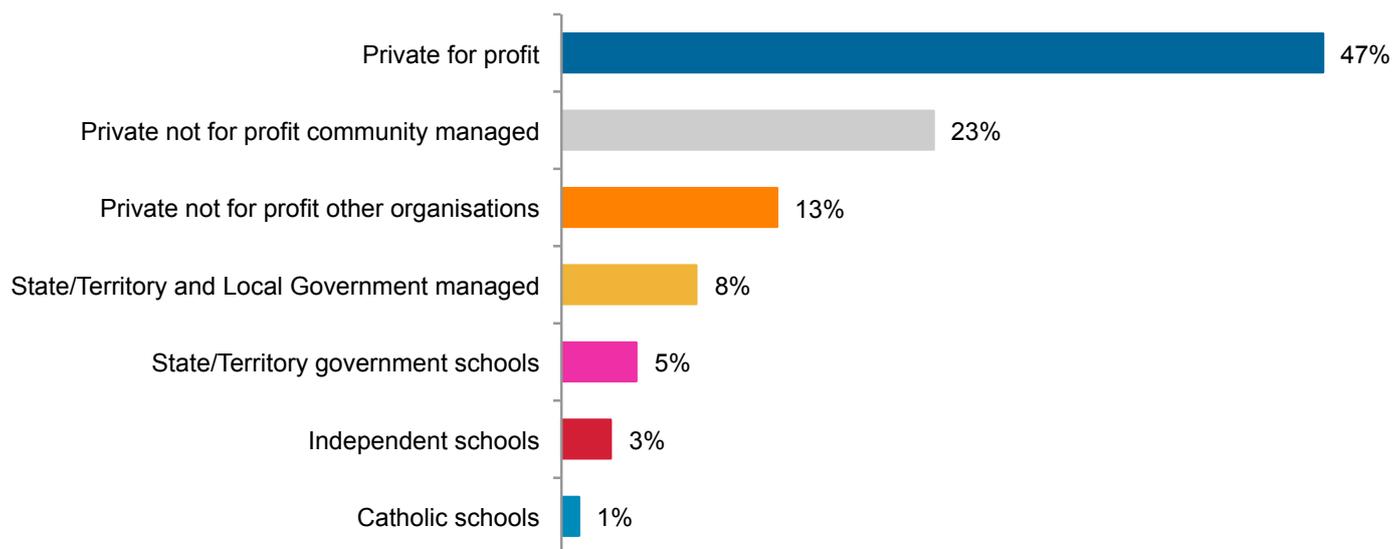


Table 2: Number and proportion of approved services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7334	47%
Private not for profit community managed	3567	23%
Private not for profit other organisations	2067	13%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1290	8%
State/Territory government schools	717	5%
Independent schools	471	3%
Catholic schools	168	1%
Not stated/Other	14	0%
Total	15,628	100%

¹ NQA ITS data collected on provider management type is self-reported by providers when applying for provider approval. Providers are not required to notify changes to this information, and therefore this NQA ITS information 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/EDCEFD2FC57CD225CA257C93000D13A7?opendocument>

³ 14 services categorised as 'Not stated/Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

Figure 5 shows that 83% of approved providers operate a single service while 1% of approved providers operate 25 or more services.

Figure 5: Proportion of approved providers with services by size

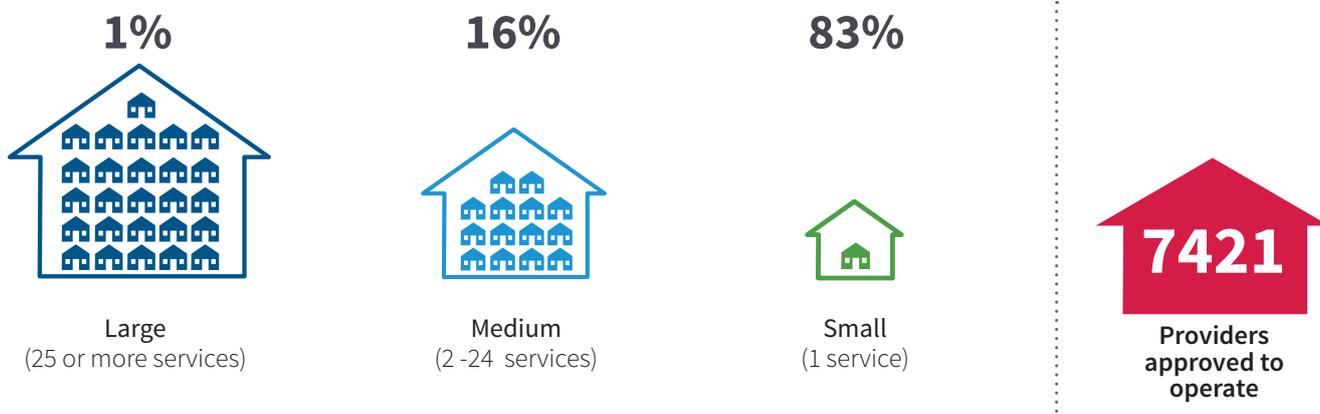
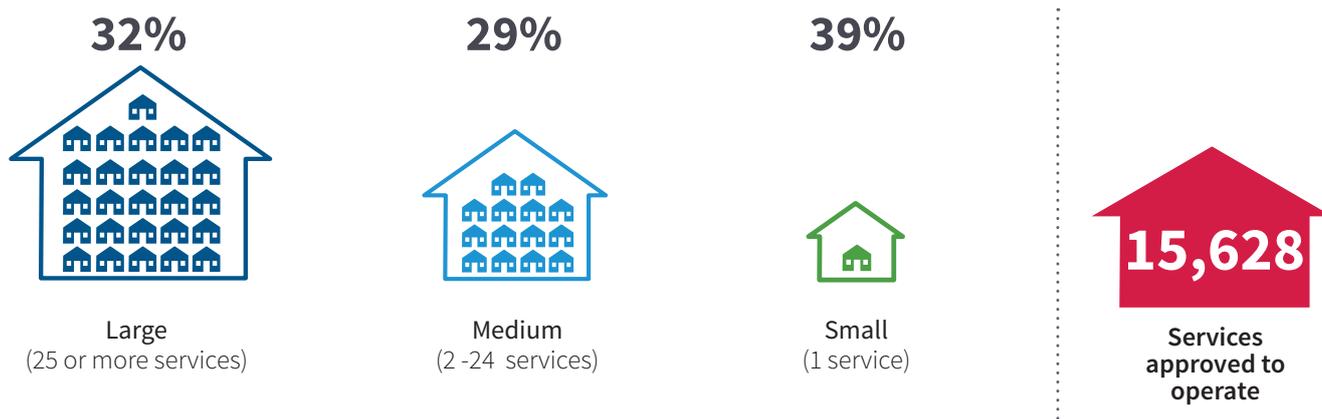


Figure 6 shows that 39% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 32% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

Figure 6: Proportion of approved services by provider size



Progress of assessment and rating

Table 3 includes all approved services. A small proportion of these services will only recently have been approved and may not have started operating or may have only been operating for a short period of time. In general, regulatory authorities will not assess and rate newly approved services which have been operating for less than 9-12 months, therefore the proportion of services with a quality rating will not reach 100% at any one time. Roughly 4% of services were approved in the last 12 months. Removing these services from the calculation increases the proportion of services with a quality rating to 98%.

Table 3: Quality ratings by jurisdiction

	Number of services	Proportion of all services	Number of services with a quality rating	Proportion of services with a quality rating
ACT	354	2%	319	90%
NSW	5366	34%	5159	96%
NT	223	1%	210	94%
QLD	2900	19%	2759	95%
SA	1162	7%	1038	89%
TAS	233	1%	222	95%
VIC	4233	27%	3908	92%
WA	1157	7%	1072	93%
TOTAL	15,628	100%	14,687	94%

Table 4: Number of services with a quality rating by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	7	132	91	89	0	319
NSW	222	2884	790	1263	0	5159
NT	4	80	74	50	2	210
QLD	103	1442	499	713	2	2759
SA	9	333	338	358	0	1038
TAS	13	121	0	88	0	222
VIC	280	1319	1183	1126	0	3908
WA	39	609	22	400	2	1072
TOTAL	677	6920	2997	4087	6	14,687

Quality improvement

Table 5 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 1277 of services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 858 services previously rated Working Towards NQS received the same rating again after reassessment.

Table 5: Reassessments by overall quality rating¹

		Rating after reassessment				Total
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	13	33	6	0	52
	Working Towards NQS	15	858	1277	550	2700
	Meeting NQS	0	150	348	224	722
	Exceeding NQS	0	43	72	187	302
	Total	28	1084	1703	961	3776

		Rating after reassessment				Improvement rate
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	25%	63%	12%	0%	75%
	Working Towards NQS	1%	32%	47%	20%	68%
	Meeting NQS	0%	21%	48%	31%	31%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	14%	24%	62%	-

¹ Reassessments include the following processes described in the National Law: i. Next assessment; ii. Partial reassessment and re-rating requested by provider; iii. Partial reassessment and re-rating instigated by the regulatory authority; iv. Full reassessment and re-rating requested by provider; v. Full reassessment and re-rating instigated by the regulatory authority.

Overall quality ratings

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 NQS. Services are given a rating for each of the seven quality areas and an overall rating.

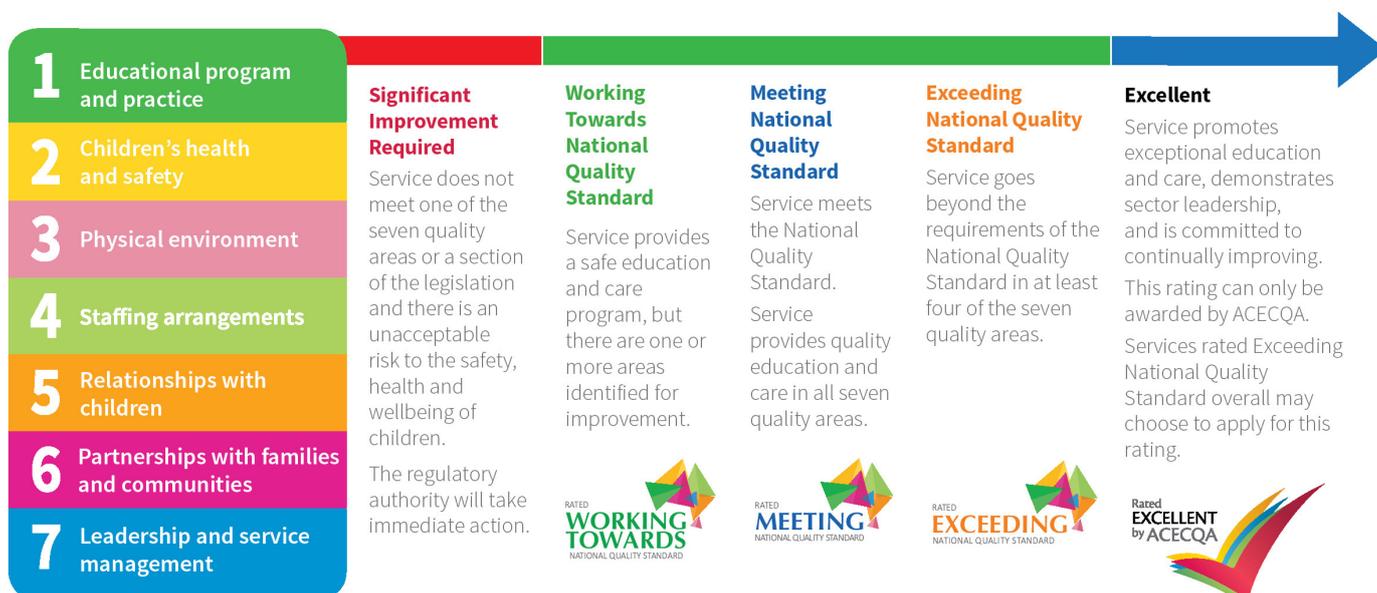


Table 6: Overall quality ratings by jurisdiction

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
ACT	0	97 (30%)	77 (24%)	139 (44%)	6	319
NSW	27	1357 (26%)	2224 (43%)	1538 (30%)	13	5159
NT	0	81 (39%)	93 (44%)	35 (17%)	1	210
QLD	2	524 (19%)	1318 (48%)	901 (33%)	14	2759
SA	0	286 (28%)	245 (24%)	502 (48%)	5	1038
TAS	0	47 (21%)	90 (41%)	85 (38%)	0	222
VIC	9	635 (16%)	1928 (49%)	1326 (34%)	10	3908
WA	0	369 (34%)	407 (38%)	295 (28%)	1	1072
TOTAL	38	3396 (23%)	6382 (43%)	4821 (33%)	50	14,687

Overall quality ratings by provider management type

Figure 7 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings between provider management types.

These differences can reflect a range of contextual factors, such as the service profile of these provider types. 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 9). In contrast, preschools/kindergartens make up only 1% of 'Private for profit' services.

Figure 7: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level¹

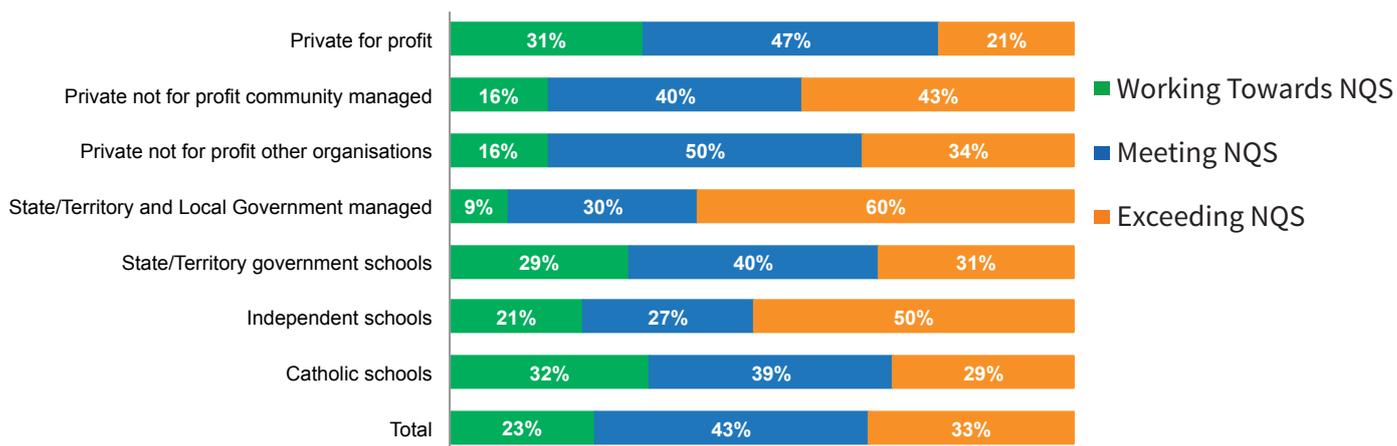


Table 7: Number of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
Private for profit	36	2068	3149	1440	10	6703
Private not for profit community managed	2	547	1399	1494	22	3464
Private not for profit other organisations	0	315	1008	676	1	2000
State/Territory and Local Government managed	0	113	360	718	5	1196
State/Territory government schools	0	202	280	221	2	705
Independent schools	0	93	118	223	9	443
Catholic schools	0	52	63	47	0	162
Not Stated/Other	0	6	5	2	1	14
TOTAL	38	3396	6382	4821	50	14,687

¹ 14 providers categorised as 'Not stated/Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

Overall quality ratings by service type

Figure 8: Overall quality ratings by service type

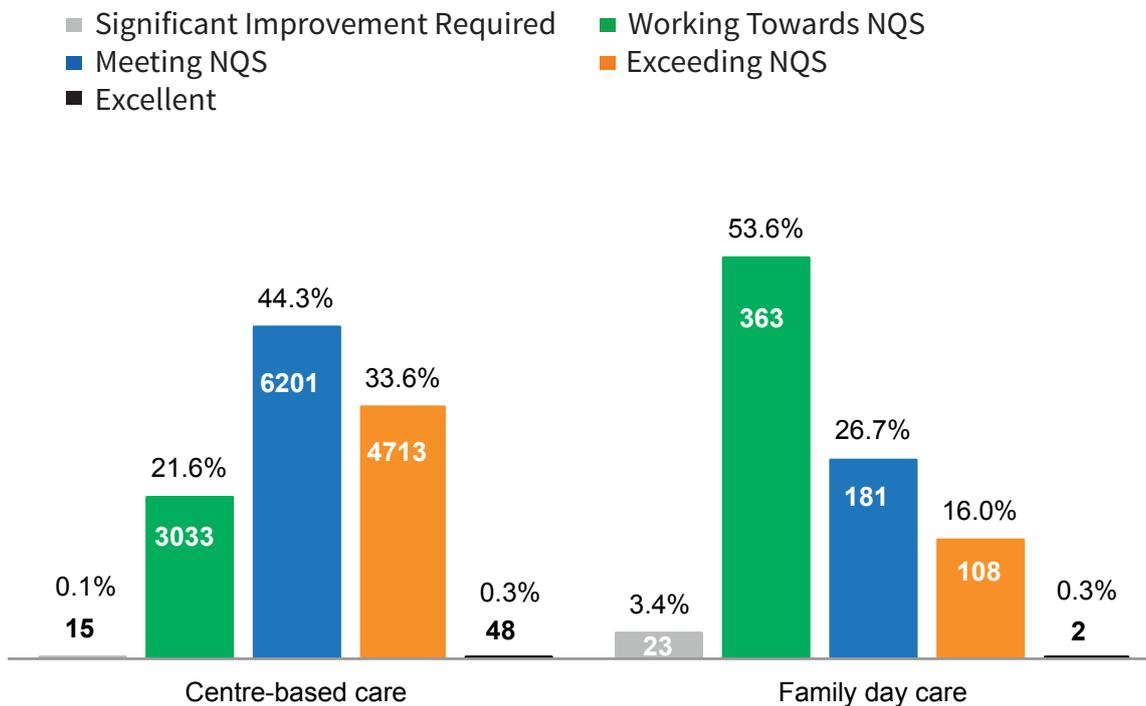
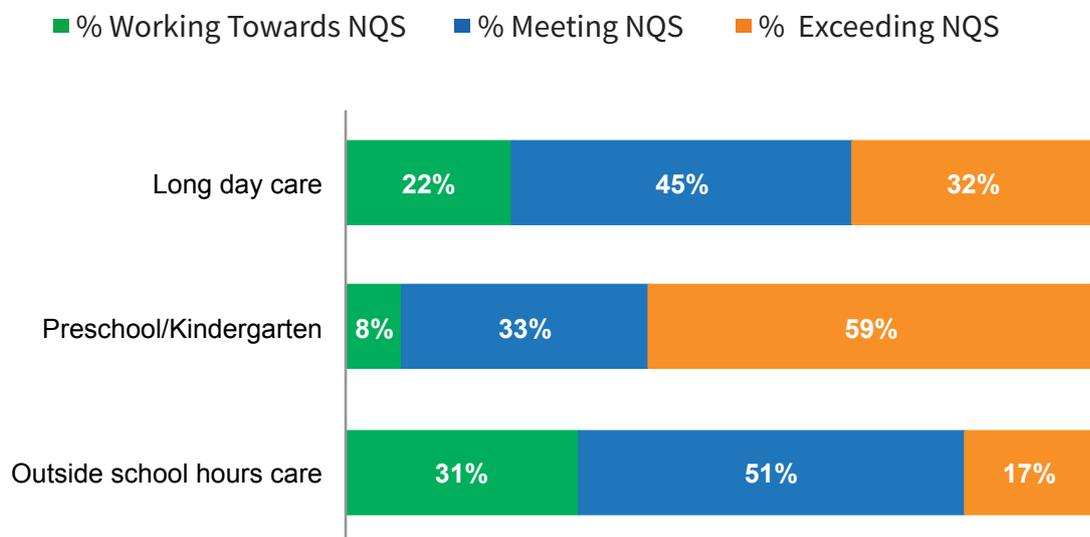


Figure 9: Overall quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

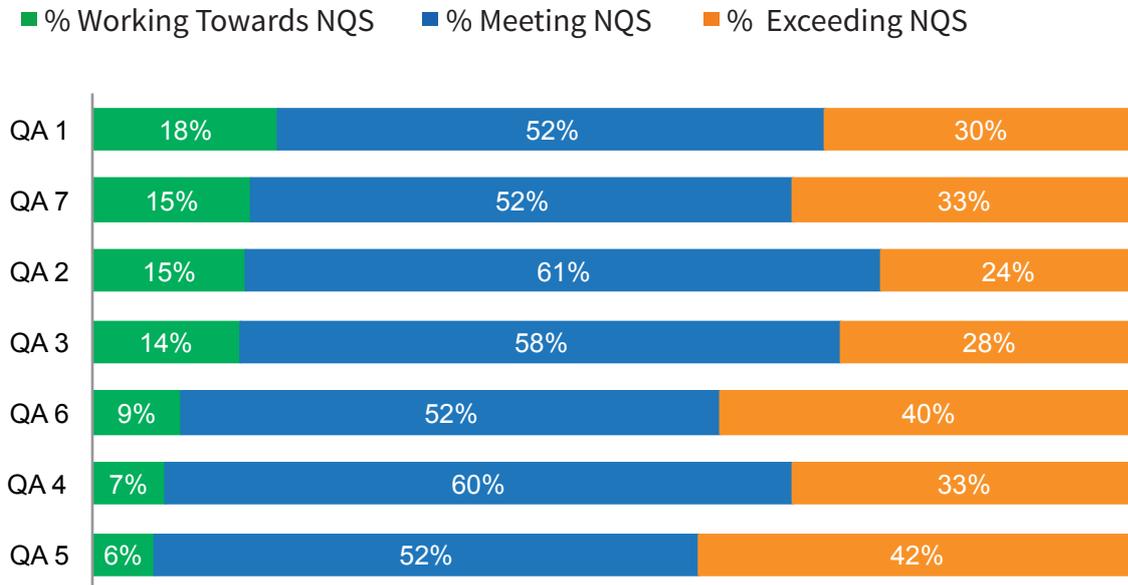


The interactive online version of the Snapshot includes additional analysis and is available on the ACECQA website.

Quality area ratings

Figure 10 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

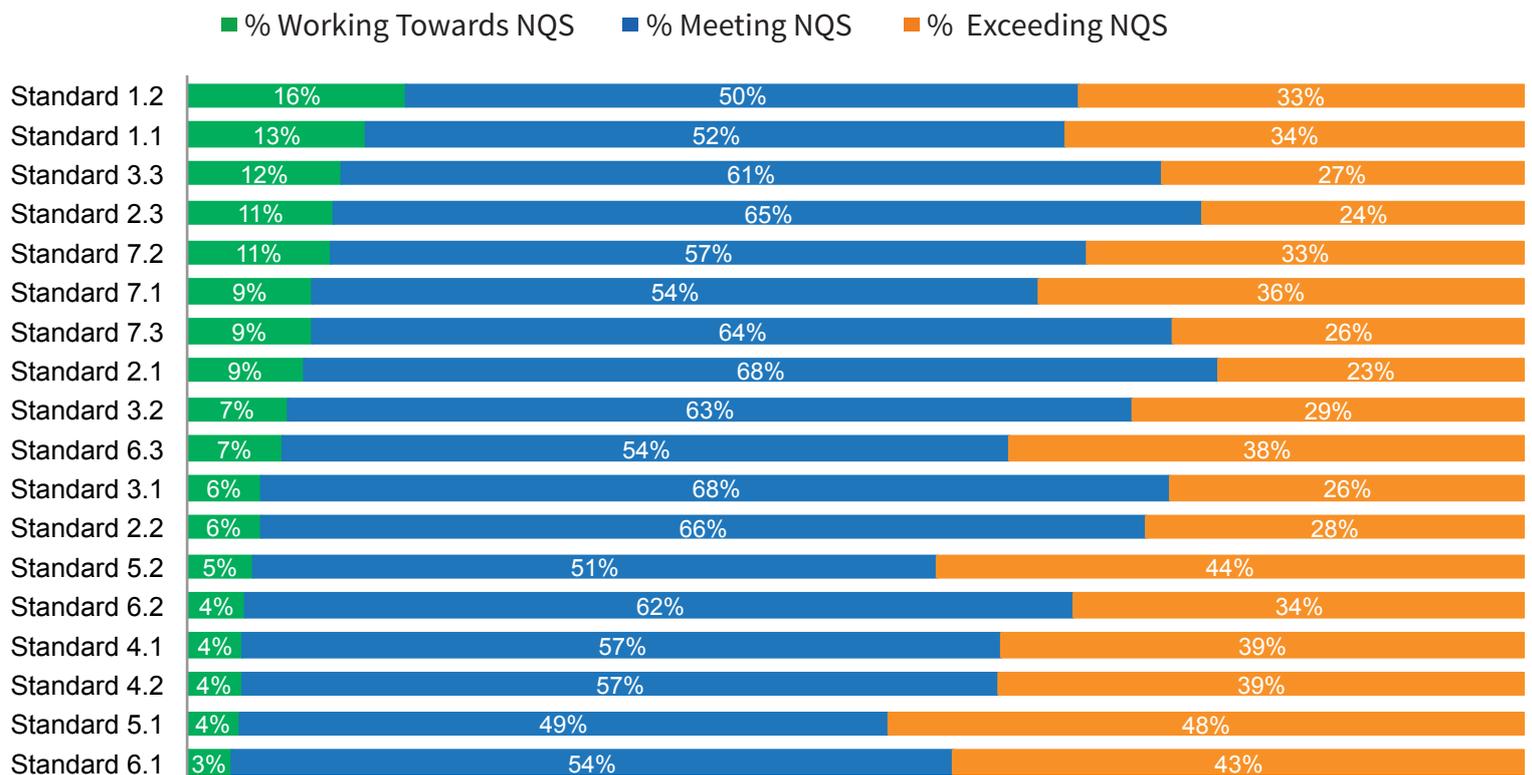
Figure 10: Quality area ratings



Standard level ratings

Figure 11 ranks the 18 standards of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each standard.

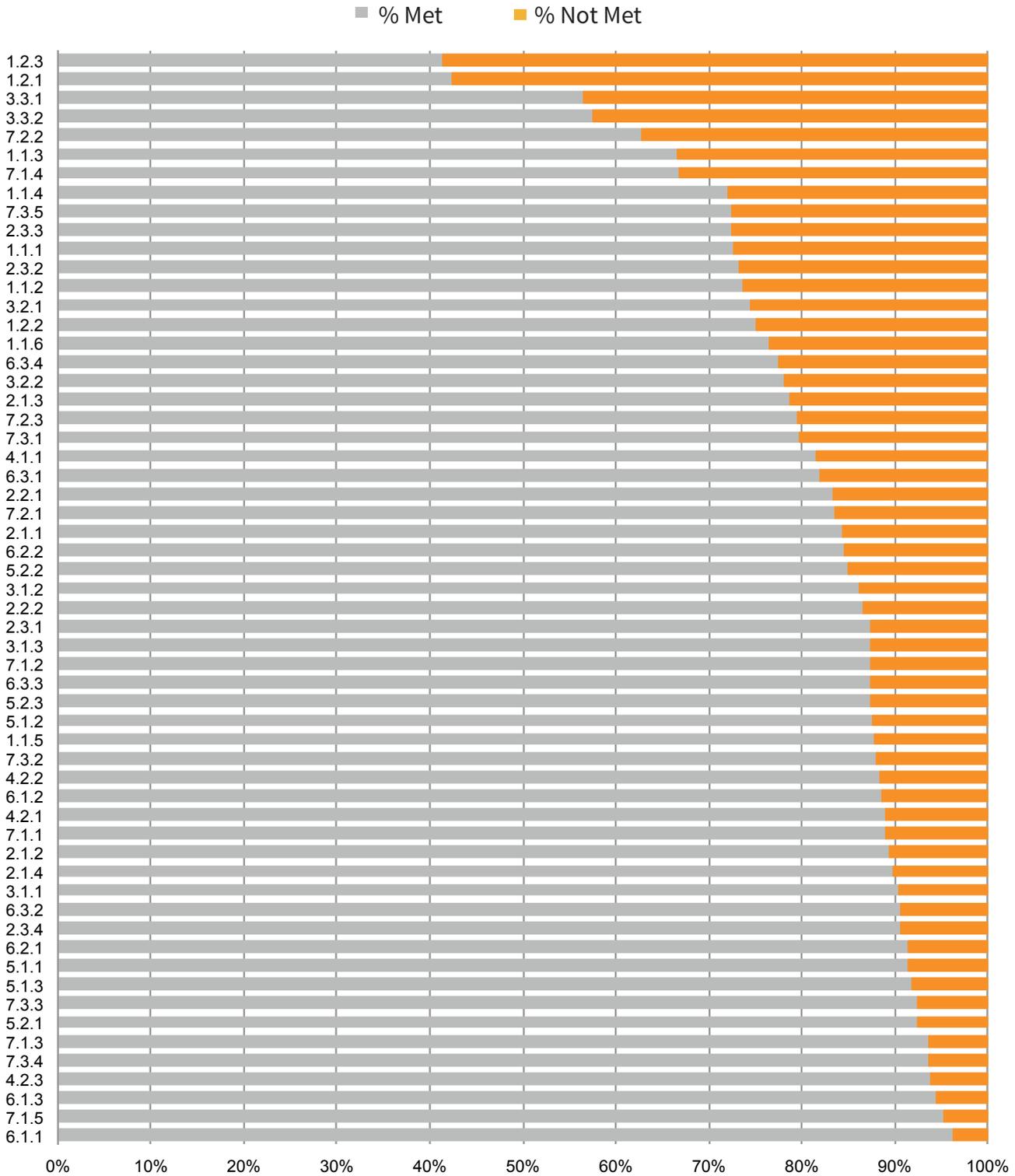
Figure 11: Standard level ratings



Element level results

Figure 12 looks at the element level results for the 3434 services with a quality rating of Significant Improvement Required or Working Towards NQS. The performance of these services against the 58 elements of the NQS has been ranked in descending order based on the proportion of services that do not meet each element.

Figure 12: Element level results for services rated Significant Improvement Required or Working Towards NQS



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 as Working Towards NQS.

Figure 13: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of quality areas rated Working Towards NQS

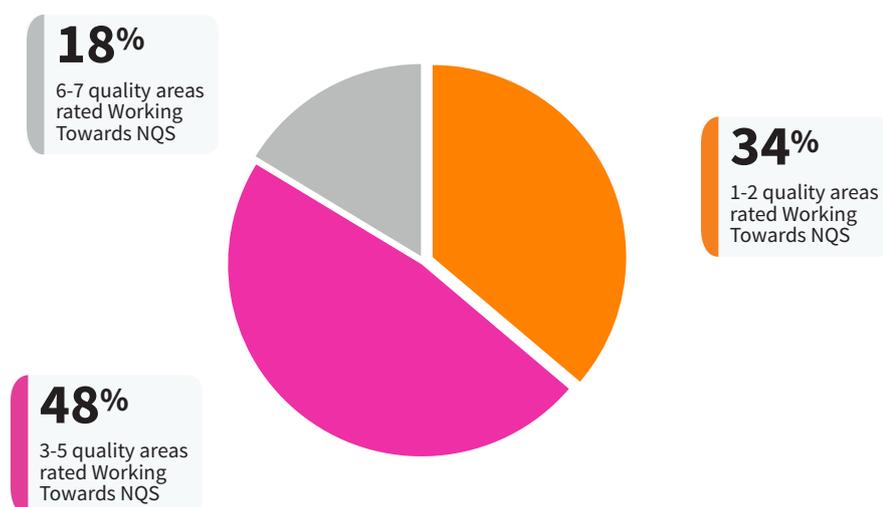
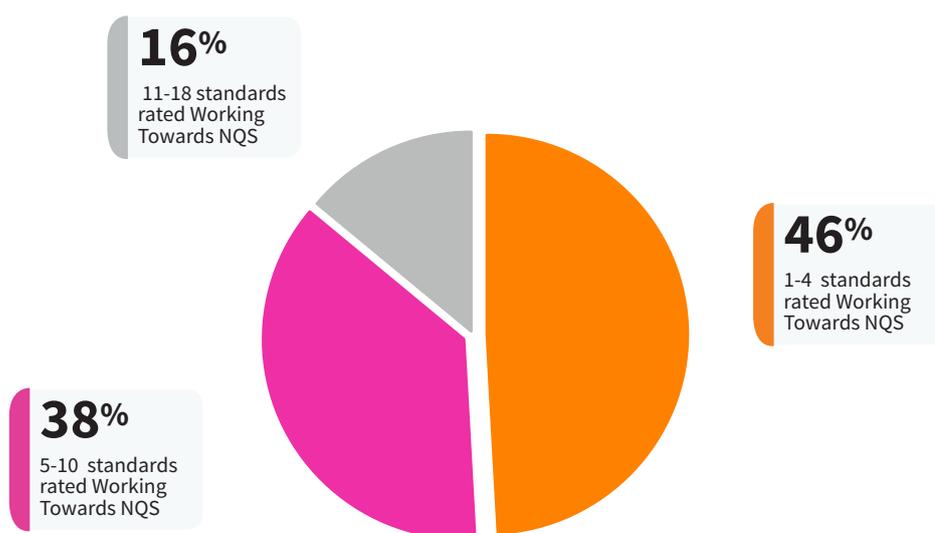


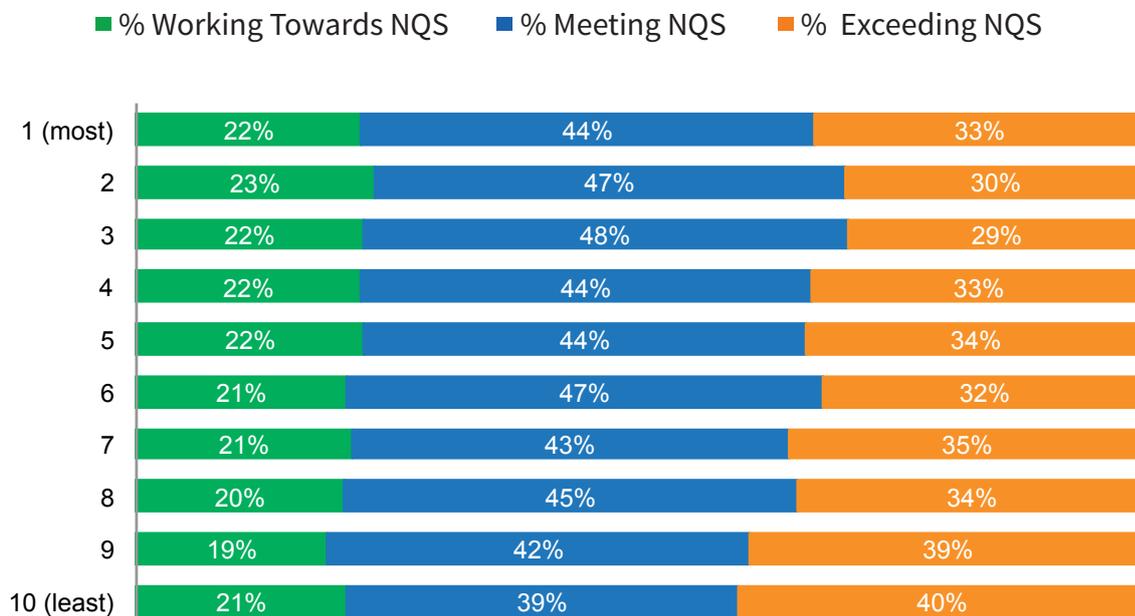
Figure 14: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of standards rated Working Towards NQS



Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA¹

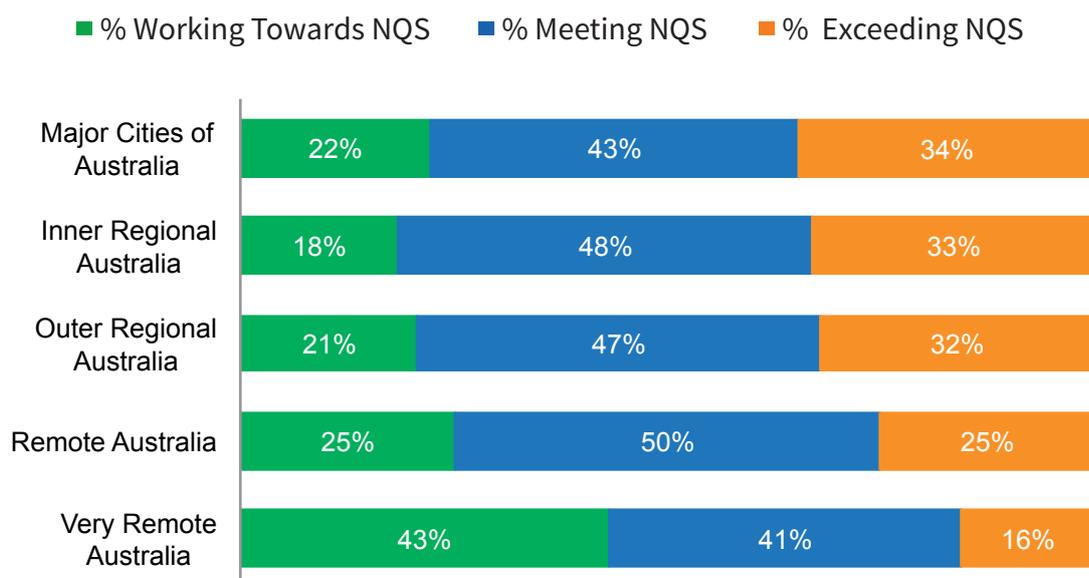
SEIFA is a product that ranks areas according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on census data. Variables used cover a number of areas including household income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other indicators of advantage and disadvantage.

Figure 15: Quality ratings by SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage



Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification²

Figure 16: Quality ratings by remoteness classification



1 FDC services are excluded from SEIFA classification because their approval is not specific to one location. There are also 508 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a SEIFA classification.

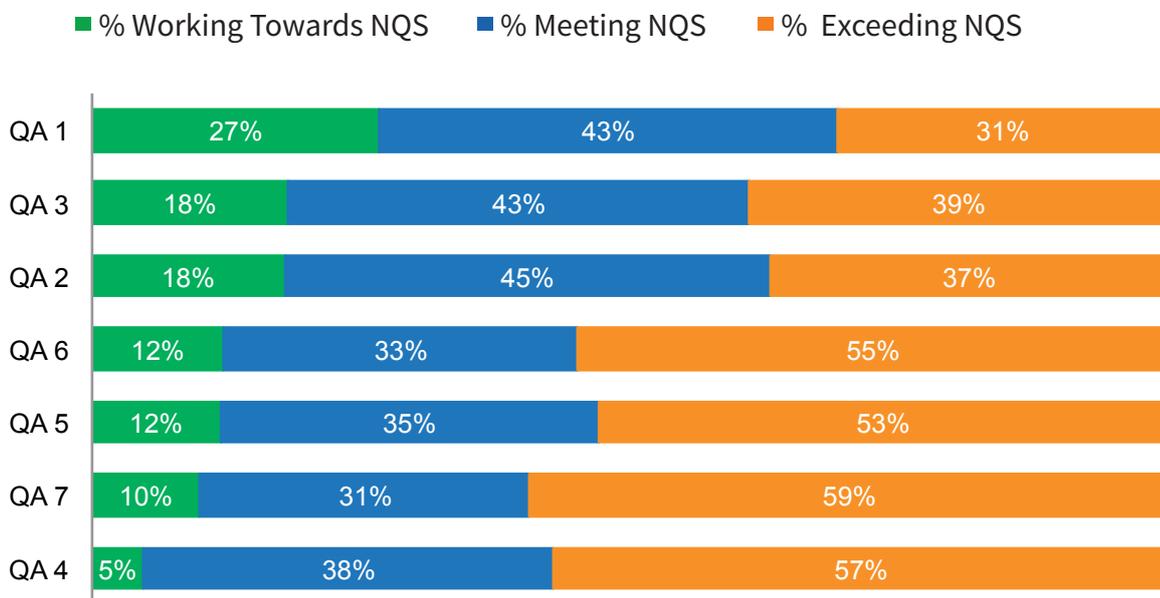
2 FDC services are excluded from remoteness classification because their approval is not specific to one location. There are also 116 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with an ARIA+ classification.

Australian Capital Territory summary



Figure 17 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 17: Quality area ratings



Contact details

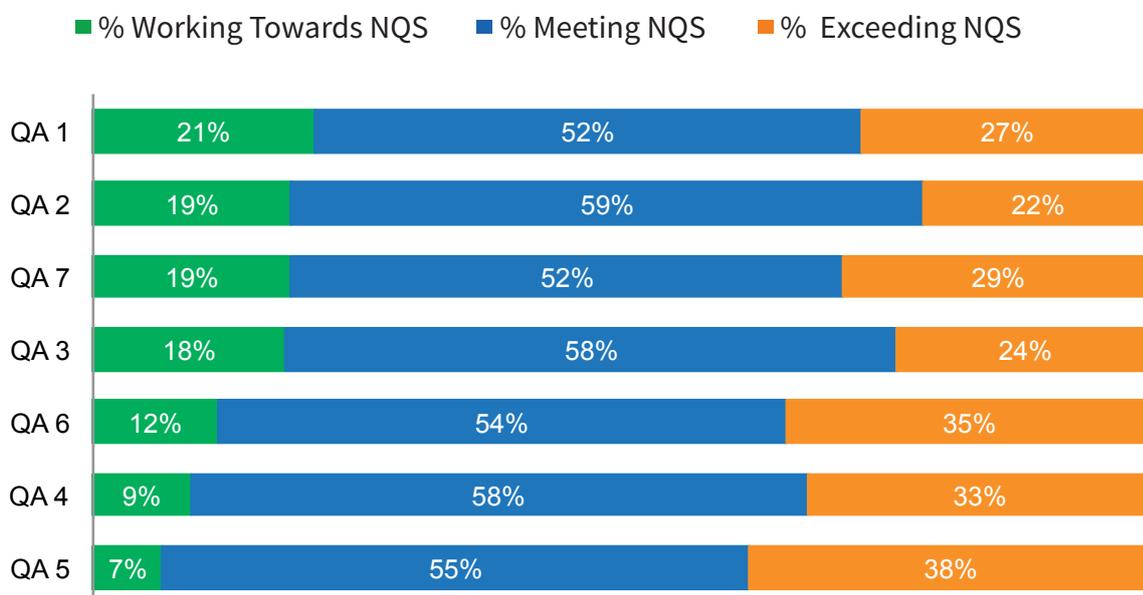
Education and Training Directorate
 Children's Governance and Assurance
www.education.act.gov.au

New South Wales summary

5366	services comprising 5096 centre-based services and 270 family day care services
5159 (96%)	services with a quality rating
27	services rated Significant Improvement Required
1357	services rated Working Towards NQS
2224	services rated Meeting NQS
1538	services rated Exceeding NQS
13	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 18 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 18: Quality area ratings



Contact details

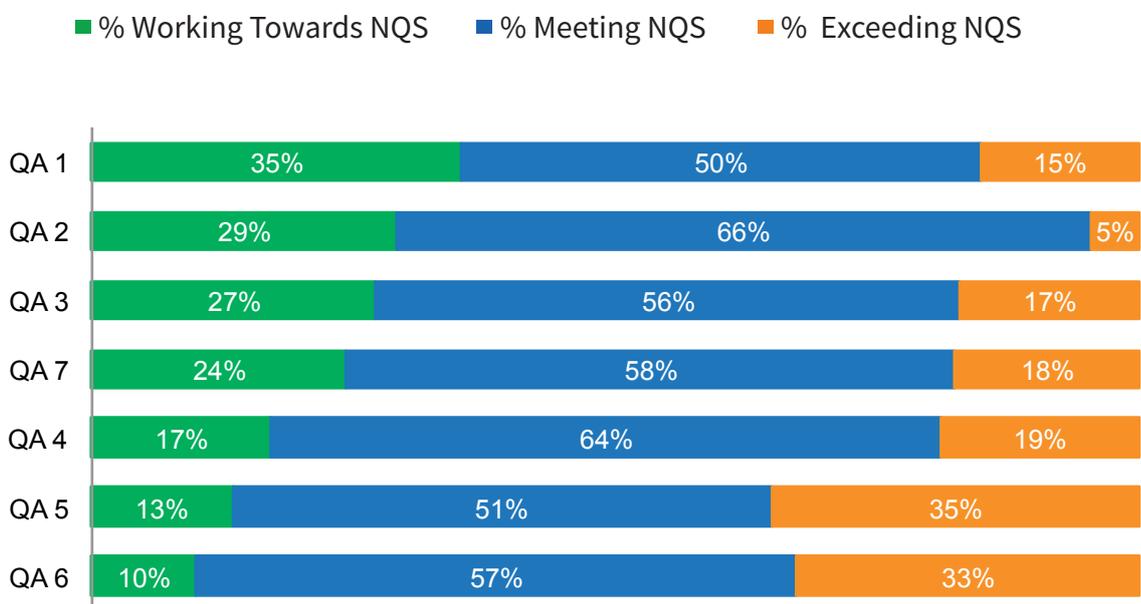
Department of Education
 Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec

Northern Territory summary



Figure 19 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 19: Quality area ratings



Contact details

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

Queensland summary

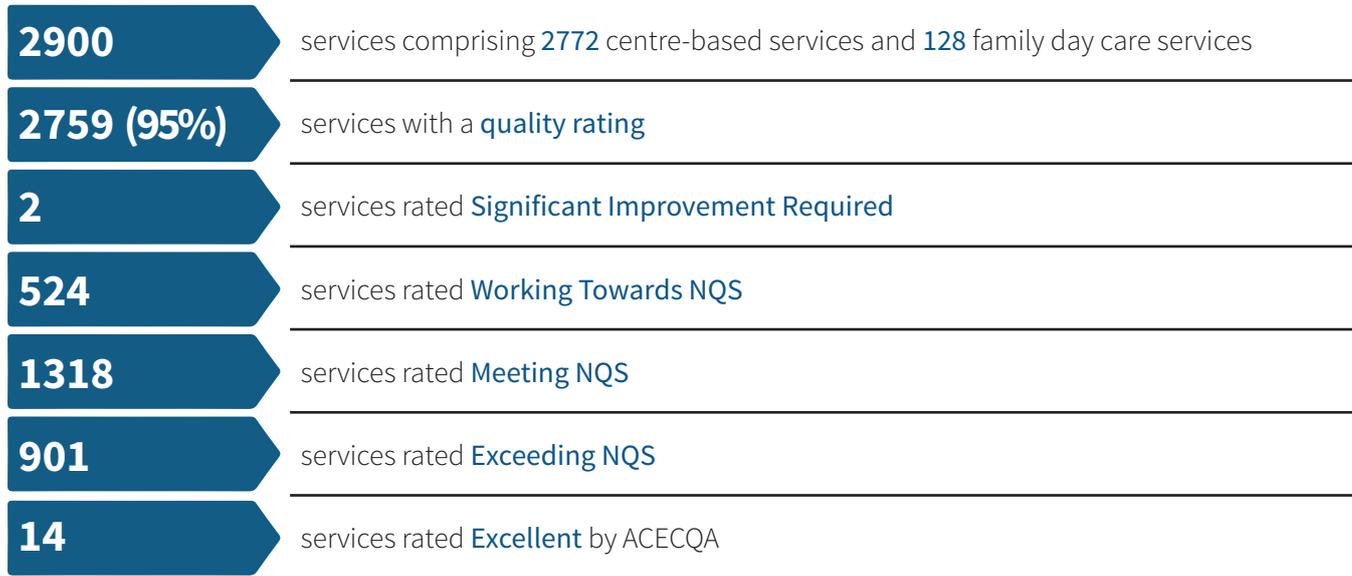
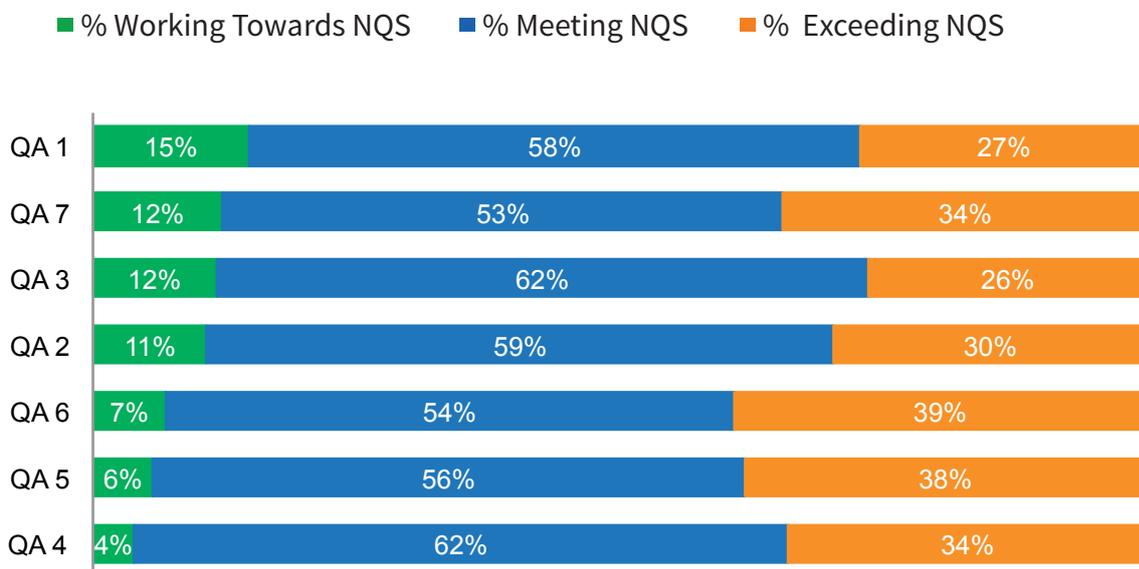


Figure 20 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 20: Quality area ratings



Contact details

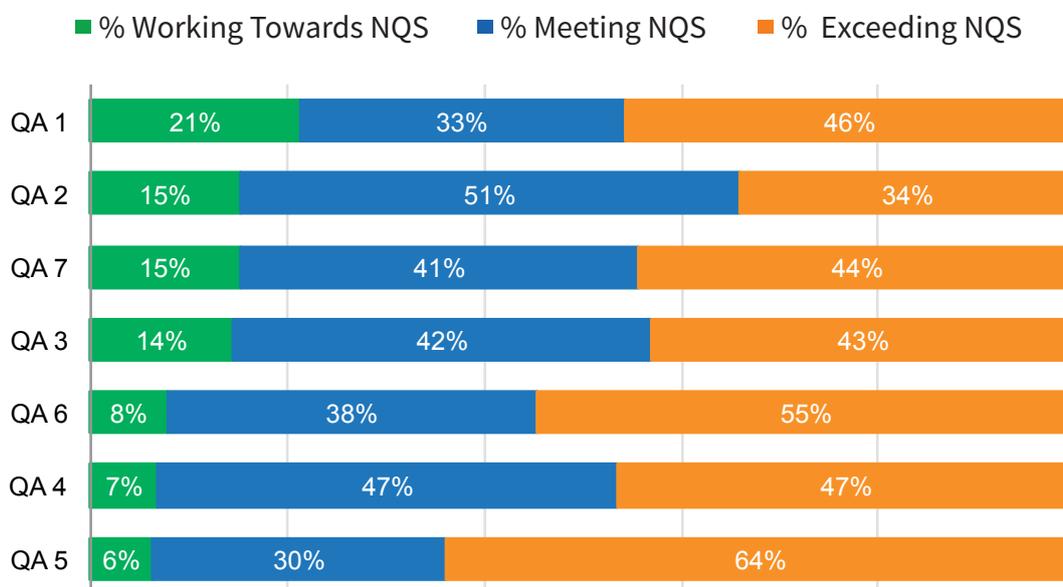
Department of Education and Training
 Early Childhood Education and Care
www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood

South Australia summary

1162	services comprising 1144 centre-based services and 18 family day care services
1038 (89%)	services with a quality rating
286	services rated Working Towards NQS
245	services rated Meeting NQS
502	services rated Exceeding NQS
5	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 21 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 21: Quality area ratings



Contact details

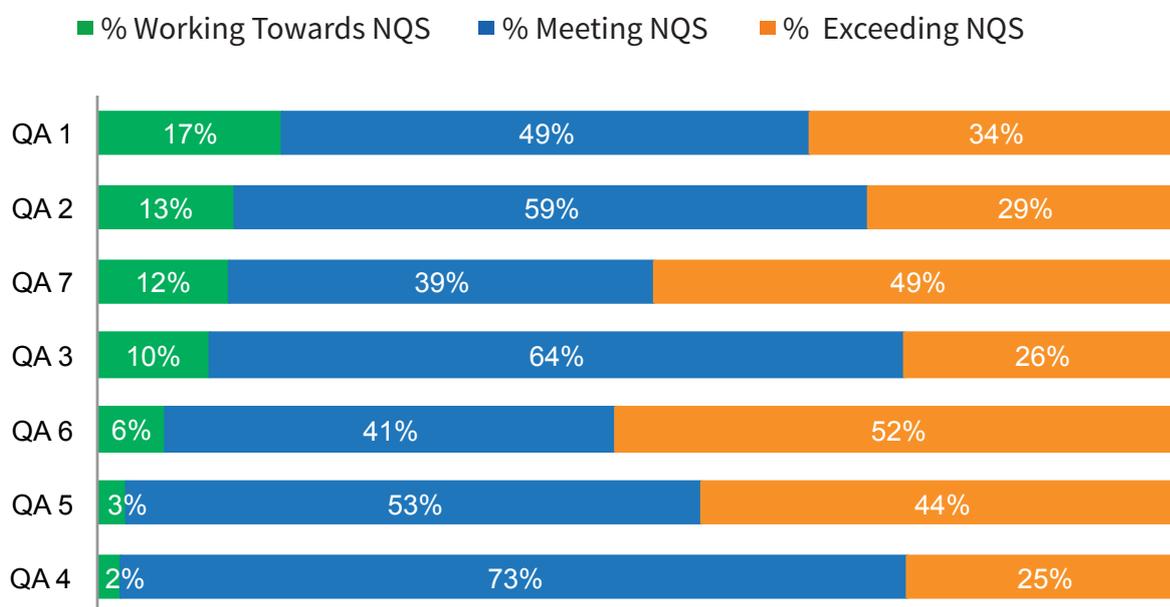
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards
Board of South Australia
www.esb.sa.gov.au

Tasmania summary

233	services comprising 219 centre-based services and 14 family day care services
222 (95%)	services with a quality rating
47	services rated Working Towards NQS
90	services rated Meeting NQS
85	services rated Exceeding NQS

Figure 22 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 22: Quality area ratings



Contact details

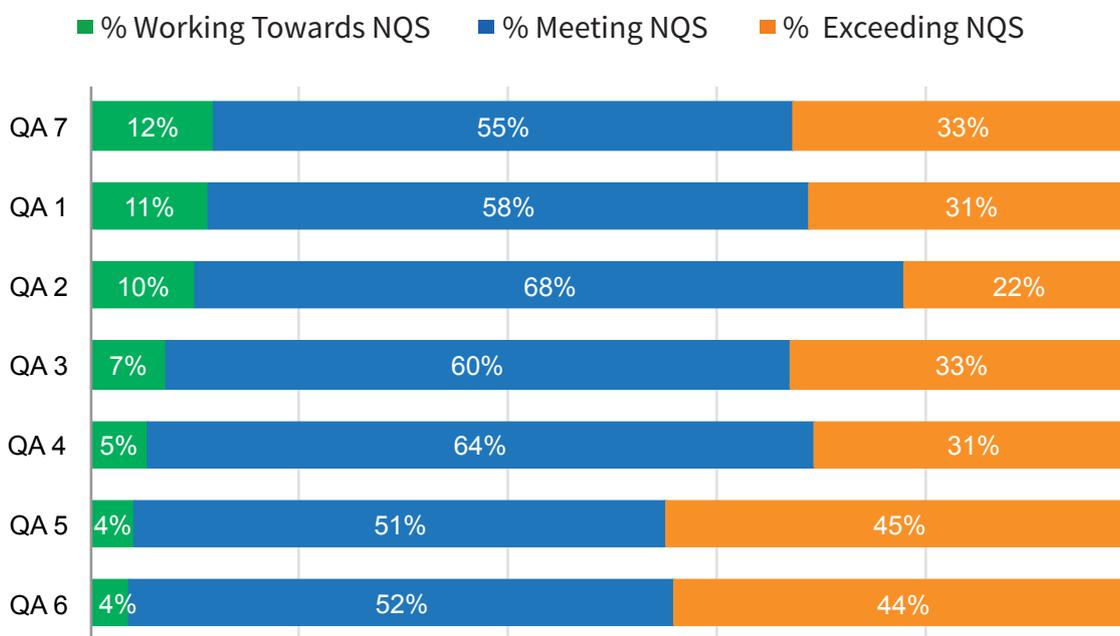
Department of Education
 Education and Care Unit
www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au

Victoria summary

4233	services comprising 3886 centre-based services and 347 family day care services
3908 (92%)	services with a quality rating
9	services rated Significant Improvement Required
635	services rated Working Towards NQS
1928	services rated Meeting NQS
1326	services rated Exceeding NQS
10	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 23 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 23: Quality area ratings



Contact details

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

Western Australia summary

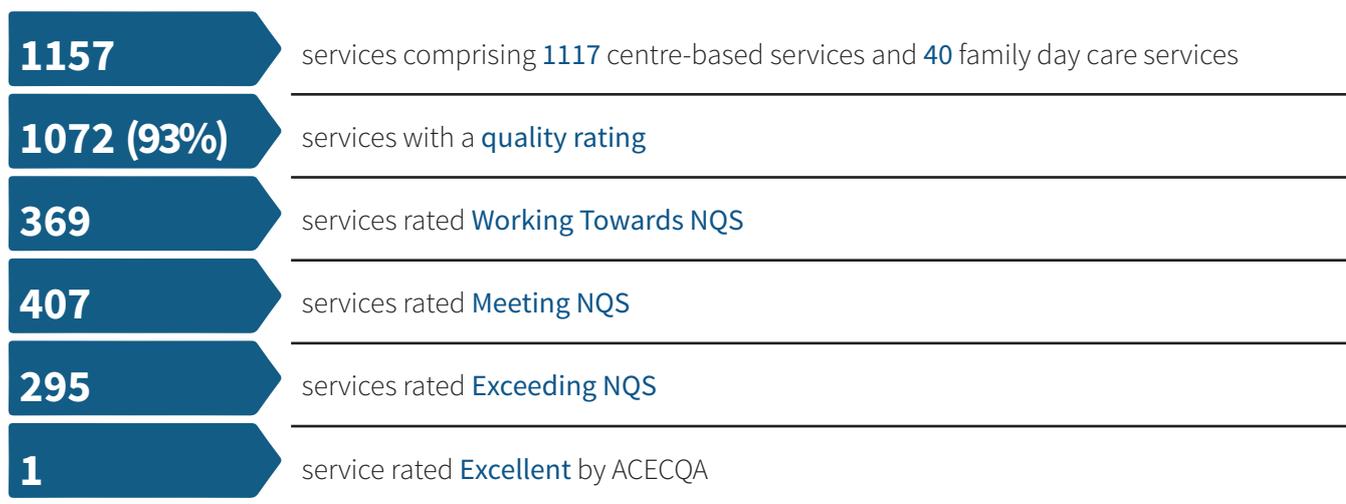
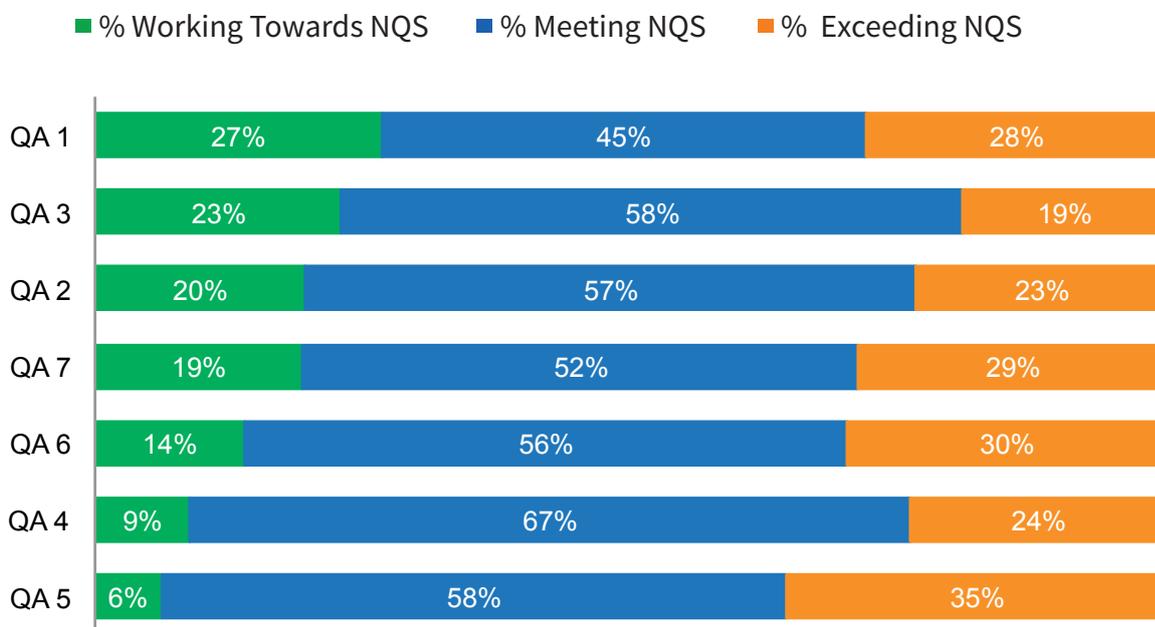


Figure 24 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 24: Quality area ratings



Contact details

Department of Communities
 Education and Care Regulatory Unit
www.communities.wa.gov.au



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