

National Partnership Annual Performance Report

National Quality Agenda

This slide pack is intended to be read in conjunction with the full Annual Performance Report.

More details are available at acecqa.gov.au/APR



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority

December 2018



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 5. Efficiency and cost effectiveness of the regulation of education and care services
 6. Regulatory burden for education and care service providers
 7. Skilled education and care workforce



Overview of the education and care sector

Overview of the education and care sector: Services

As at 30 June 2018:

- Over 15,500 education and care services approved to operate under the National Quality Framework (NQF):
 - 47% provide long day care services
 - 28% provide outside school hours care services
 - 20% provide preschool/kindergarten services
 - 5% provide family day care services
- } centre-based care
- More than 14,700 services had a published quality rating against the National Quality Standard (NQS) – 78% of these services were rated Meeting NQS or above.

Overview of the education and care sector: Providers

As at 30 June 2018:

- More than 7300 providers were approved to operate education and care services – 82% operated a single service.
- The 10 largest providers in Australia operated a combined total of more than 3000 services.
- Private for profit providers operate:
 - 71% of family day care services
 - 65% of long day care services
 - 46% of outside school hours care services.
- Half of all preschools/kindergartens are operated by private not for profit community managed providers.

Overview of the education and care sector: Children and families

- More than 200,000 staff were employed in education and care services.
- About 900,000 families accessed education and care services for around 1.3 million children, of which approximately:
 - 700,000 attended long day care services
 - 400,000 attended outside school hours care services
 - 200,000 attended family day care services.
- On average children attended:
 - long day care and family day care services for around 30 hours per week
 - outside school hours care for around 12 hours per week.



Purpose of the Annual Performance Report



Purpose of the Annual Performance Report

The National Partnership on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care 2015-2016 to 2017-2018 (NP NQA) acknowledges the mutual interest and common goal of the Commonwealth, states and territories in improving children's educational and developmental outcomes.

The National Partnership Annual Performance Report (NP APR) draws on a range of data sources to identify achievements and performance trends for each of the objectives and outcomes of the NP NQA.



Report structure

The objectives and outcomes of the NP NQA are addressed across seven chapters in the report:

1. Safety, health and wellbeing of children attending education and care services
2. Educational and developmental outcomes for children
3. Social inclusion and children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds
4. Families' and general public knowledge and access to information about education and care service quality
5. Efficiency and cost effectiveness of the regulation of education and care services
6. Regulatory burden for education and care service providers
7. Skilled education and care workforce



Safety, health and wellbeing of children attending education and care services



Chapter 1

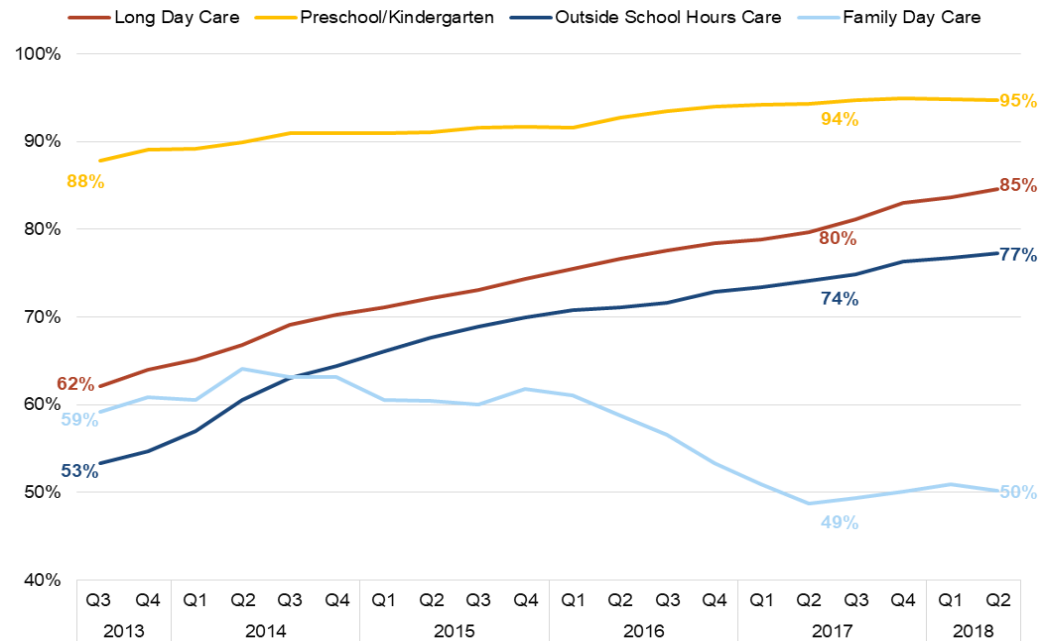
1. Safety, health and wellbeing of children attending education and care services

Quality Area 2 of the NQS has two standards that address health and safety:

- Each child's health is promoted
- Each child is protected.

In 2017/18, the proportion of services rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 2 increased for all service types.

Figure 1: Proportion of services rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 2, by service type





Educational and developmental outcomes for children



Chapter 2

2. Educational and developmental outcomes for children

There is strong evidence that quality education and care makes a significant difference in improving children's future cognitive, educational, physical, social and emotional outcomes.

Two thirds of services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment.

This suggests continuous quality improvement is occurring under the NQF.

Table 1: Reassessment by overall quality rating

		Quality rating after reassessment				Improvement rate
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Quality rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	22%	67%	11%	0%	78%
	Working Towards NQS	1%	33%	48%	18%	66%
	Meeting NQS	0%	22%	51%	27%	27%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	14%	29%	56%	-

Social inclusion and children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds



Chapter 3



3. Social inclusion and children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds

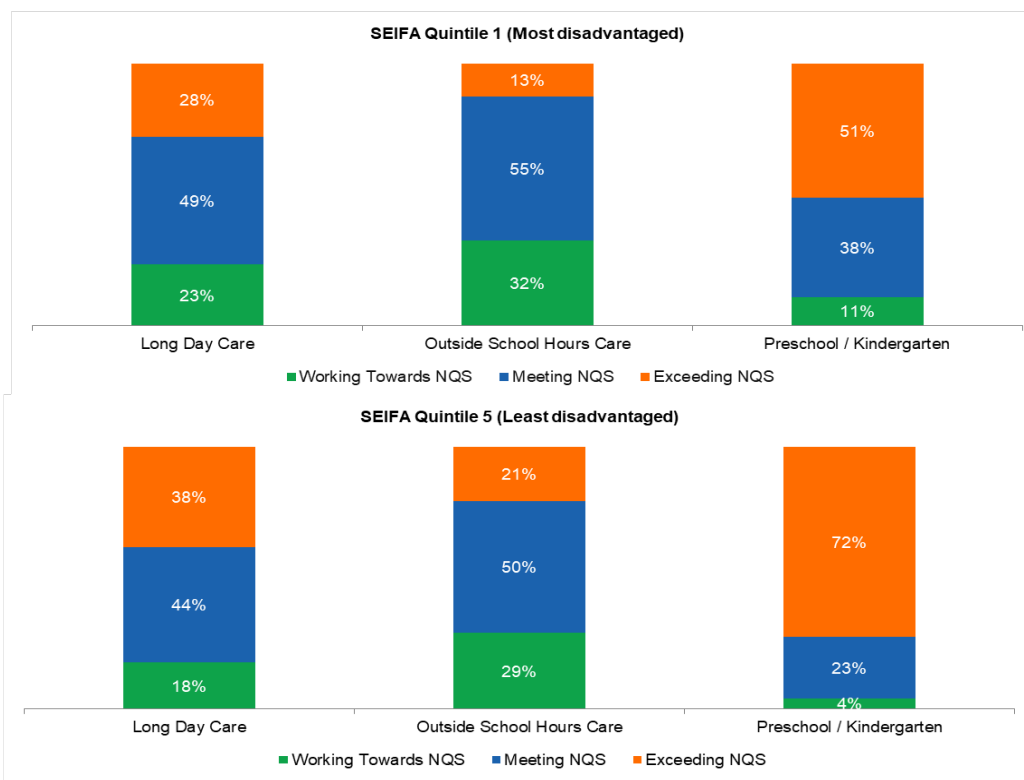
An outcome of the NP NQA is that children's access to quality education and care:

- promotes better social inclusion
- reduces vulnerabilities or circumstances of disadvantage.

There is strong evidence that children from disadvantaged backgrounds receive the greatest benefits from attending high quality education and care.

As at 30 June 2018, a higher proportion of services across all service types in both the most and least disadvantaged areas were rated Meeting NQS compared to a year ago.

Figure 2: Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA quintiles 1 and 5 and service type, as at 30 June 2018





Families' and general public knowledge and access to information about education and care services quality



Chapter 4

4. Families' and general public knowledge and access to information about education and care services quality

Qualitative research conducted in 2018 confirmed findings from earlier (2014 and 2017) research:


Families' and general public knowledge and awareness of the NQF and NQS remains low.

The researchers recommended:

- coordinated, high profile communications
- targeting parents early in decision-making process
- using meaningful and relevant language
- ensuring messaging recognises parents as experts.

For more information, visit [acecqa.gov.au/resources/research](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/research)





Efficiency and cost effectiveness of the regulation of education and care services



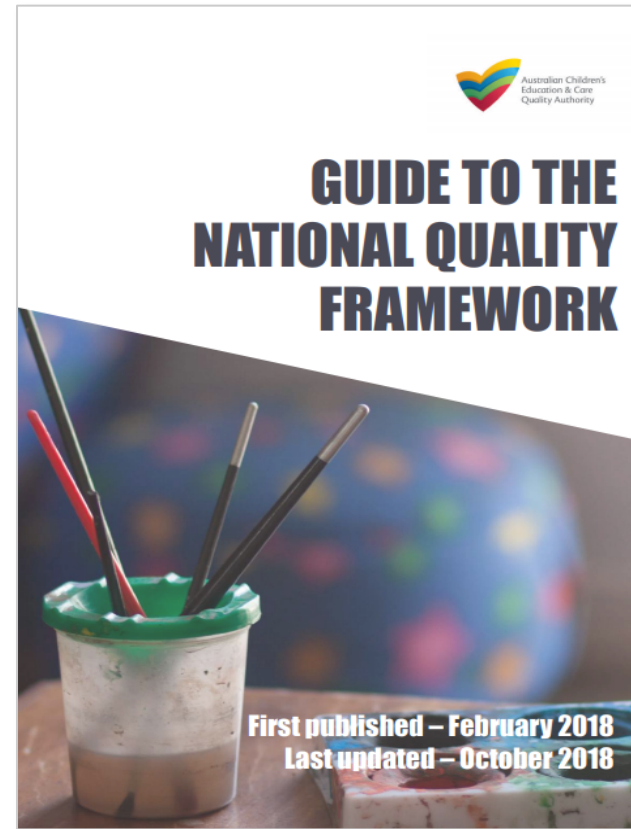
Chapter 5

5. Efficiency and cost effectiveness of the regulation of education and care services

The NQF recognises the importance of improving the efficiency and cost effectiveness of regulation in the education and care sector.

In late 2017, ACECQA published the Guide to the National Quality Framework, which provides a single, comprehensive source of information about the NQF for both regulators and the regulated sector.

All governments and ACECQA worked collaboratively to develop the Guide, which replaced a range of separate and overlapping guidance documents.





**Regulatory burden for
education and care service
providers**



Chapter 6

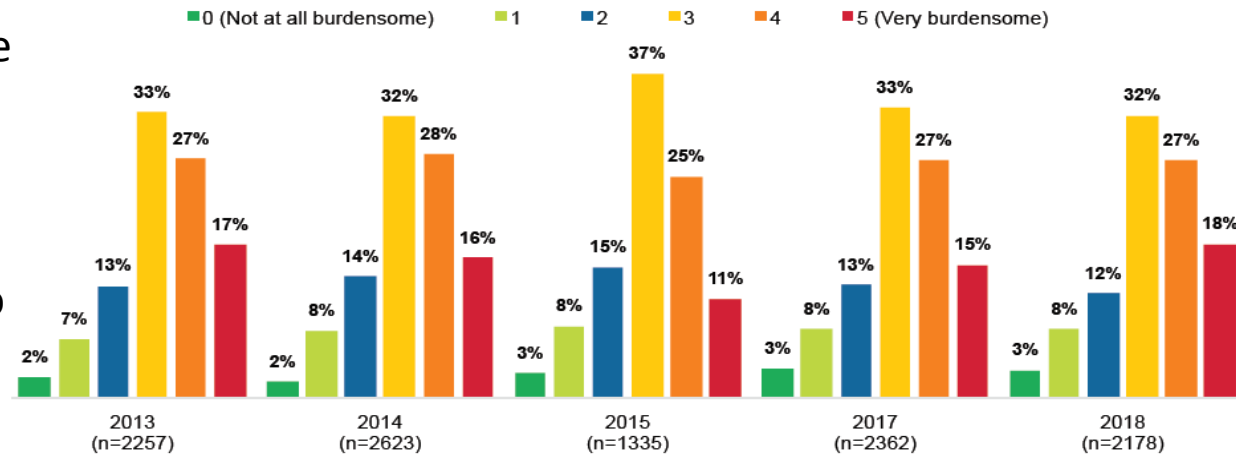
6. Regulatory burden for education and care services

ACECQA has conducted five surveys between 2013 and 2018 measuring provider perceptions of burden with the administrative requirements of the NQF.

The perception of overall burden increased slightly in 2018 compared to 2017. Recent changes to the NQF, implemented in October 2017 and February 2018, are likely to have contributed to this slight increase.

The majority of the respondents considered recent changes more beneficial than burdensome.

Figure 5: Overall perception of burden



Importantly, overall support for the NQF has remained consistently above 95% over time.

Skilled education and care workforce



Chapter 7



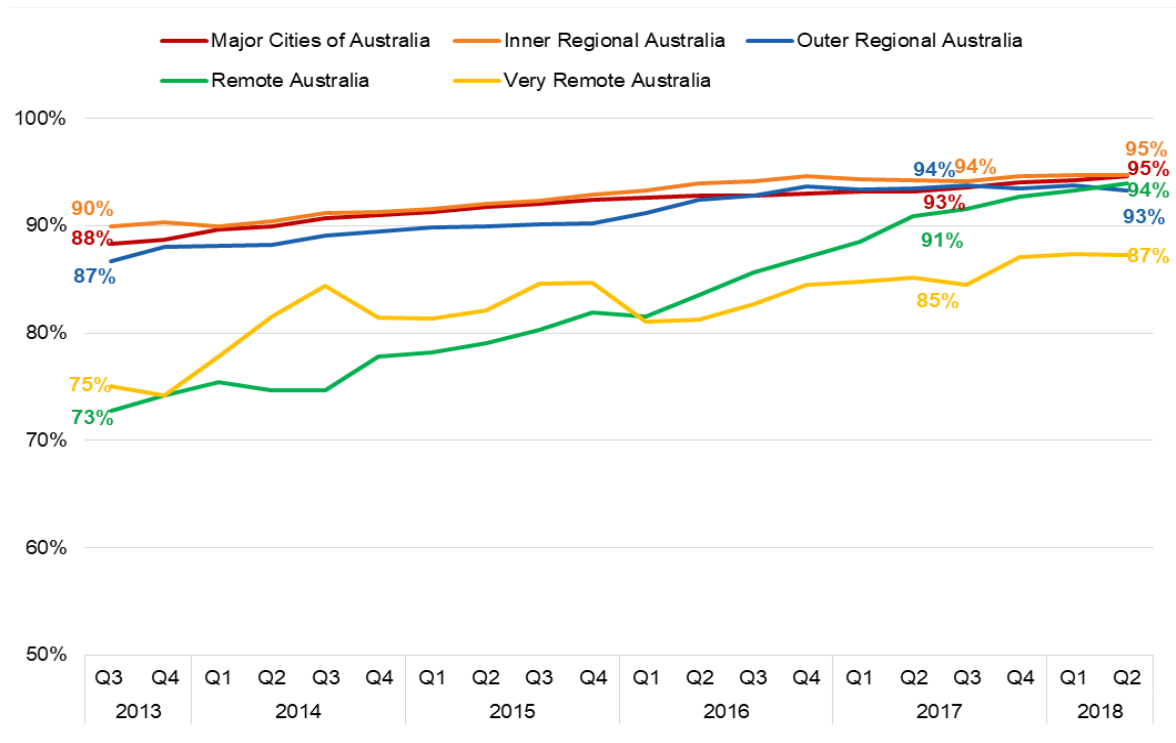
7. Skilled education and care workforce

Quality Area 4 of the NQS has two standards that address the staffing arrangements of education and care services:

- Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development
- Management, educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.

Services in very remote areas of Australia continue to find it harder to meet Quality Area 4 than services in other areas.

Figure 6: Proportion of centre-based services rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 4, by remoteness classification



Annual Performance Report

Where to go for more information



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