



NQF Snapshot

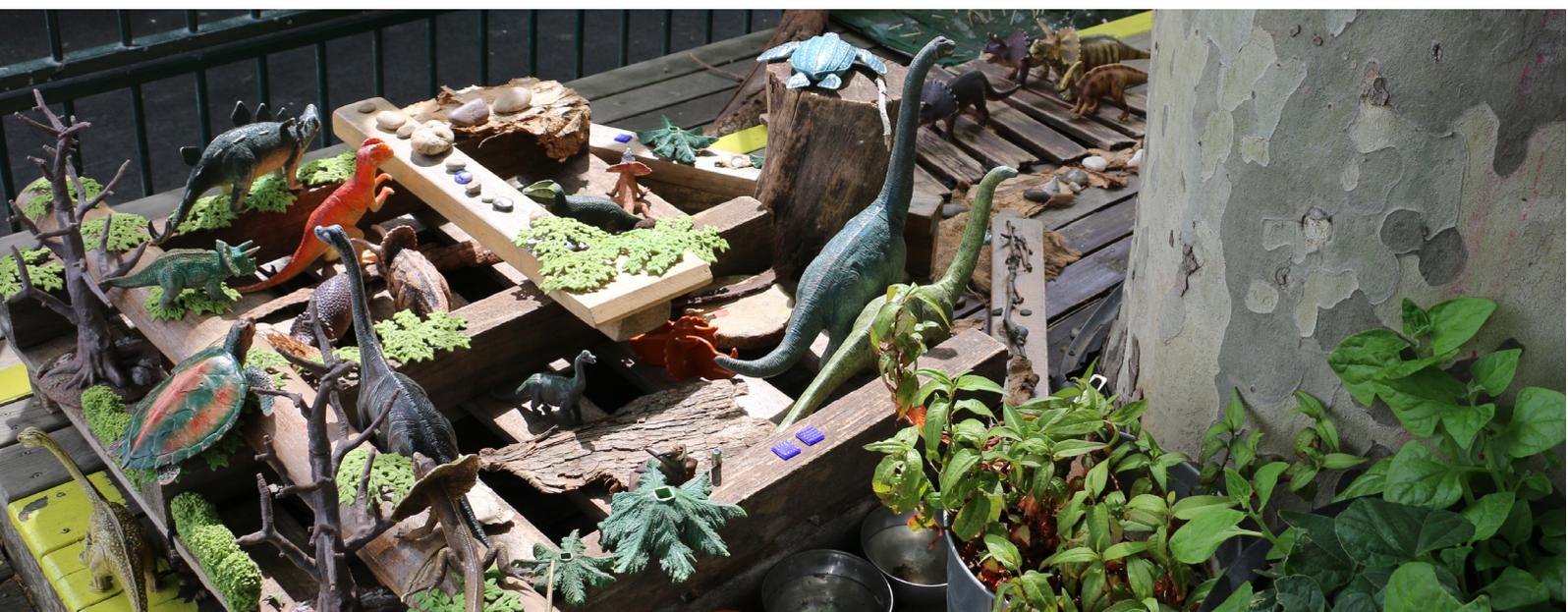
Q3 2018



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority™

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

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Overview

NQF Snapshot Q3 2018 is ACECQA's 23rd 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 and the quality ratings of services against the National Quality Standard (NQS).

A revised version of the NQS commenced on 1 February 2018. The number of quality standards has reduced from 18 to 15, and the number of quality elements has reduced from 58 to 40.

The changes streamline the NQS and reduce overlap between elements and standards. Analysis at the standard and element level uses quality ratings against the 2018 NQS only, while analysis at the overall and quality area level uses all current quality ratings against both the 2012 and 2018 NQS.

An [interactive online version of the Snapshot](#), which includes additional analysis, 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 October 2018 for the period ending 30 September 2018.

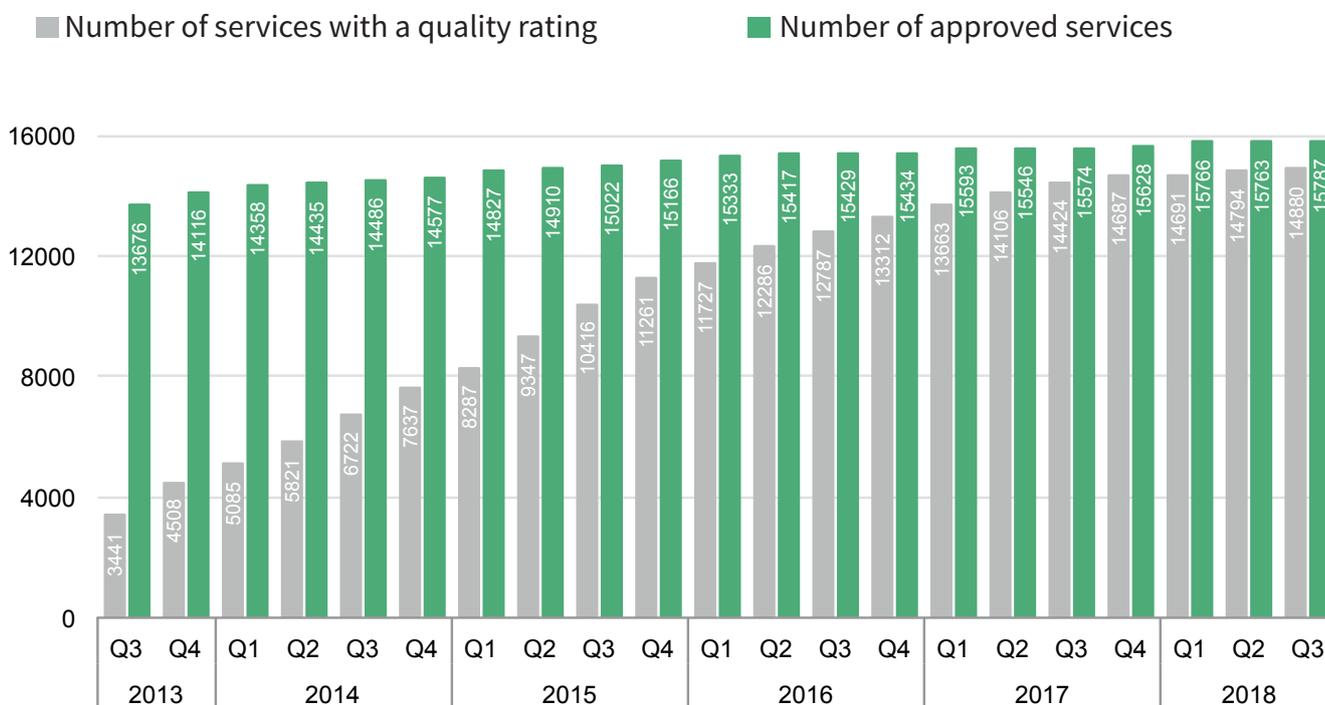
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



Snapshot highlights

15,787	children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF
14,880 (94%)	services with a quality rating
11,668 (78%)	services with a quality rating of Meeting NQS or above
7362	providers approved to operate
6043 (82%)	providers approved to operate only one service
49	services rated Excellent by ACECQA ¹
5608	quality rating reassessments completed
66%	of services rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment
1941 (12%)	services with a quality rating against the 2018 NQS

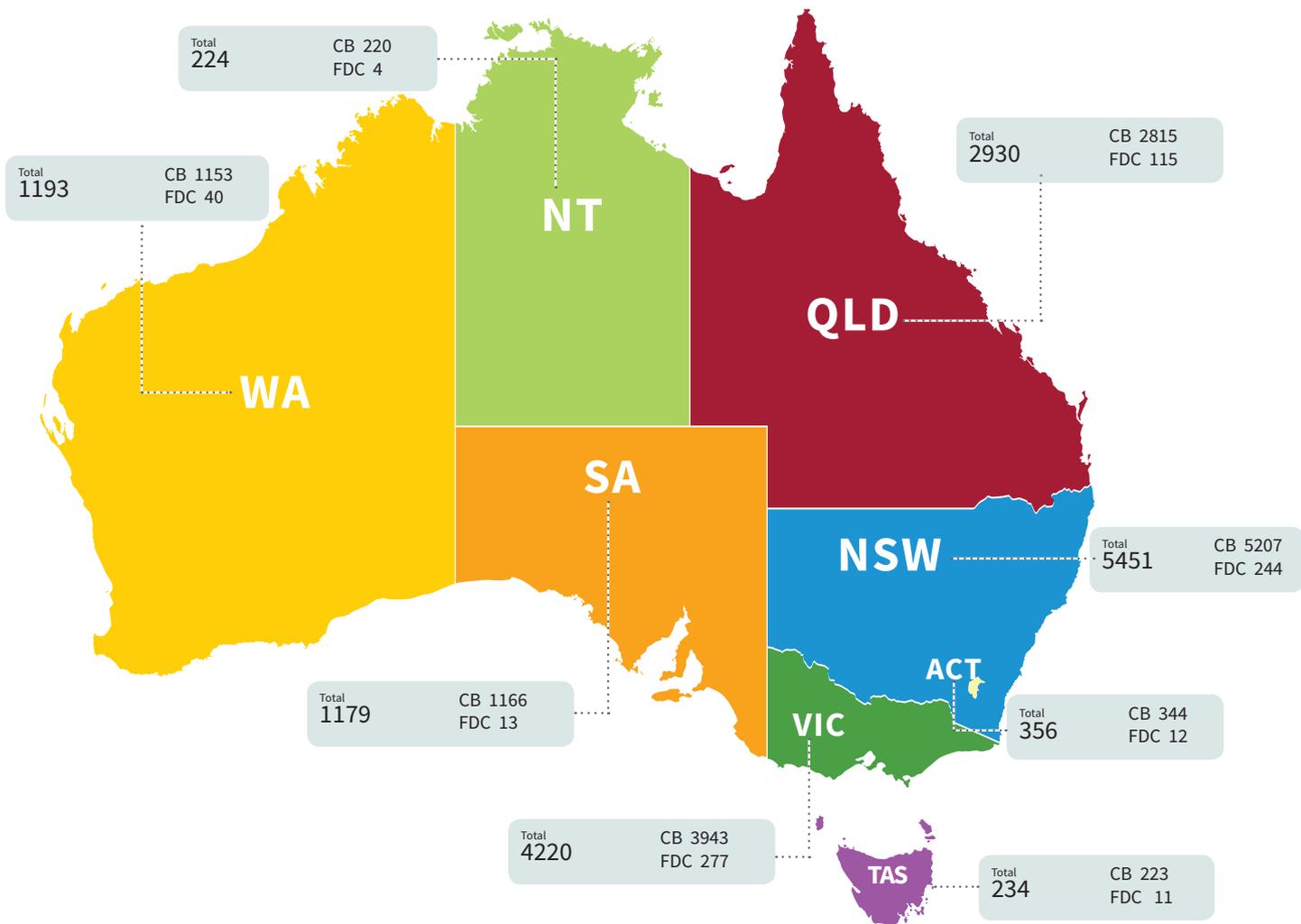
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



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>15,071 (95%)</p> <p>2% Increase on Q3 2017</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) ²</p> <p>716 (5%)</p> <p>16% Decrease on Q3 2017</p>	<p>Total</p> <p>15,787</p> <p>1% Increase on Q3 2017</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}

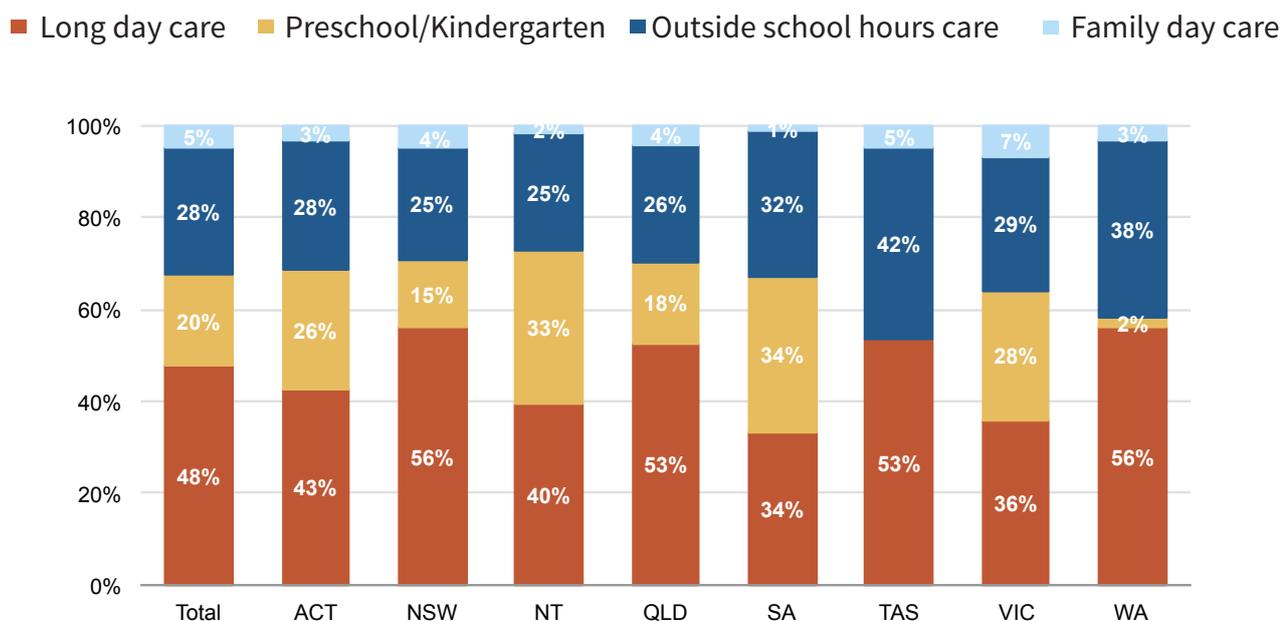


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	12	152	92	100	0	356
NSW	244	3054	799	1354	0	5451
NT	4	88	74	56	2	224
QLD	115	1543	518	752	2	2930
SA	13	395	398	373	0	1179
TAS	11	125	0	98	0	234
VIC	277	1514	1194	1235	0	4220
WA	40	669	25	458	1	1193
TOTAL	716	7540	3100	4426	5	15,787

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.

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 as well as outside school hours care are classified as preschool/kindergarten services; services which provide outside school hours care 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 Five services categorised as 'Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

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

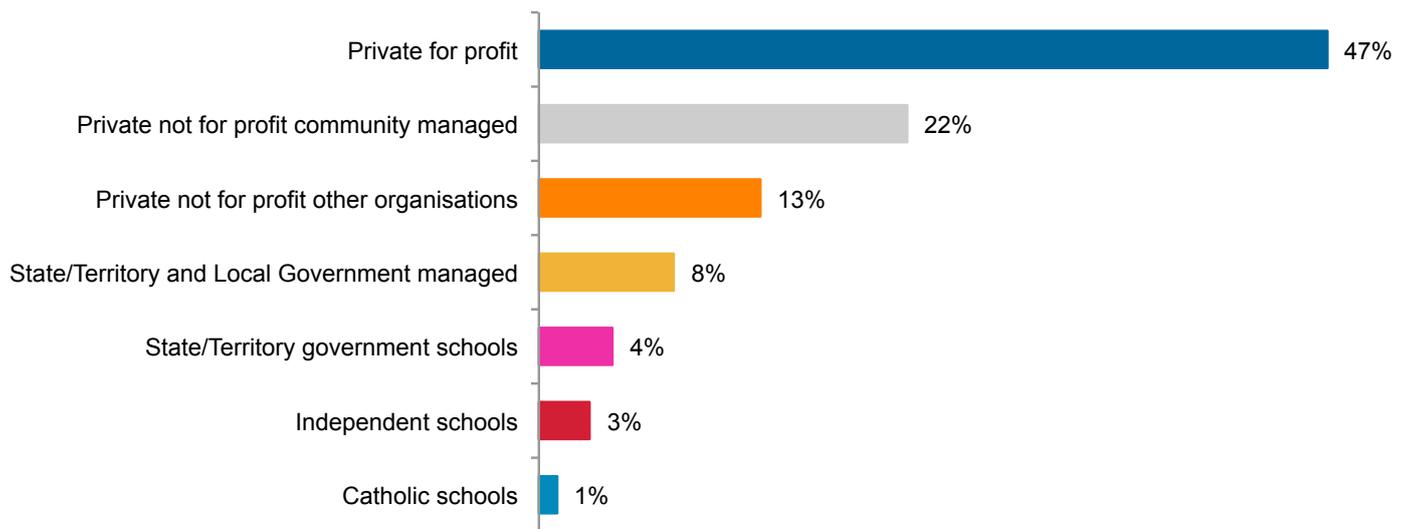


Table 2: Number and proportion of services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7498	47%
Private not for profit community managed	3503	22%
Private not for profit other organisations	2107	13%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1282	8%
State/Territory government schools	699	4%
Independent schools	482	3%
Catholic schools	175	1%
Not stated/Other	41	0%
Total	15,787	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 are available at http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup_EDCEFD2FC57CD225CA257C93000D13A7?opendocument

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

Figure 5 shows that 82% of approved providers operate a single service while 1% of approved providers operate 25 or more services.

Figure 5: Proportion of approved providers by size

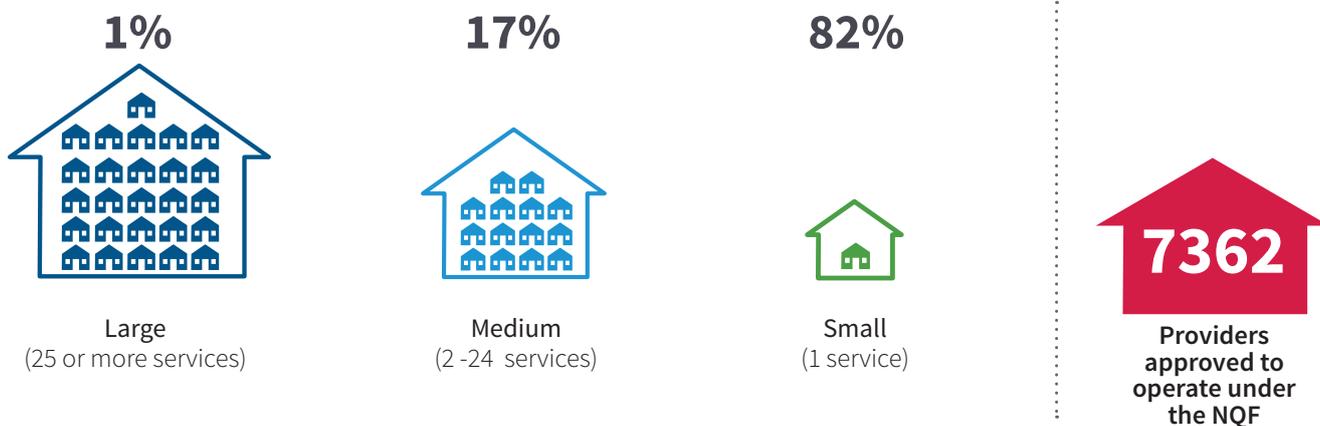
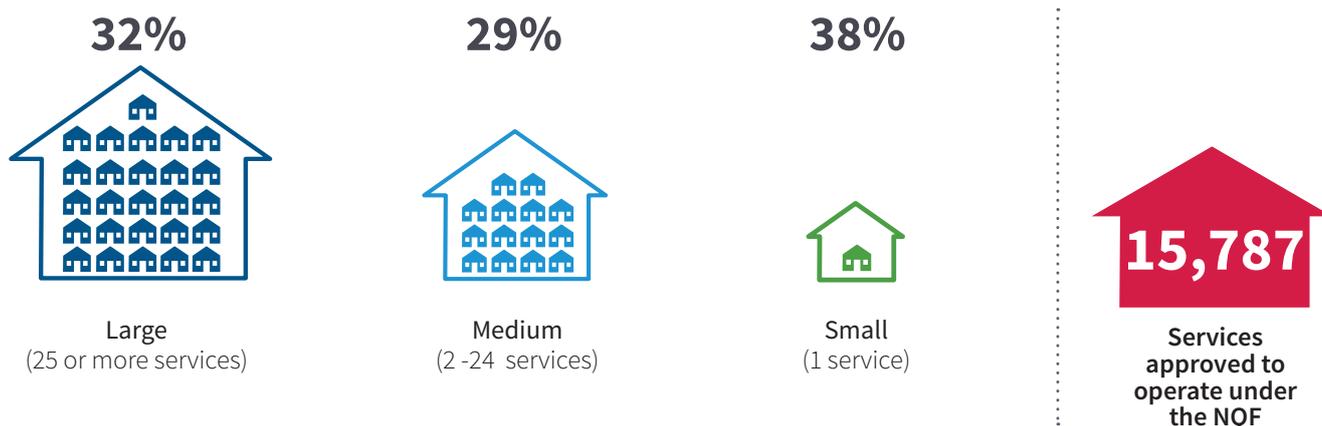


Figure 6 shows that 38% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 32% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

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	356	2%	323	91%
NSW	5451	35%	5227	96%
NT	224	1%	211	94%
QLD	2930	19%	2784	95%
SA	1179	7%	1100	93%
TAS	234	1%	220	94%
VIC	4220	27%	3924	93%
WA	1193	8%	1091	91%
TOTAL	15,787	100%	14,880	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	8	134	92	89	0	323
NSW	219	2932	792	1284	0	5227
NT	4	83	73	49	2	211
QLD	104	1458	503	717	2	2784
SA	12	356	367	365	0	1100
TAS	11	121	0	88	0	220
VIC	223	1394	1167	1140	0	3924
WA	34	624	21	411	1	1091
TOTAL	615	7102	3015	4143	5	14,880

Quality improvement

Table 5 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 1684 of services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 1176 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	16	44	8	0	68
	Working Towards NQS	19	1176	1684	611	3490
	Meeting NQS	1	292	753	318	1364
	Exceeding NQS	0	87	240	359	686
	Total	36	1599	2685	1288	5608

		Rating after reassessment				Improvement rate
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	24%	65%	12%	0%	76%
	Working Towards NQS	1%	34%	48%	18%	66%
	Meeting NQS	0%	21%	55%	23%	23%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	13%	35%	52%	-

¹ Reassessments include the following processes described in the National Law: i. Partial reassessment and re-rating requested by provider; ii. Partial reassessment and re-rating instigated by the regulatory authority; iii. Full reassessment and re-rating requested by provider; iv. 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, 15 standards and 40 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	86 (27%)	86 (27%)	148 (46%)	3	323
NSW	15	1261 (24%)	2426 (46%)	1509 (29%)	16	5227
NT	0	70 (33%)	105 (50%)	36 (17%)	0	211
QLD	3	494 (18%)	1395 (50%)	879 (32%)	13	2784
SA	0	292 (27%)	276 (25%)	524 (48%)	8	1100
TAS	1	43 (20%)	95 (43%)	81 (37%)	0	220
VIC	1	615 (16%)	1975 (50%)	1324 (34%)	9	3924
WA	0	331 (30%)	482 (44%)	278 (25%)	0	1091
TOTAL	20	3192 (21%)	6840 (46%)	4779 (32%)	49	14,880

Figure 7: Overall quality ratings by service type

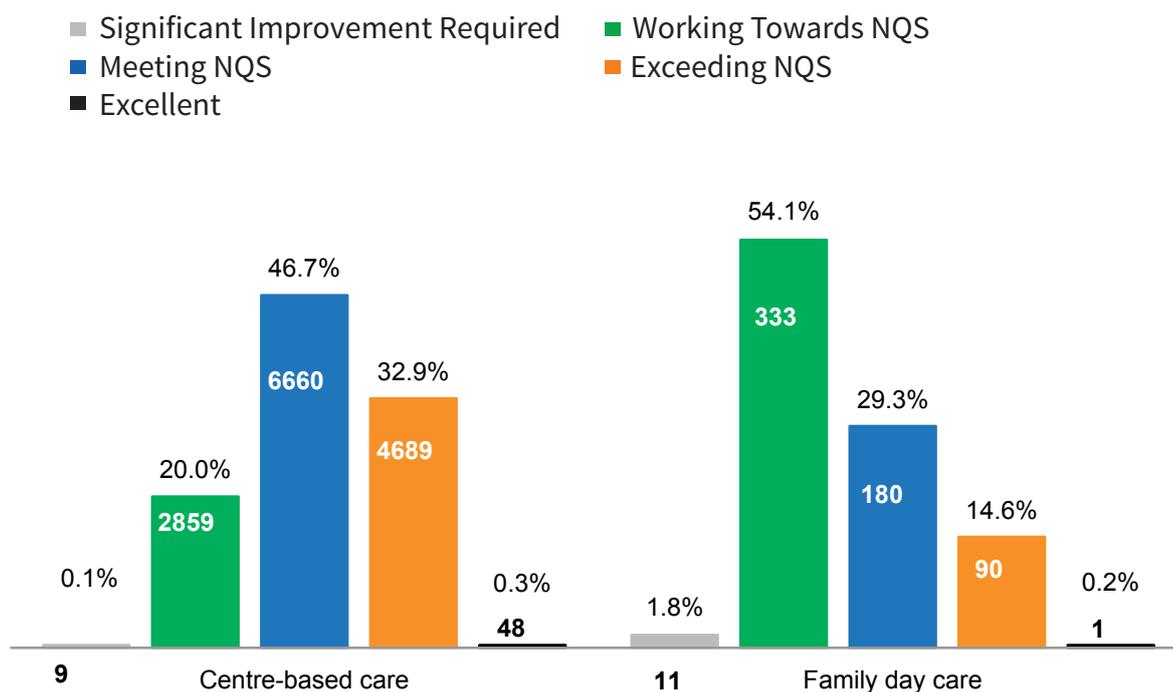


Figure 8: Overall quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

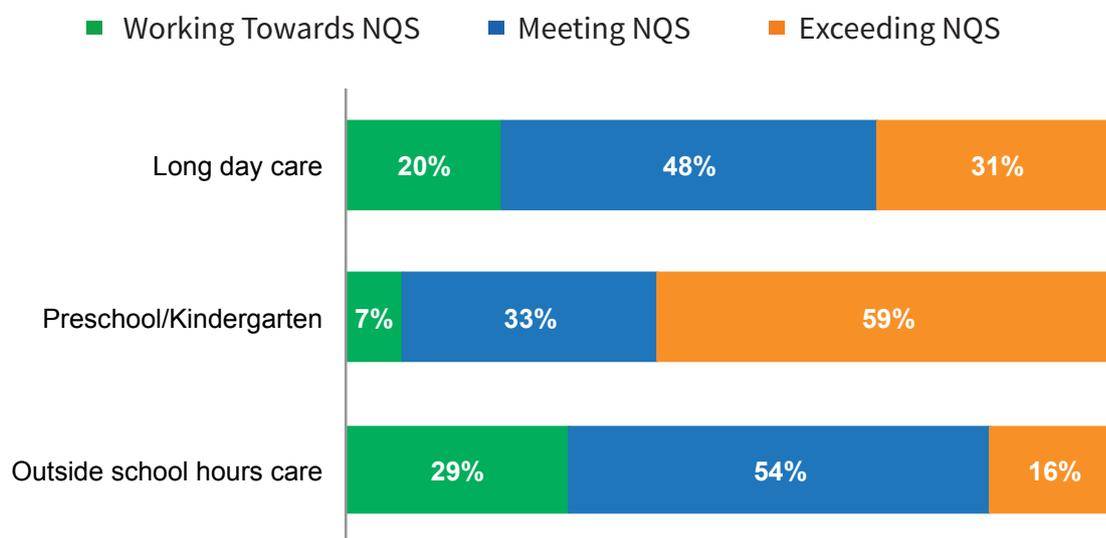
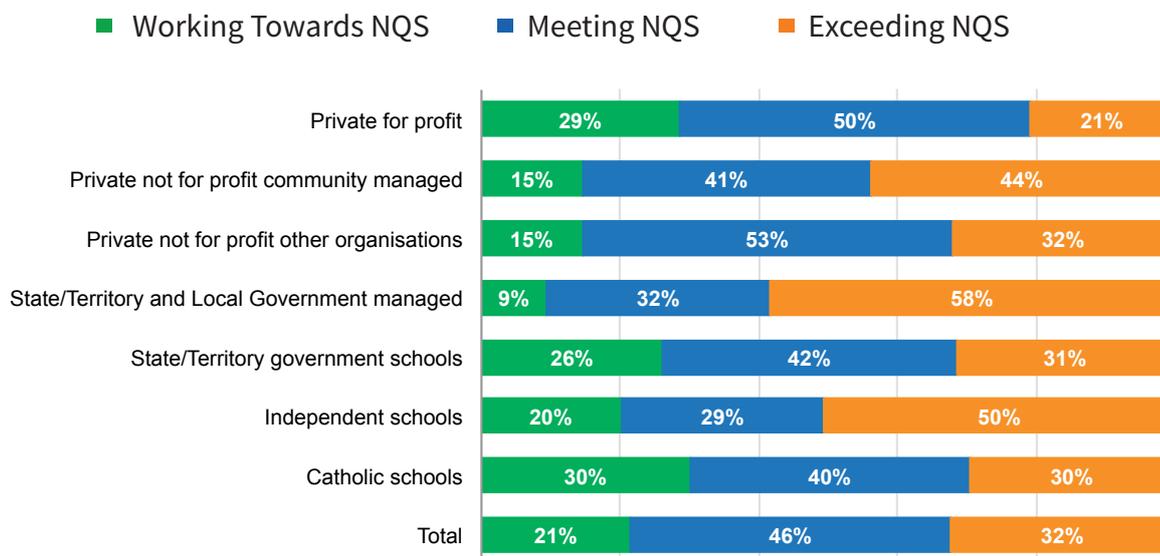


Figure 9 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings between provider management types.

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 8). In contrast, preschools/kindergartens make up only 1% of 'Private for profit' services.

Figure 9: Overall quality ratings by provider management type¹



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

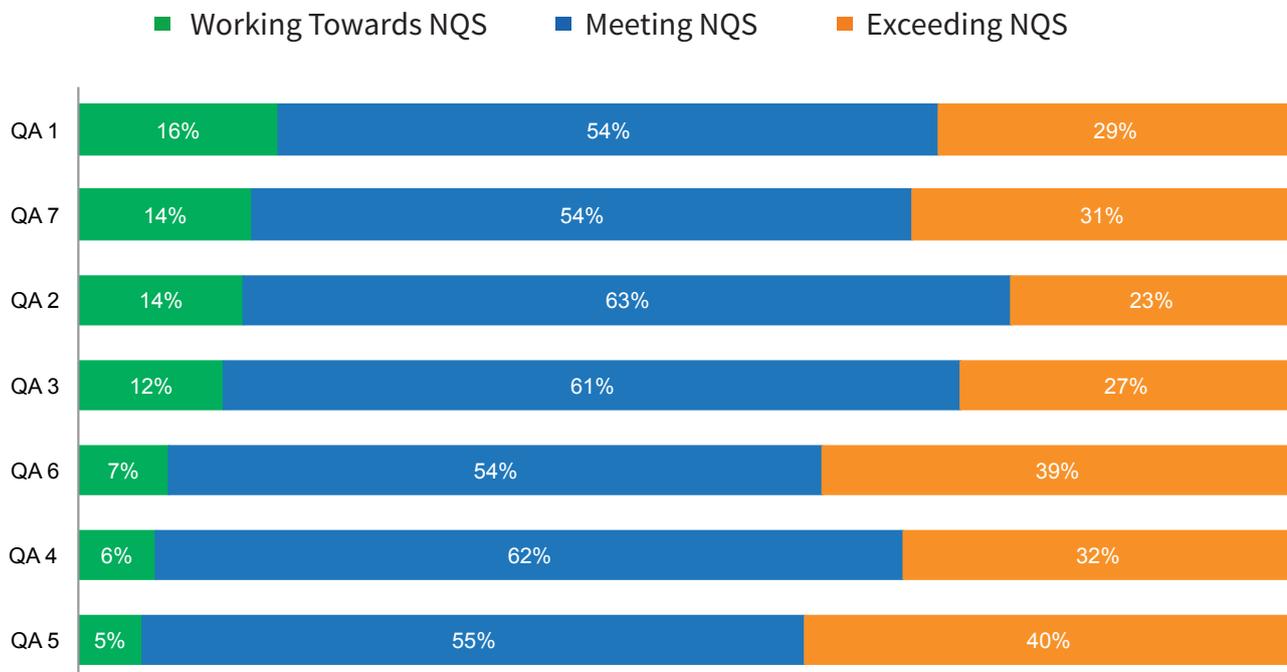
Quality area ratings

Table 7 and Figure 10 rank the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the number and proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Table 7: Quality area ratings

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 1 - Educational program and practice	1	2,450	8,107	4,322
Quality Area 7 - Governance and leadership	15	2,129	8,086	4,650
Quality Area 2 - Children's health and safety	18	2,027	9,400	3,435
Quality Area 3 - Physical environment	7	1,786	9,030	4,057
Quality Area 6 - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	0	1,104	8,031	5,745
Quality Area 4 - Staffing arrangements	7	942	9,180	4,751
Quality Area 5 - Relationships with children	2	777	8,144	5,957

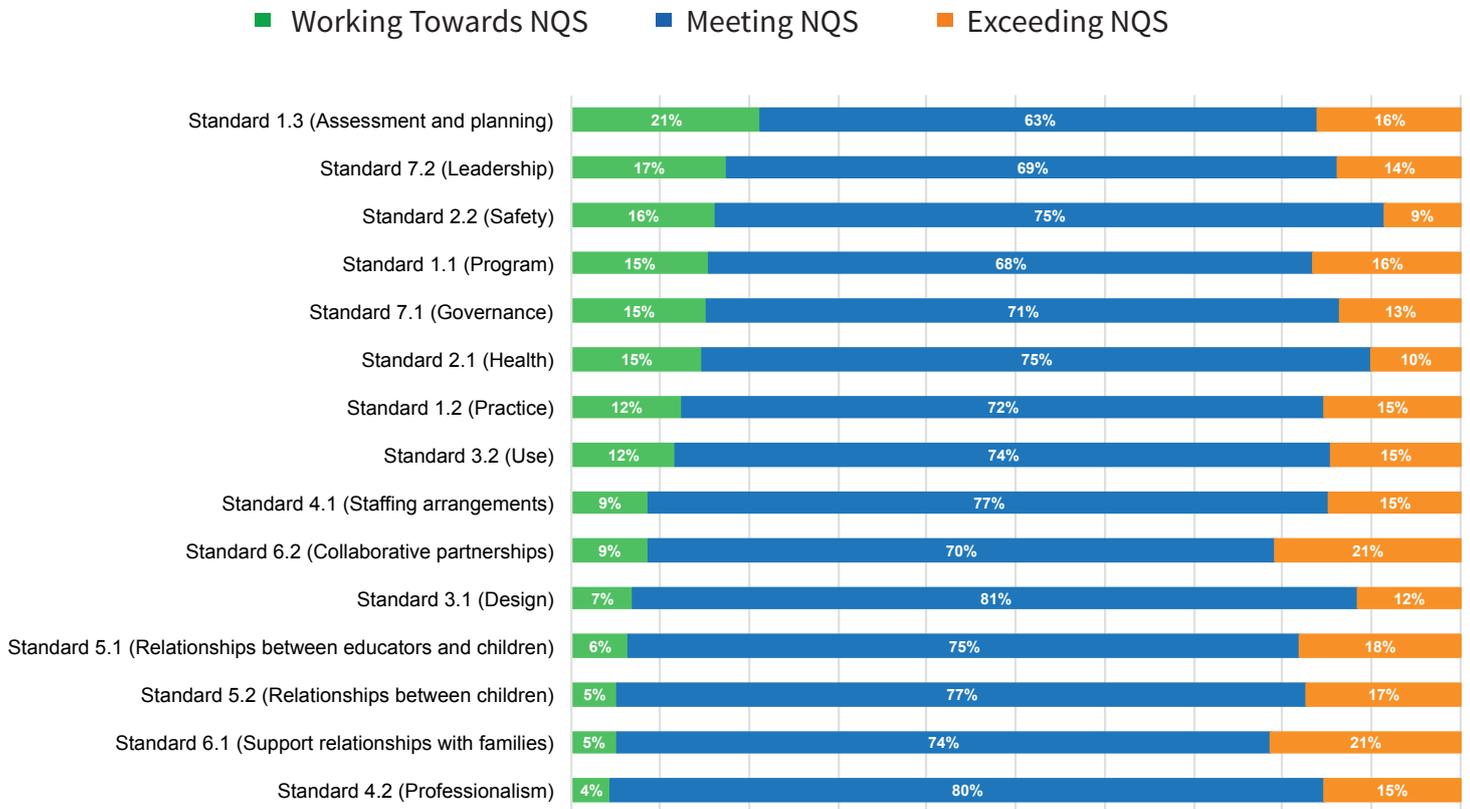
Figure 10: Quality area ratings



Standard level ratings under the 2018 NQS

Figure 11 ranks the 15 standards of the 2018 NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each standard.

Figure 11: Standard level ratings under the 2018 NQS



Element level results under the 2018 NQS

Table 8 ranks the 40 elements of the 2018 NQS in descending order, based on the proportion of services that do not meet each element.

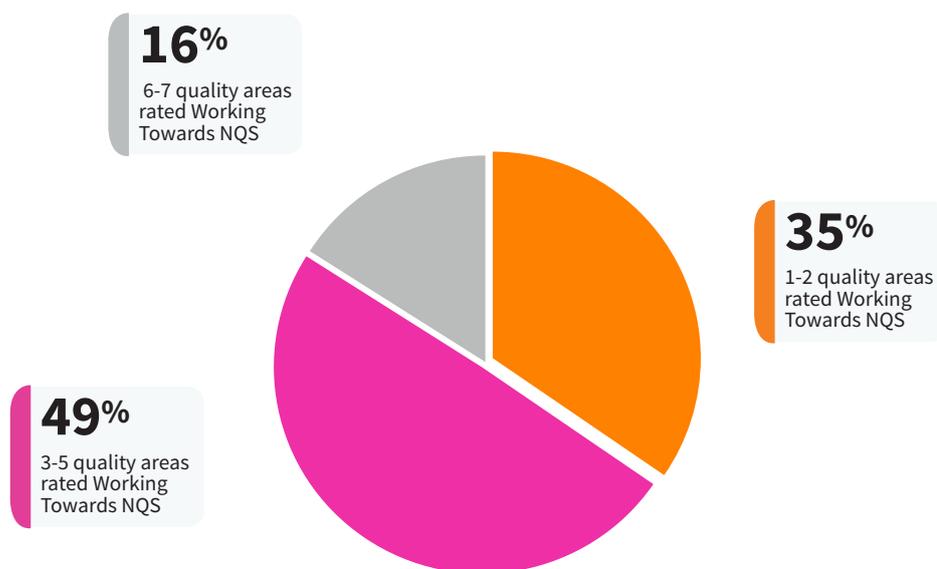
Table 8: Element level results under 2018 NQS

	% Not Met		% Not Met
1.3.2 (Critical reflection)	18%	3.1.2 (Upkeep)	6%
1.3.1 (Assessment and planning cycle)	18%	7.1.1 (Service philosophy and purpose)	5%
7.1.2 (Management systems)	13%	5.1.2 (Dignity and rights of the child)	5%
7.2.2 (Educational leadership)	12%	2.2.3 (Child protection)	5%
1.1.3 (Program learning opportunities)	12%	1.3.3 (Information for families)	5%
2.1.2 (Health practices and procedures)	12%	7.1.3 (Roles and responsibilities)	5%
2.2.1 (Supervision)	11%	5.2.2 (Self-regulation)	4%
7.2.3 (Development of professionals)	11%	3.2.2 (Resources support play-based learning)	4%
2.2.2 (Incident and emergency management)	9%	6.2.2 (Access and participation)	4%
3.2.3 (Environmentally responsible)	8%	5.1.1 (Positive educator to child interactions)	4%
4.1.1 (Organisation of educators)	8%	6.2.1 (Transitions)	3%
1.2.2 (Responsive teaching and scaffolding)	8%	4.2.2 (Professional standards)	3%
1.2.3 (Child directed learning)	8%	2.1.1 (Wellbeing and comfort)	3%
1.1.1 (Approved learning framework)	7%	3.1.1 (Fit for purpose)	3%
1.1.2 (Child-centred)	7%	6.1.3 (Families are supported)	3%
7.2.1 (Continuous improvement)	7%	6.1.2 (Parent views are respected)	3%
1.2.1 (Intentional teaching)	7%	6.1.1 (Engagement with the service)	2%
3.2.1 (Inclusive environment)	7%	4.2.1 (Professional collaboration)	2%
6.2.3 (Community engagement)	6%	5.2.1 (Collaborative learning)	2%
2.1.3 (Healthy lifestyle)	6%	4.1.2 (Continuity of staff)	2%

Services rated Working Towards NQS

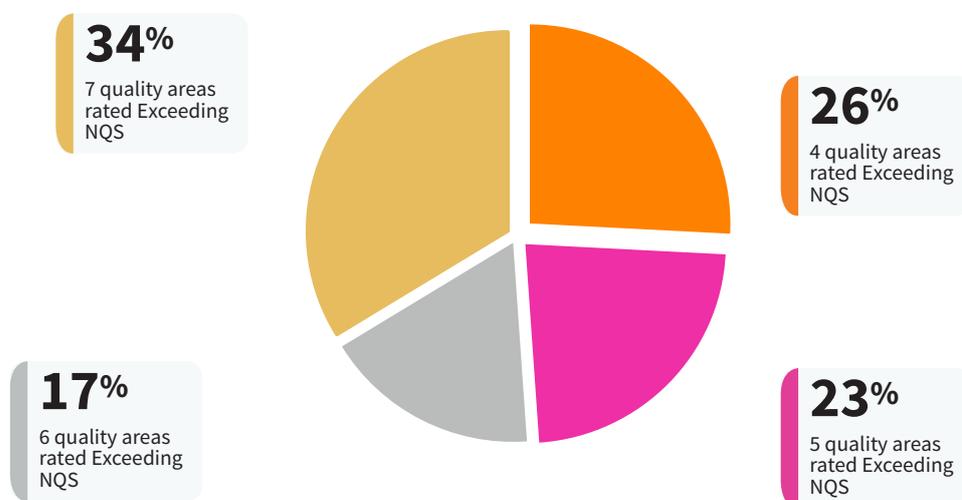
A service receives an overall rating of Working Towards NQS if any of the seven quality areas are rated Working Towards NQS. A quality area is rated Working Towards NQS if any of the standards within that quality area are rated Working Towards NQS.

Figure 12: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of quality areas rated Working Towards NQS



Services rated Exceeding NQS

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

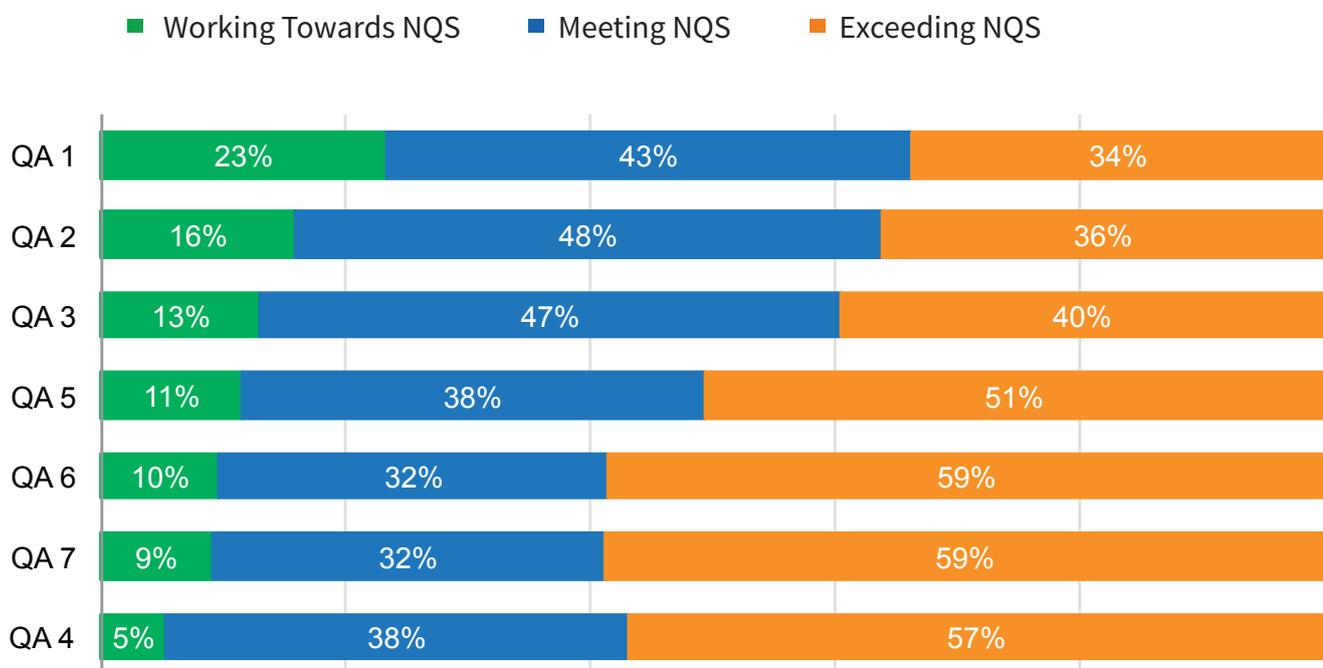


Australian Capital Territory summary



Figure 14 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 14: Quality area ratings



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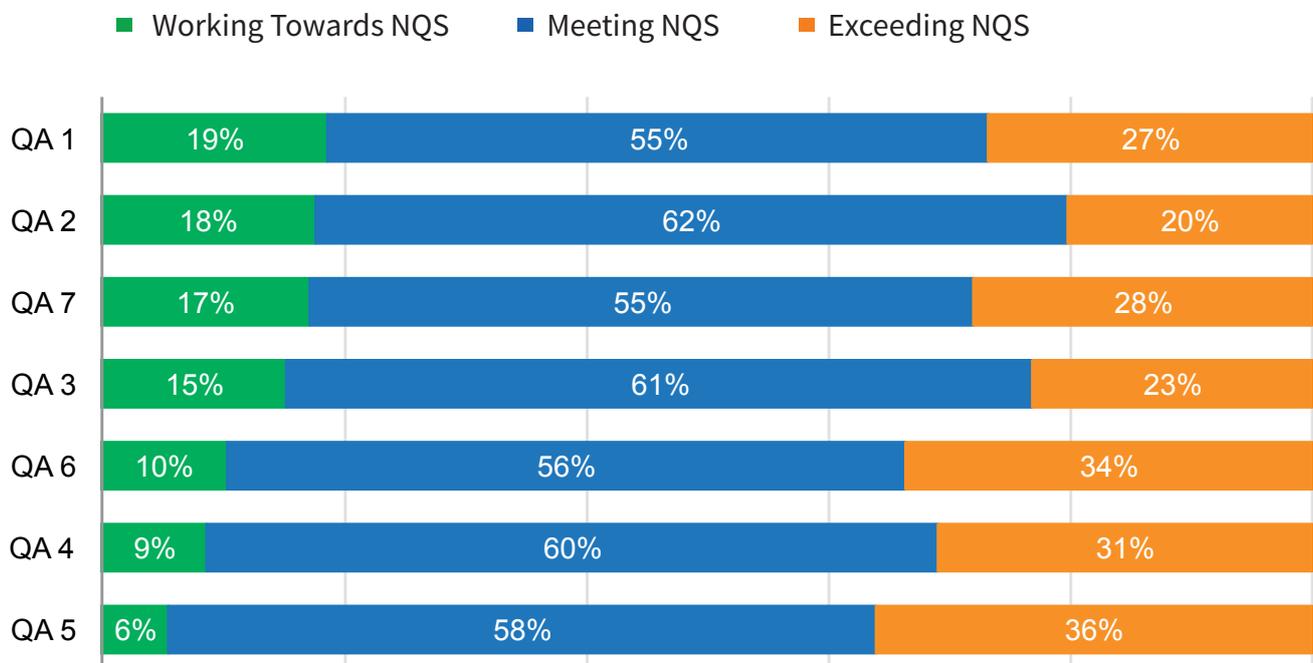
Education Directorate
 Children's Education and Care Assurance
www.education.act.gov.au/education-and-care

New South Wales summary

5451	services comprising 5207 centre-based services and 244 family day care services
5227 (96%)	services with a quality rating
15	services rated Significant Improvement Required
1261	services rated Working Towards NQS
2426	services rated Meeting NQS
1509	services rated Exceeding NQS
16	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 15 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 15: Quality area ratings



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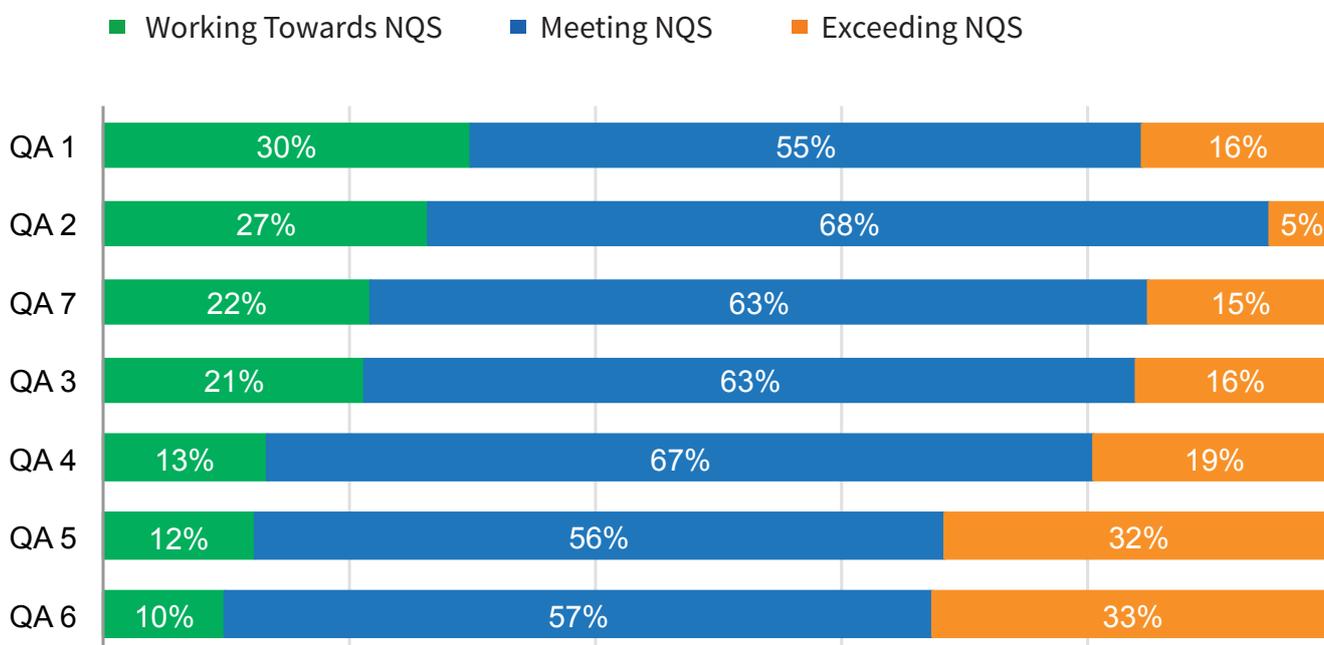
Department of Education
 Early Childhood Education Directorate
www.education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education

Northern Territory summary

224	services comprising 220 centre-based services and four family day care services
211 (94%)	services with a quality rating
70	services rated Working Towards NQS
105	services rated Meeting NQS
36	services rated Exceeding NQS

Figure 16 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 16: Quality area ratings



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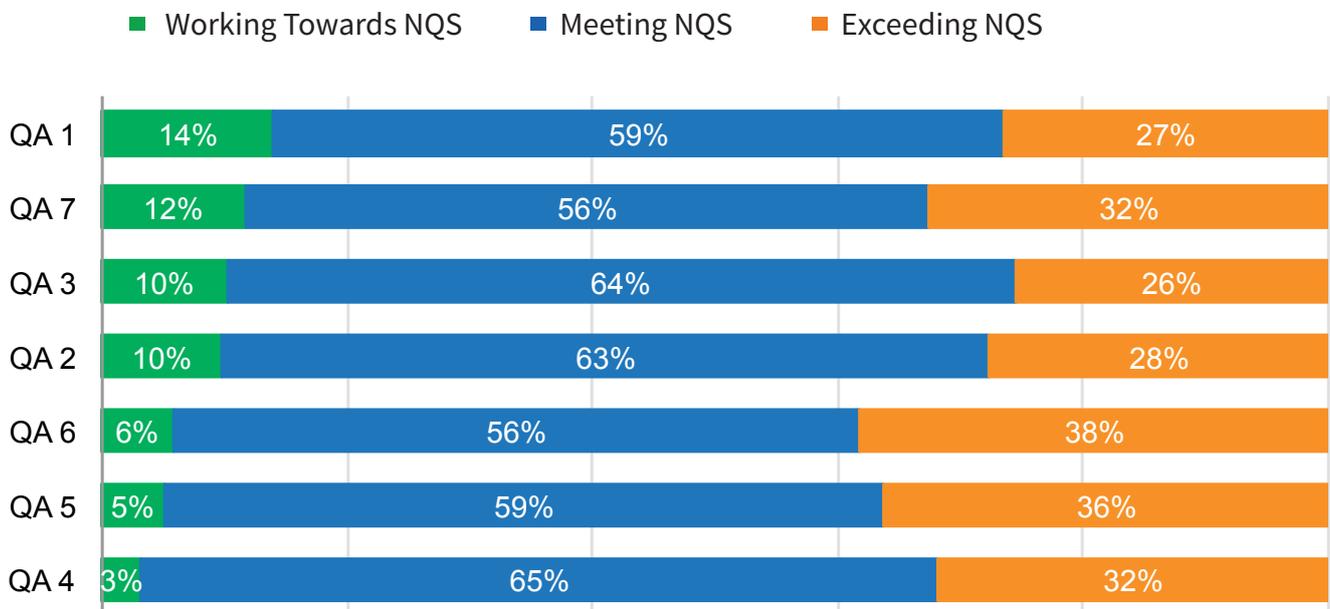
Department of Education
 Quality Education and Care NT
www.education.nt.gov.au

Queensland summary

2930	services comprising 2815 centre-based services and 115 family day care services
2784 (95%)	services with a quality rating
3	services rated Significant Improvement Required
494	services rated Working Towards NQS
1395	services rated Meeting NQS
879	services rated Exceeding NQS
13	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

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



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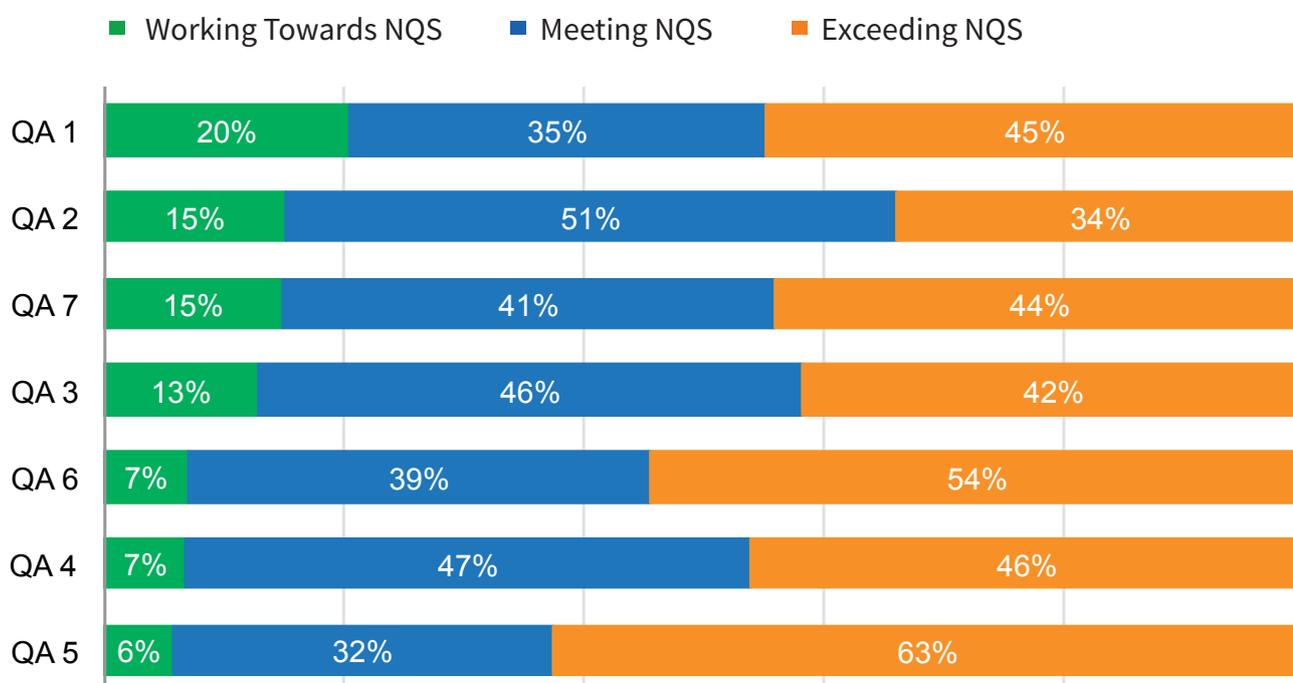
Department of Education
 Early Childhood Education and Care
www.qed.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood

South Australia summary

1179	services comprising 1166 centre-based services and 13 family day care services
1100 (93%)	services with a quality rating
292	services rated Working Towards NQS
276	services rated Meeting NQS
524	services rated Exceeding NQS
8	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



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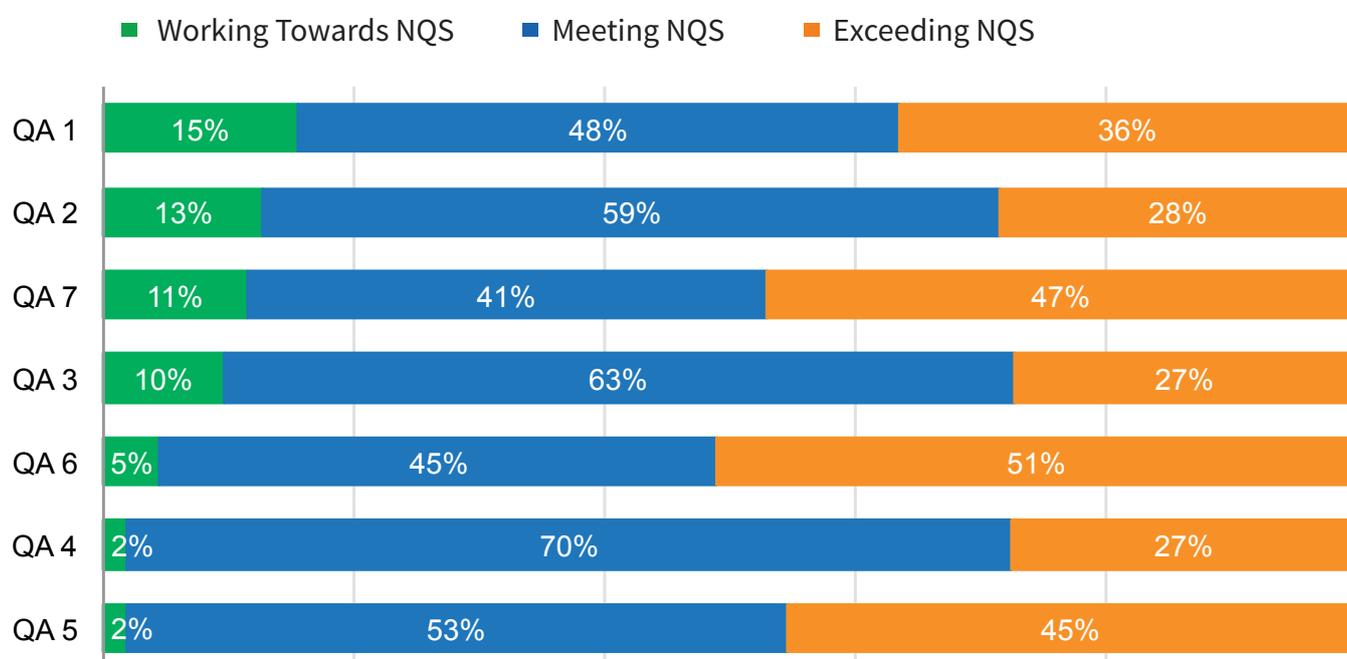
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards
Board of South Australia
www.esb.sa.gov.au

Tasmania summary

234	services comprising 223 centre-based services and 11 family day care services
220 (94%)	services with a quality rating
1	service rated Significant Improvement Required
43	services rated Working Towards NQS
95	services rated Meeting NQS
81	services rated Exceeding NQS

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



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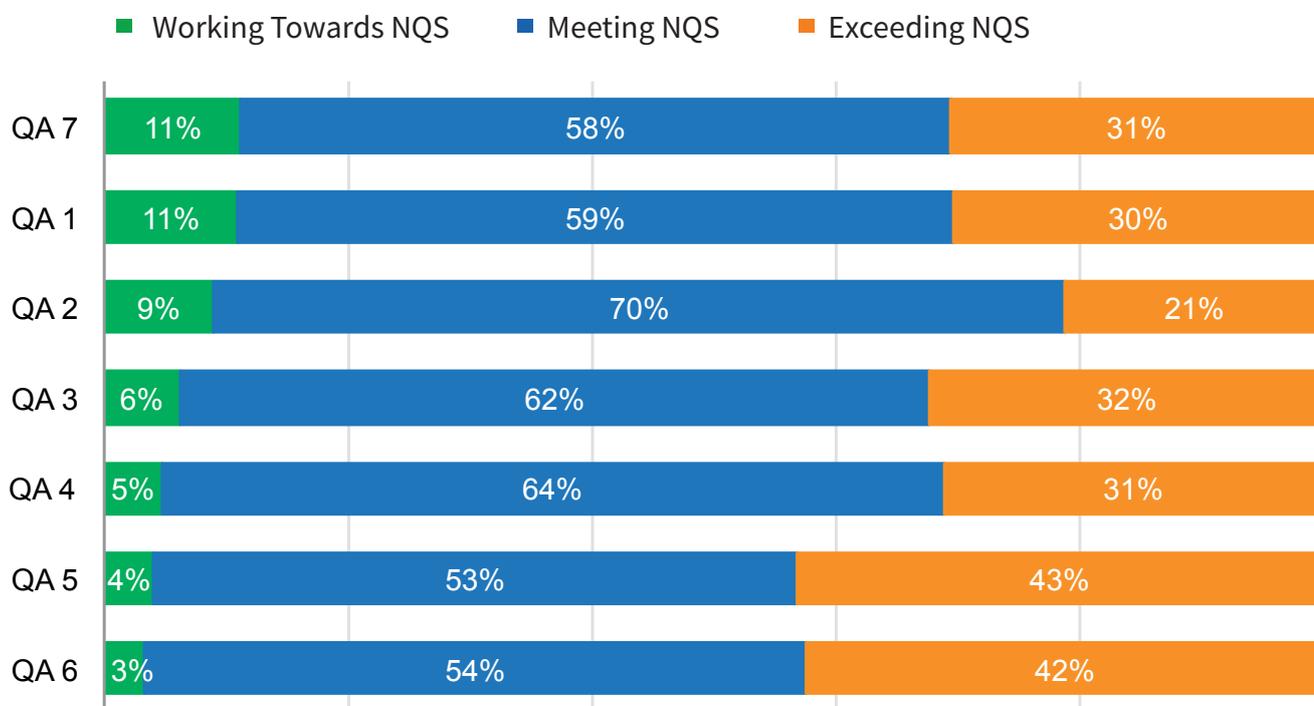
Department of Education
Education and Care Unit
www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au

Victoria summary

4220	services comprising 3943 centre-based services and 277 family day care services
3924 (93%)	services with a quality rating
1	service rated Significant Improvement Required
615	services rated Working Towards NQS
1975	services rated Meeting NQS
1324	services rated Exceeding NQS
9	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

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

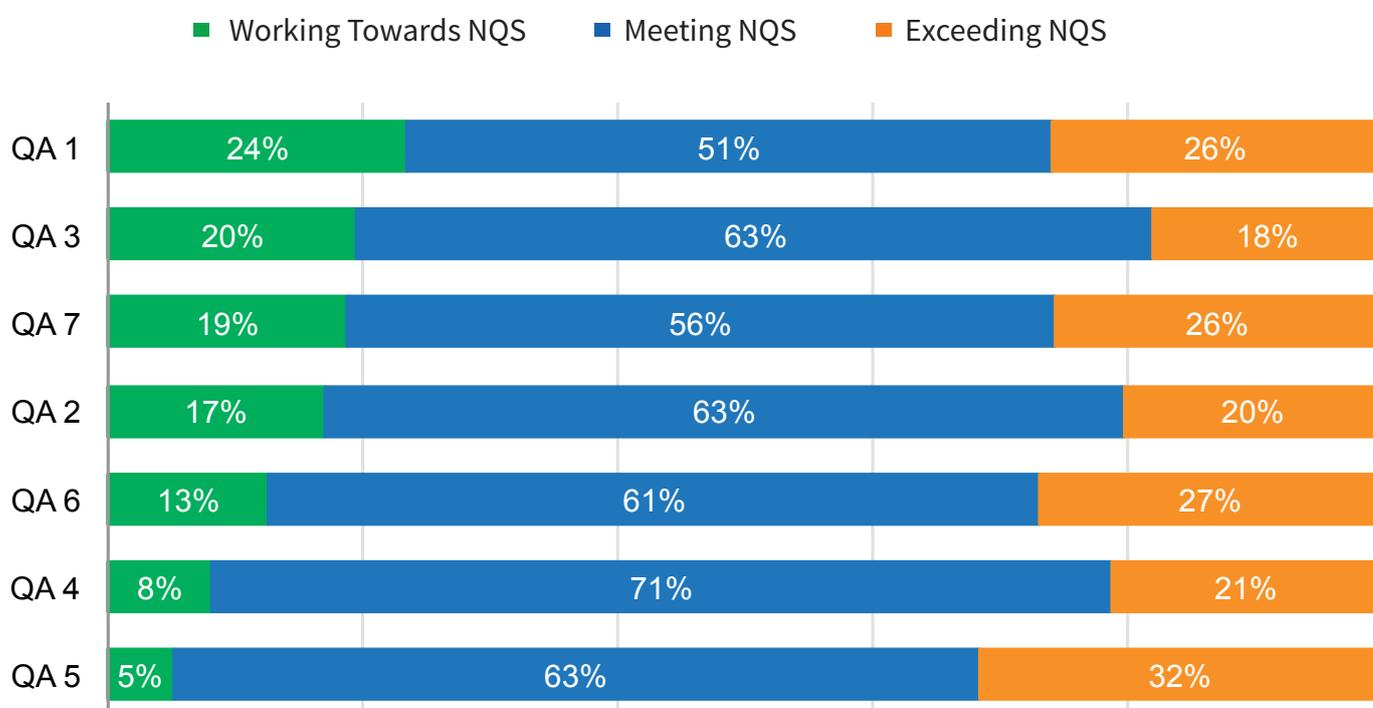
Department of Education and Training
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division
www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation

Western Australia summary



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

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



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