



NQF Snapshot

Q2 2019



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority™

A quarterly report from
the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority
August 2019

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Overview

NQF Snapshot Q2 2019 is ACECQA's 26th 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 July 2019 for the period ending 30 June 2019.

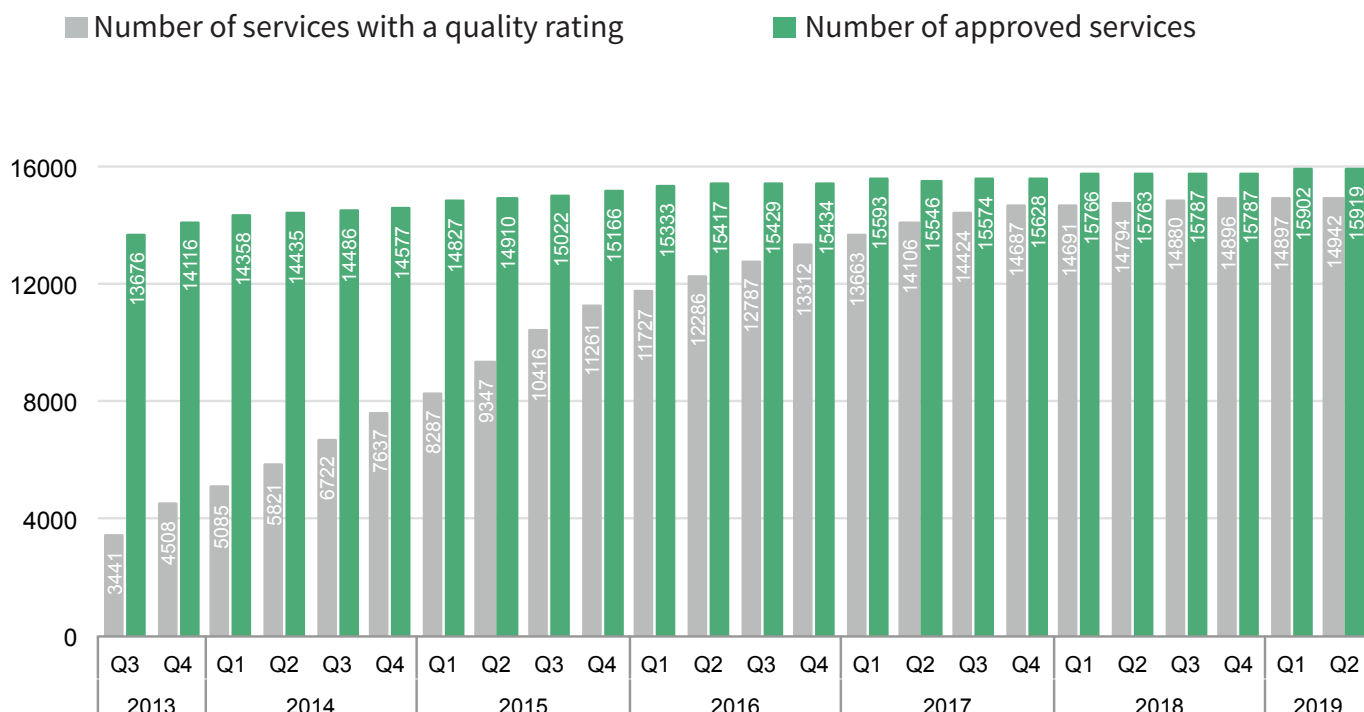
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



Snapshot highlights

15,919	children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF
14,942 (94%)	services with a quality rating
11,828 (79%)	services with a quality rating of Meeting NQS or above
7294	providers approved to operate
5952 (82%)	providers approved to operate only one service
47	services rated Excellent by ACECQA ¹
8068	quality rating reassessments completed
65%	of services rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment
4656 (29%)	services with a quality rating against the 2018 NQS

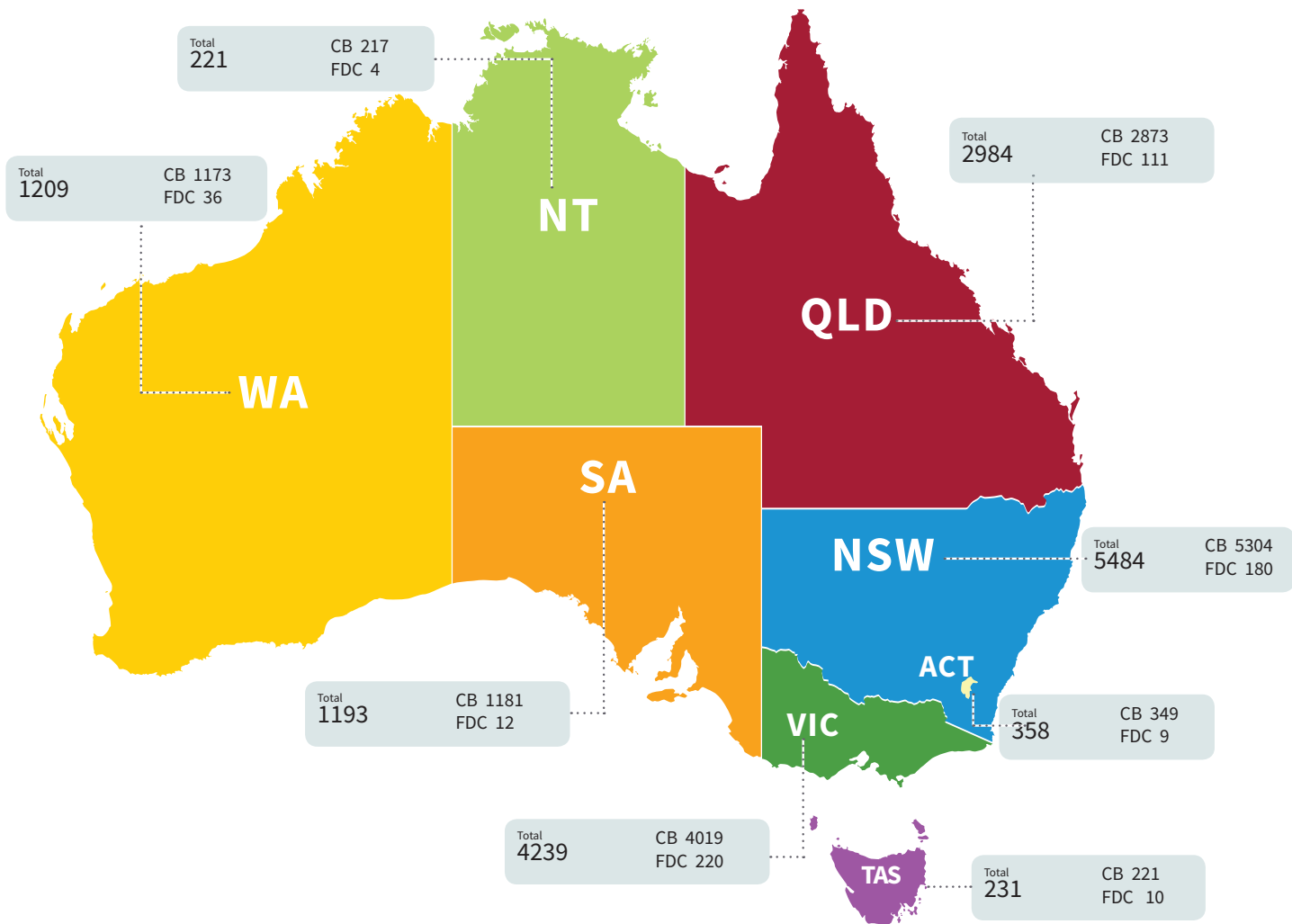
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



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>15,337 (96%)</p> <p>2% Increase on Q2 2018</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) ²</p> <p>582 (4%)</p> <p>23% Decrease on Q2 2018</p>	<p>Total</p> <p>15,919</p> <p>1% Increase on Q2 2018</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 rated Meeting NQS or above by overall rating and quality area

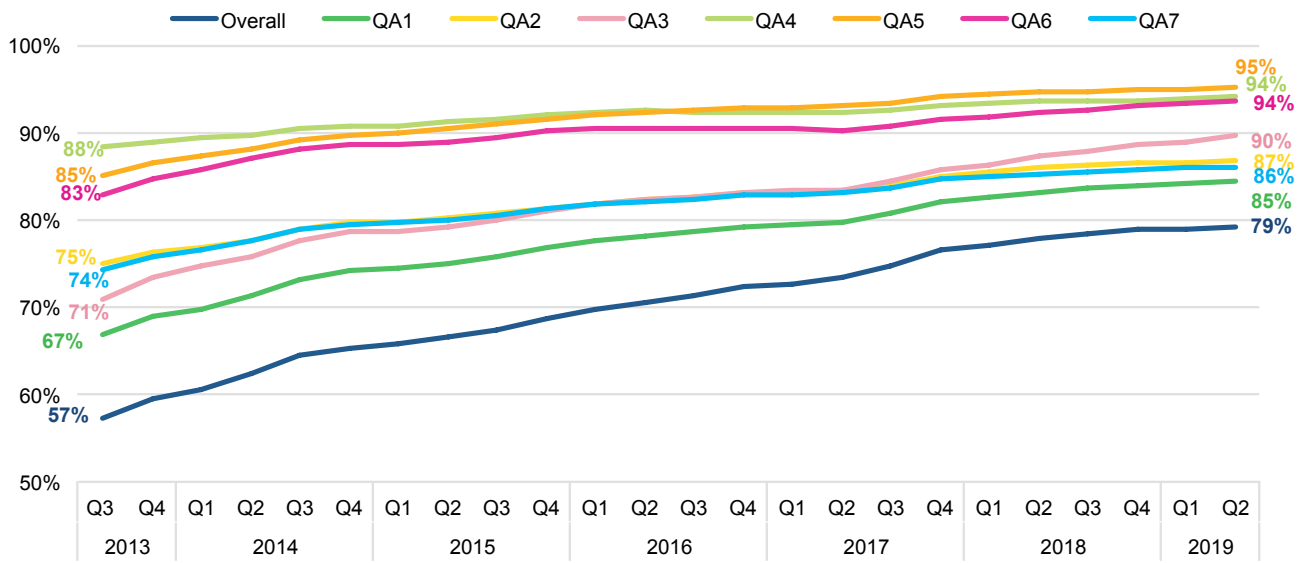


Figure 4: Proportion of services rated Exceeding NQS or above by overall rating and quality area

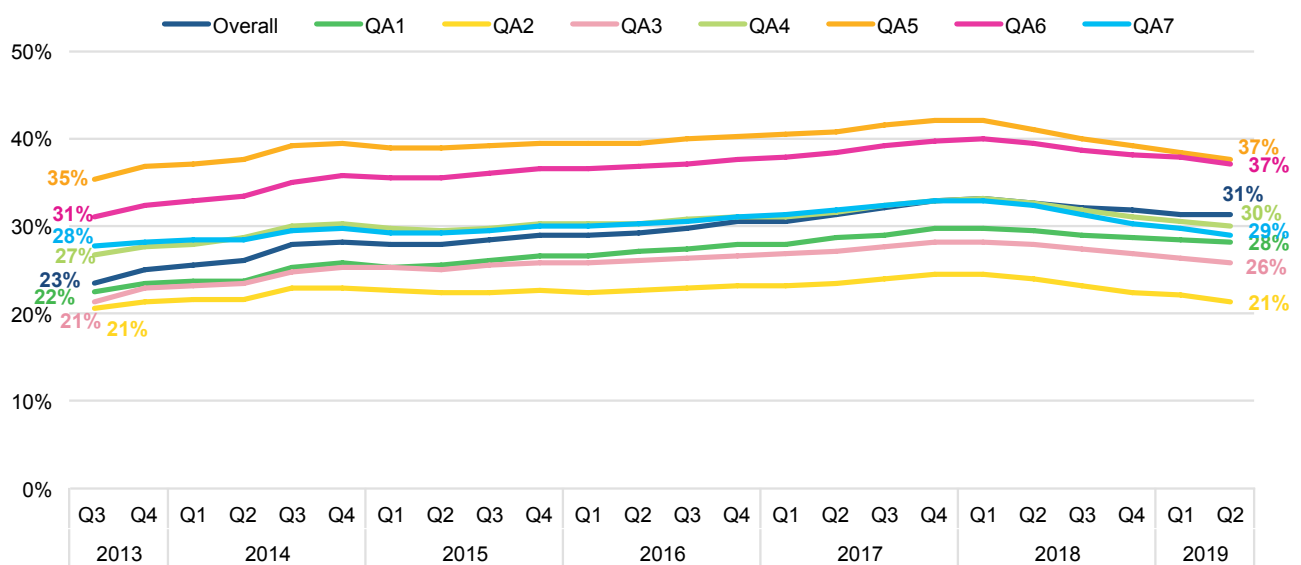


Figure 5: Proportion of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction ^{1,2,3,4,5}

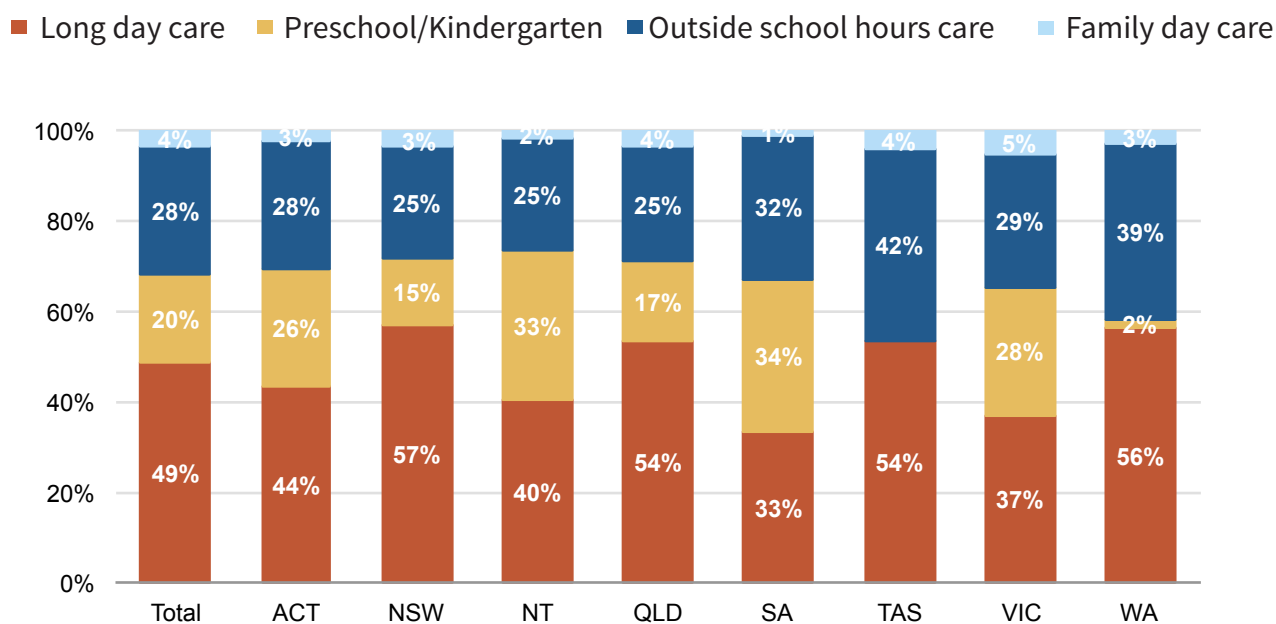


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	9	156	92	101	0	358
NSW	180	3130	796	1378	0	5484
NT	4	88	73	54	2	221
QLD	111	1598	518	756	1	2984
SA	12	395	407	379	0	1193
TAS	10	124	0	97	0	231
VIC	220	1573	1197	1249	0	4239
WA	36	680	23	469	1	1209
TOTAL	582	7744	3106	4483	4	15,919

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 Four services categorised as 'Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

Figure 6: Proportion of services by provider management type ^{1,2,3}

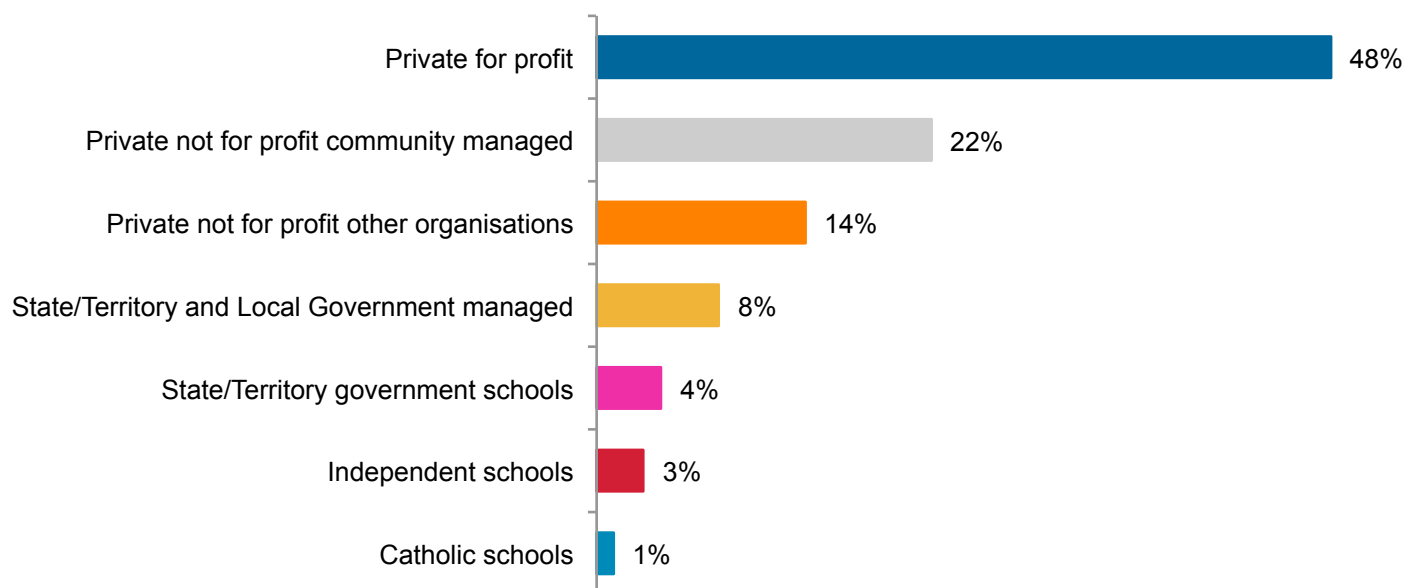


Table 2: Number and proportion of services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7643	48%
Private not for profit community managed	3486	22%
Private not for profit other organisations	2174	14%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1270	8%
State/Territory government schools	669	4%
Independent schools	485	3%
Catholic schools	178	1%
Not stated/Other	14	0%
Total	15,919	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 Provider management type classifications are available at Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) [National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Data Collection Guide, 2013](#) (Cat. No. 4240.0.55.002).

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

Figure 7 shows that 82% of approved providers operate a single service while 1% of approved providers operate 25 or more services.

Figure 7: Proportion of approved providers by size

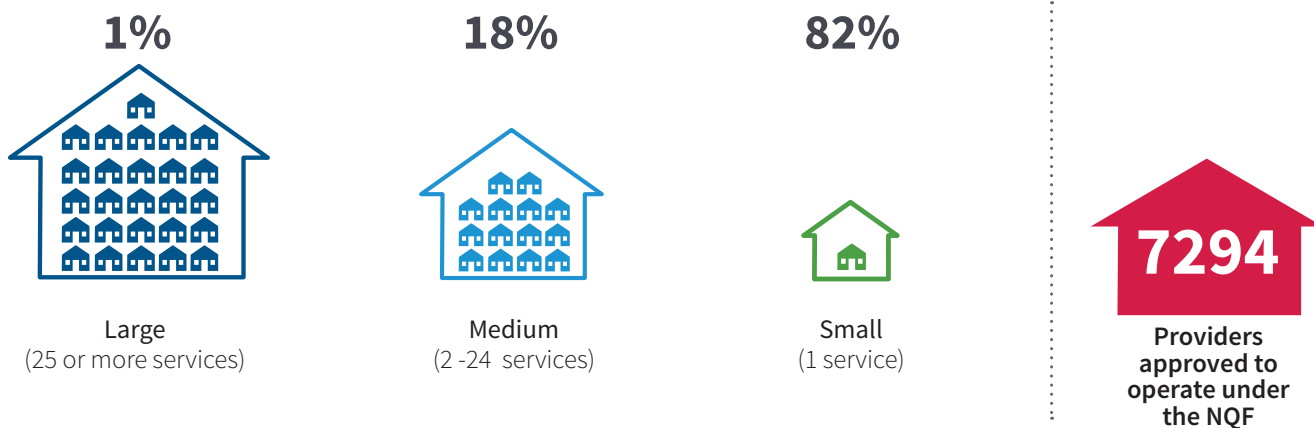
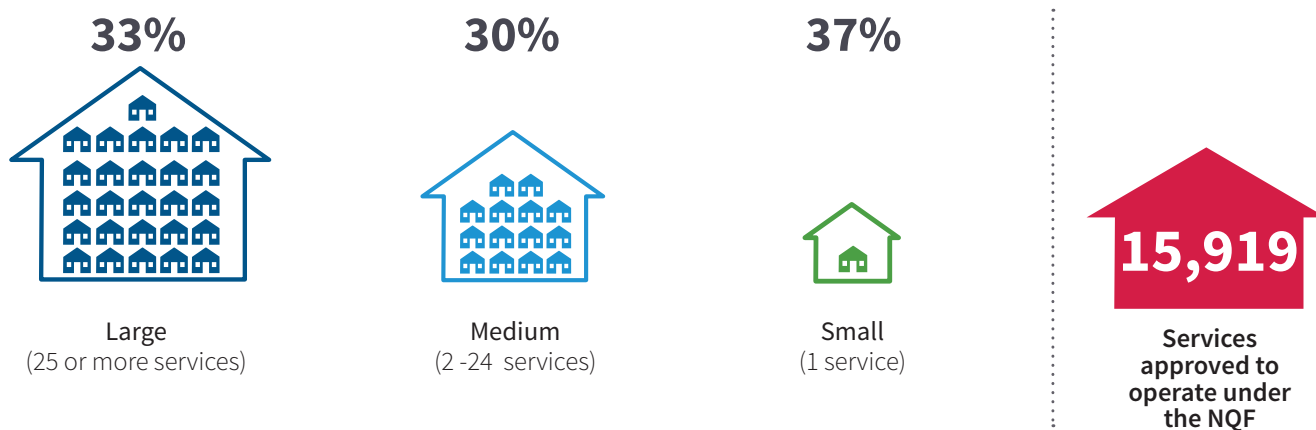


Figure 8 shows that 37% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 33% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

Figure 8: Proportion of approved services by provider size



Progress of assessment and rating

Table 3 includes all approved services. The proportion of services with a quality rating will not reach 100% at any one time because a small proportion of 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.

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	358	2%	328	92%
NSW	5484	34%	5154	94%
NT	221	1%	217	98%
QLD	2984	19%	2816	94%
SA	1193	7%	1128	95%
TAS	231	1%	217	94%
VIC	4239	27%	3987	94%
WA	1209	8%	1095	91%
TOTAL	15,919	100%	14,942	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	140	90	90	0	328
NSW	171	2931	784	1268	0	5154
NT	4	87	73	51	2	217
QLD	103	1492	498	722	1	2816
SA	12	354	399	363	0	1128
TAS	10	120	0	87	0	217
VIC	177	1466	1167	1177	0	3987
WA	29	625	21	419	1	1095
TOTAL	514	7215	3032	4177	4	14,942

Quality improvement

Table 5 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 2015 services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 1401 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	19	50	9	0	78
	Working Towards NQS	21	1401	2015	646	4083
	Meeting NQS	2	519	1,536	488	2545
	Exceeding NQS	1	161	506	694	1362
	Total	43	2131	4066	1828	8068

		Rating after reassessment				Improvement rate
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	24%	64%	12%	0%	76%
	Working Towards NQS	1%	34%	49%	16%	65%
	Meeting NQS	0%	20%	60%	19%	19%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	12%	37%	51%	-

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.

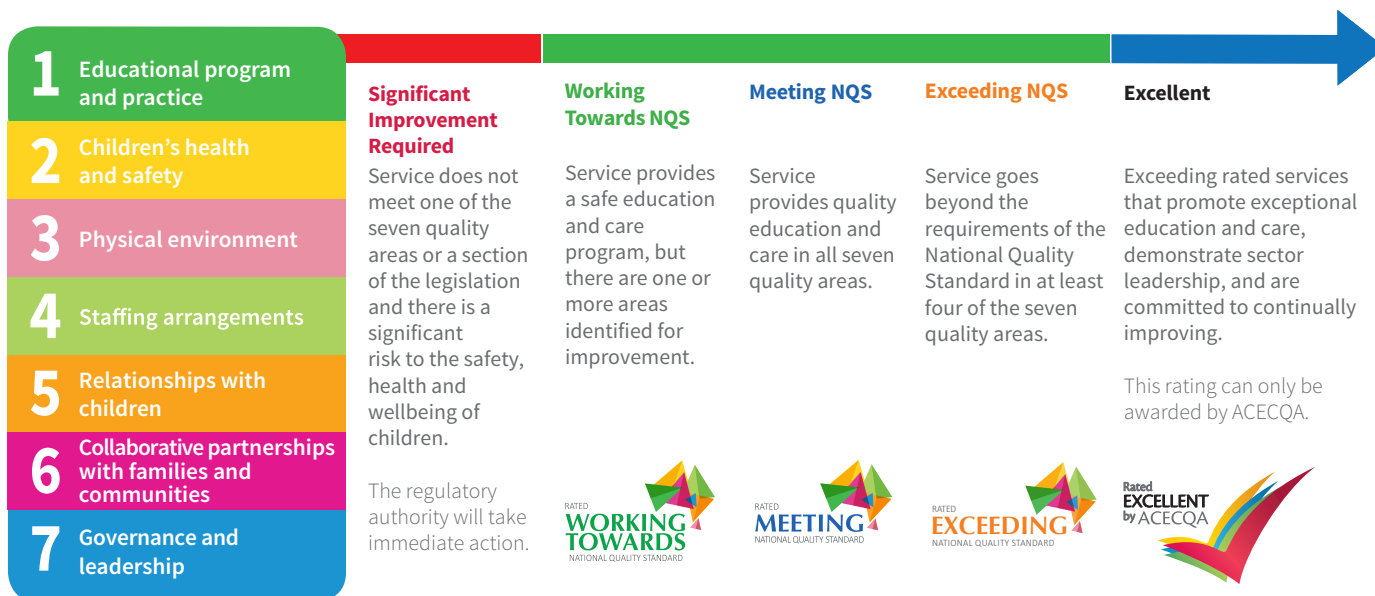


Table 6: Overall quality ratings by jurisdiction

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
ACT	0	81 25%	91 28%	152 46%	4	328
NSW	6	1302 25%	2432 47%	1398 27%	16	5154
NT	0	62 29%	115 53%	40 18%	0	217
QLD	2	430 15%	1503 53%	871 31%	10	2816
SA	0	205 18%	370 33%	545 48%	8	1128
TAS	2	49 23%	88 41%	78 36%	0	217
VIC	1	623 16%	2039 51%	1315 33%	9	3987
WA	0	351 32%	509 46%	235 21%	0	1095
TOTAL	11	3103 21%	7147 48%	4634 31%	47	14,942

Figure 9: Overall quality ratings by service type

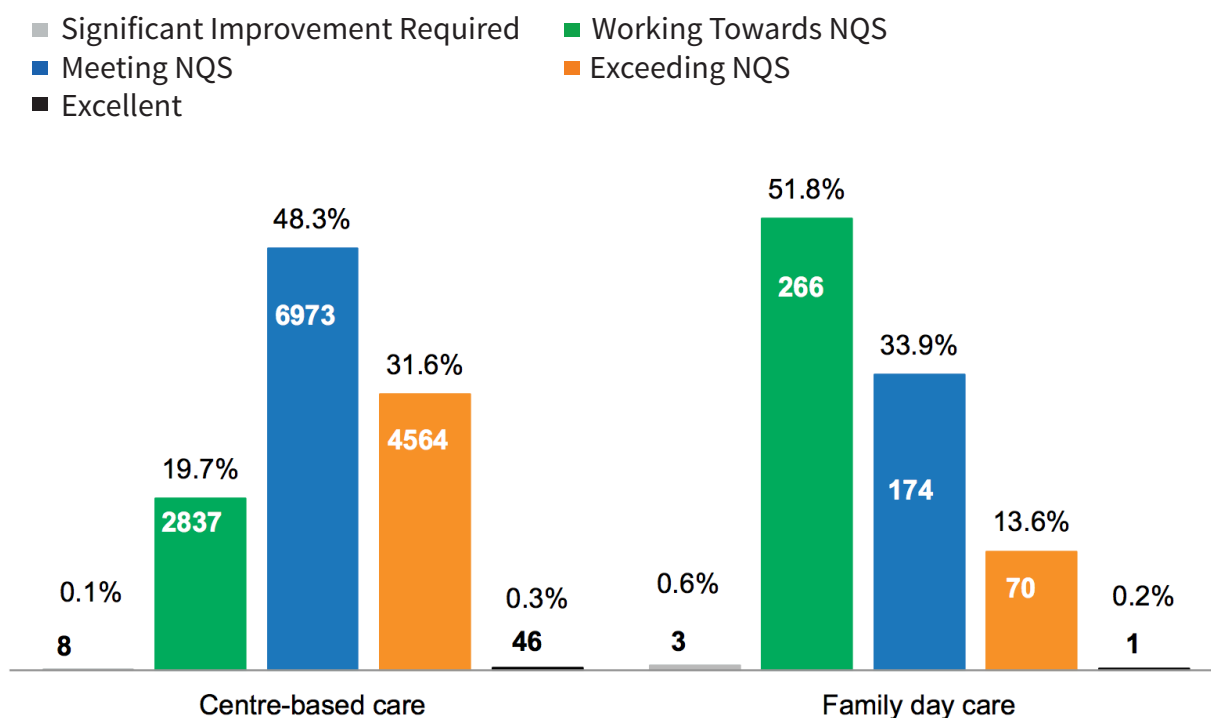


Figure 10: Overall quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

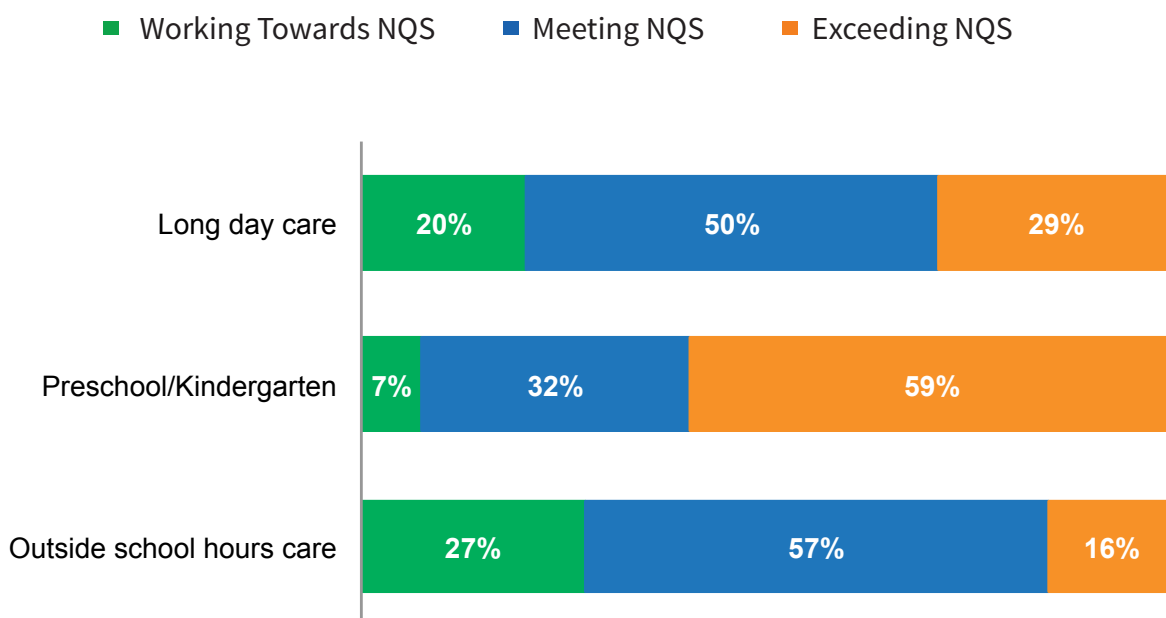
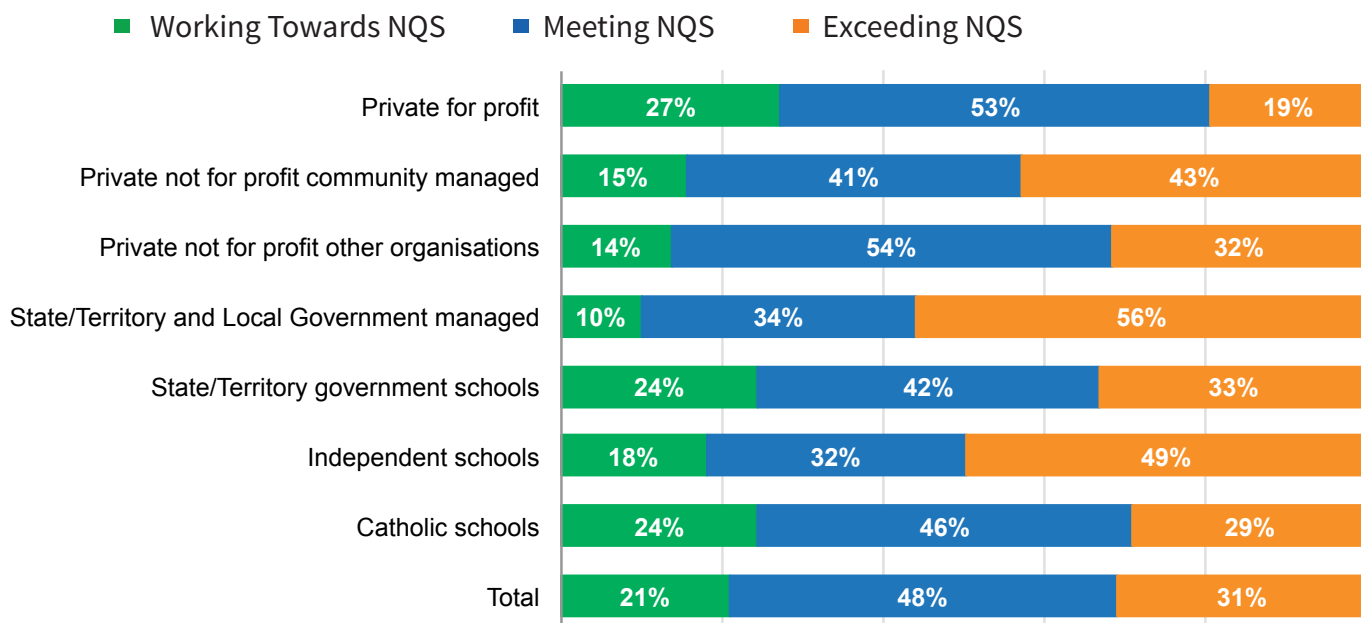


Figure 11 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings between provider management types.

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

Figure 11: Overall quality ratings by provider management type¹



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

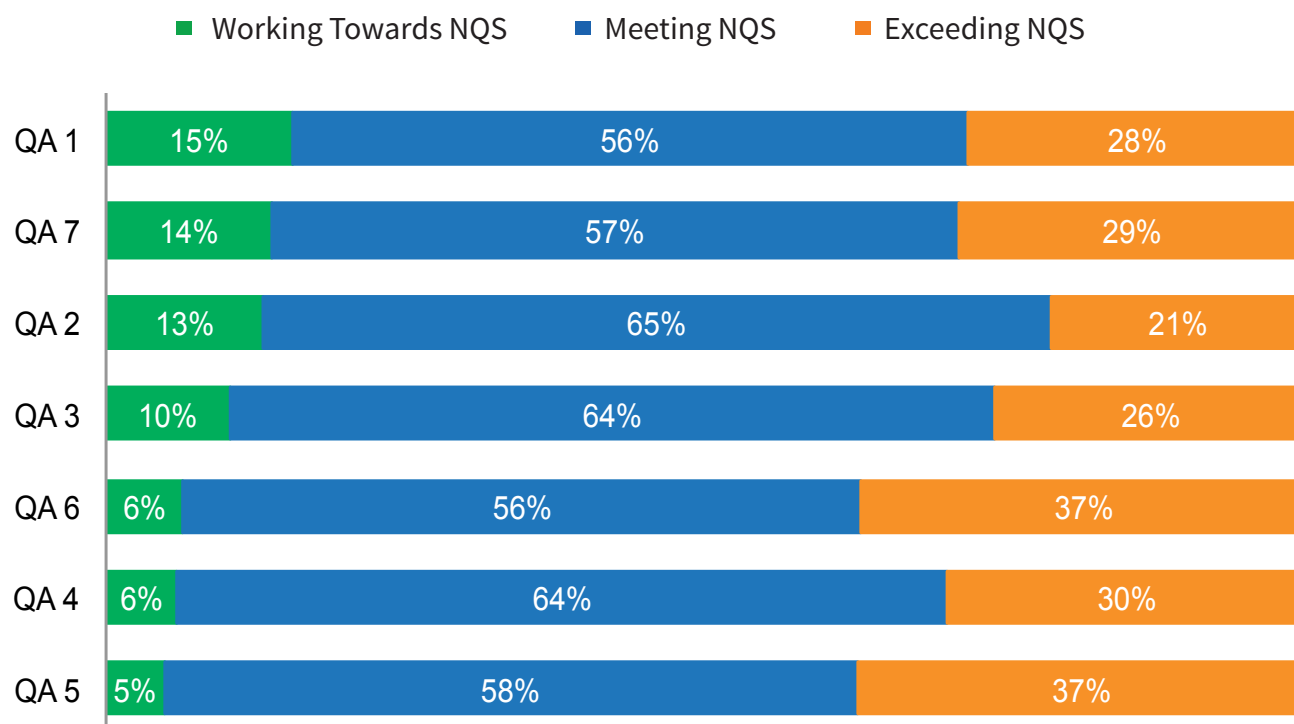
Quality area ratings

Table 7 and Figure 12 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	0	2313	8420	4209
Quality Area 7 - Governance and leadership	7	2066	8532	4337
Quality Area 2 - Children's health and safety	11	1960	9778	3193
Quality Area 3 - Physical environment	2	1535	9535	3870
Quality Area 6 - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	0	965	8440	5537
Quality Area 4 - Staffing arrangements	4	891	9580	4467
Quality Area 5 - Relationships with children	1	723	8623	5595

Figure 12: Quality area ratings

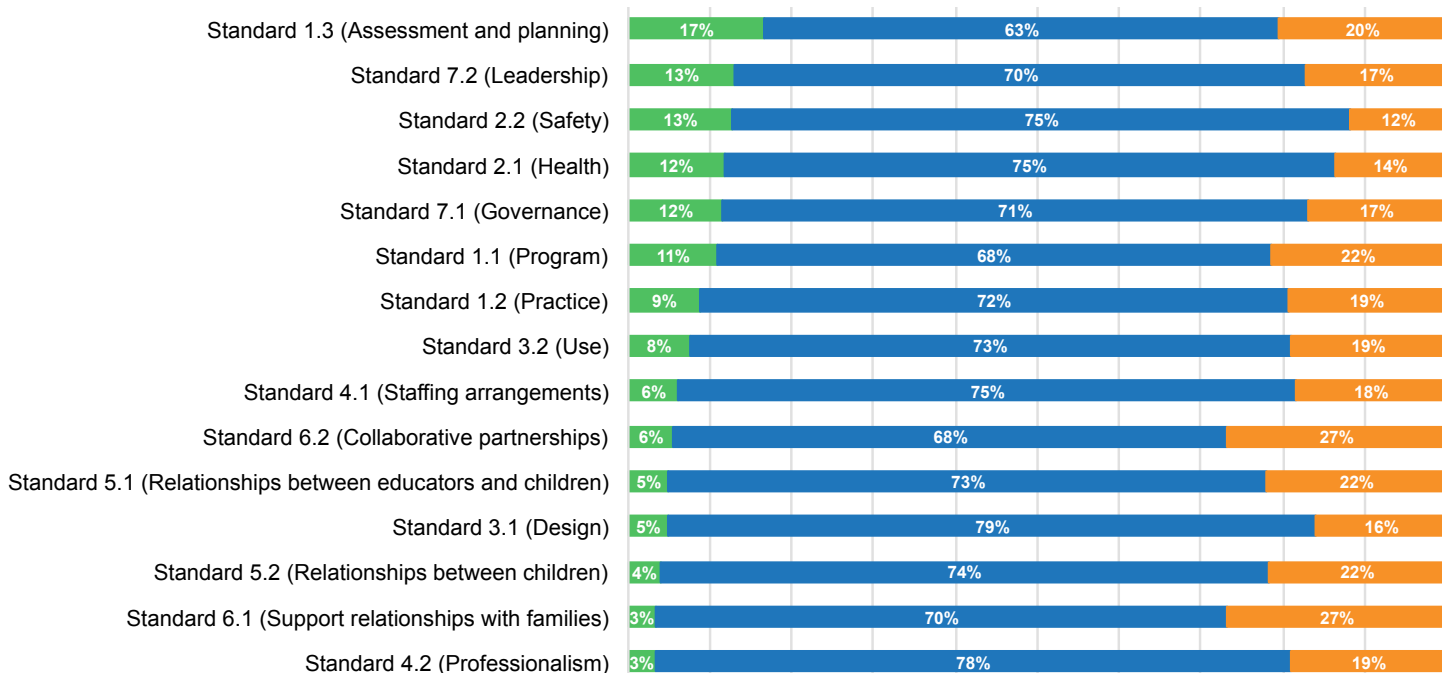


Standard level ratings under the 2018 NQS

Figure 13 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 13: Standard level ratings under the 2018 NQS

■ Working Towards NQS ■ Meeting NQS ■ Exceeding 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.

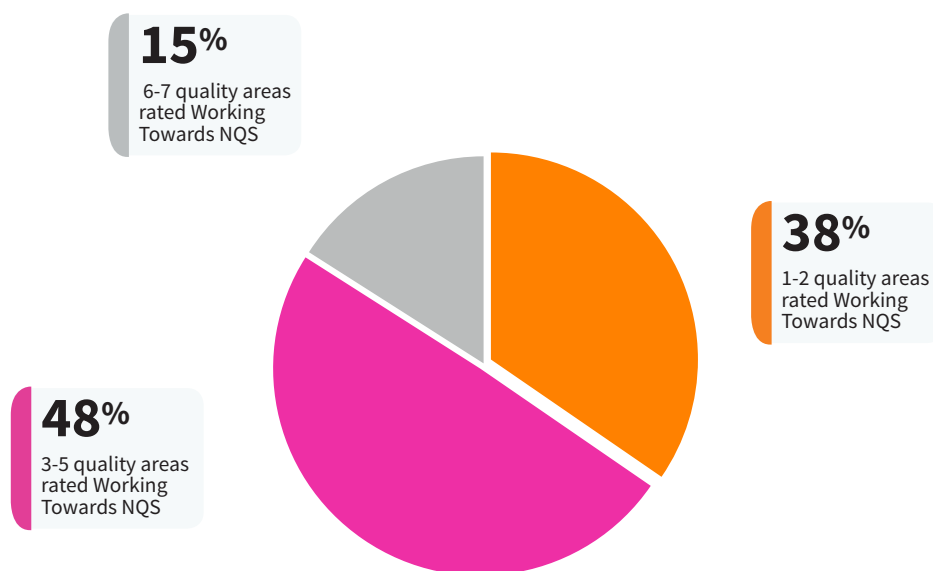
Table 8: Element level results under 2018 NQS

	% Not Met		% Not Met
1.3.1 (Assessment and planning cycle)	13.7%	5.1.2 (Dignity and rights of the child)	3.9%
1.3.2 (Critical reflection)	13.6%	3.1.2 (Upkeep)	3.8%
7.1.2 (Management systems)	10.1%	2.1.3 (Healthy lifestyle)	3.8%
2.1.2 (Health practices and procedures)	9.6%	7.1.1 (Service philosophy and purpose)	3.7%
7.2.2 (Educational leadership)	8.6%	5.2.2 (Self-regulation)	3.6%
2.2.1 (Supervision)	8.5%	7.1.3 (Roles and responsibilities)	3.2%
1.1.3 (Program learning opportunities)	8.4%	3.2.2 (Resources support play-based learning)	3.1%
7.2.3 (Development of professionals)	8.0%	2.2.3 (Child protection)	3.0%
2.2.2 (Incident and emergency management)	6.6%	5.1.1 (Positive educator to child interactions)	2.9%
4.1.1 (Organisation of educators)	5.9%	4.2.2 (Professional standards)	2.5%
1.2.2 (Responsive teaching and scaffolding)	5.6%	2.1.1 (Wellbeing and comfort)	2.5%
1.1.1 (Approved learning framework)	5.3%	6.2.2 (Access and participation)	2.4%
1.2.3 (Child directed learning)	5.2%	3.1.1 (Fit for purpose)	2.1%
7.2.1 (Continuous improvement)	5.1%	6.2.1 (Transitions)	2.0%
3.2.3 (Environmentally responsible)	5.1%	6.1.3 (Families are supported)	1.8%
1.1.2 (Child-centred)	5.0%	6.1.1 (Engagement with the service)	1.7%
1.2.1 (Intentional teaching)	4.8%	4.2.1 (Professional collaboration)	1.6%
6.2.3 (Community engagement)	4.1%	5.2.1 (Collaborative learning)	1.5%
3.2.1 (Inclusive environment)	4.0%	6.1.2 (Parent views are respected)	1.5%
1.3.3 (Information for families)	3.9%	4.1.2 (Continuity of staff)	1.2%

Services rated Working Towards NQS

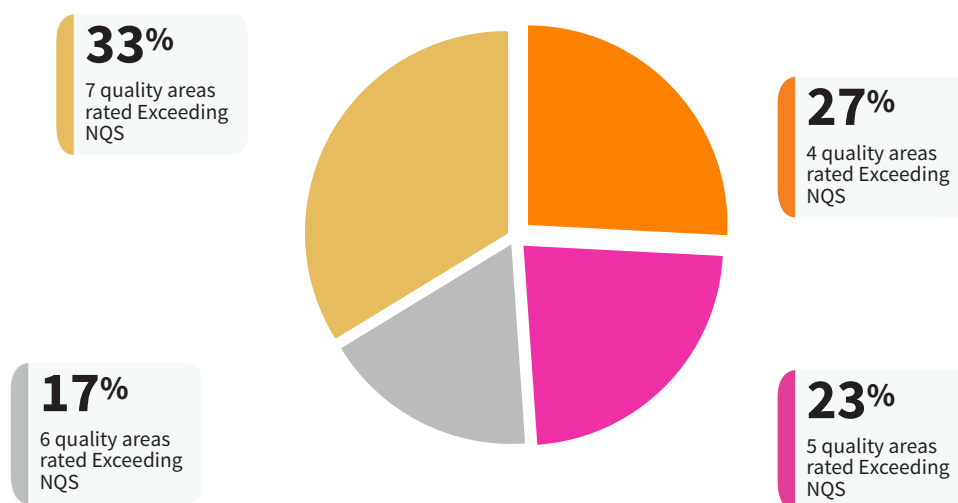
A service receives an overall rating of Working Towards NQS if any of the seven quality areas are rated Working Towards NQS. A quality area is rated Working Towards NQS if any of the standards within that quality area are rated Working Towards NQS.

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



Services rated Exceeding NQS

Figure 15: Proportion of services rated Exceeding NQS by number of quality areas rated Exceeding NQS



Australian Capital Territory summary

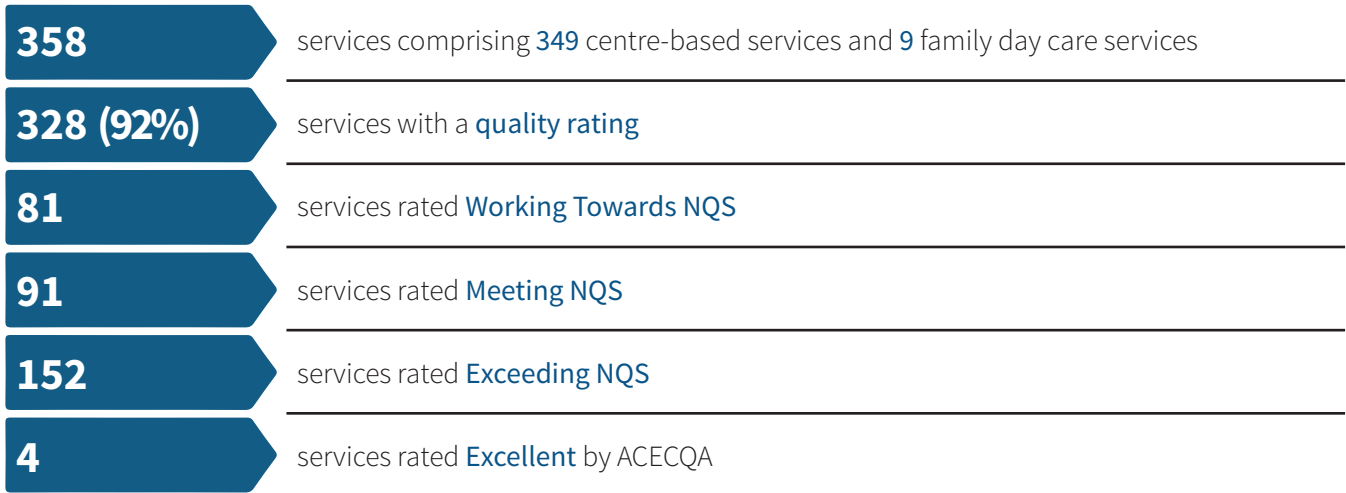
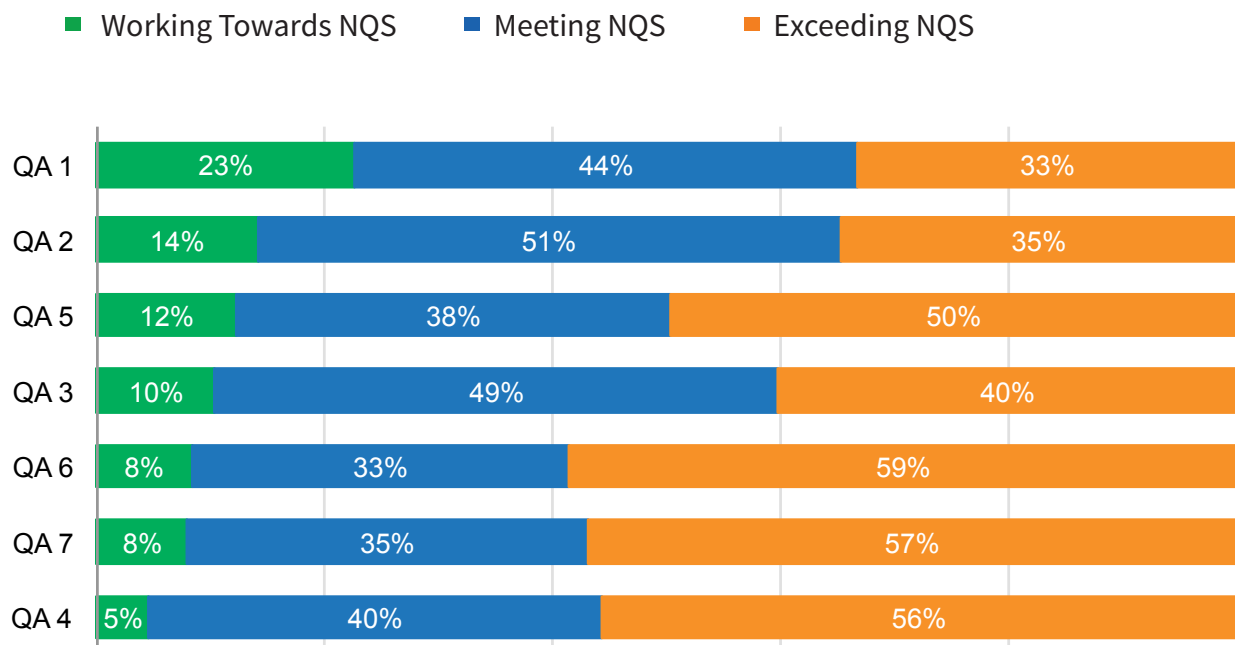


Figure 16 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 16: Quality area ratings



Contact details

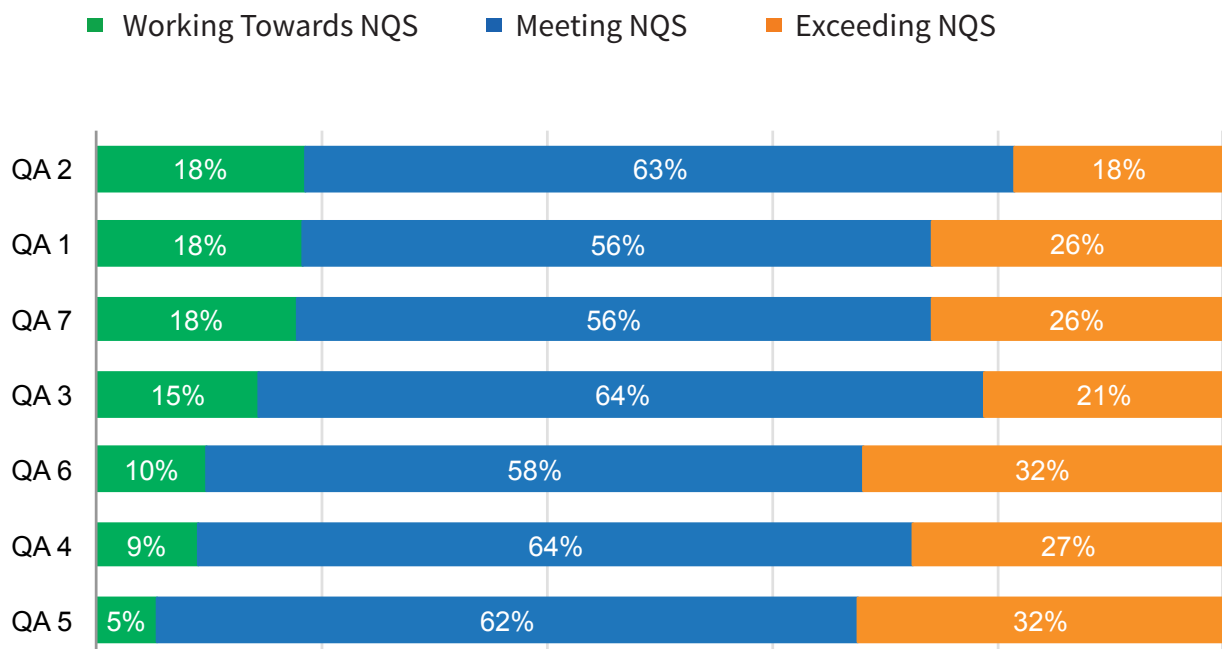
Education Directorate
 Children's Education and Care Assurance
www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood

New South Wales summary

5484	services comprising 5304 centre-based services and 180 family day care services
5154 (94%)	services with a quality rating
6	services rated Significant Improvement Required
1302	services rated Working Towards NQS
2432	services rated Meeting NQS
1398	services rated Exceeding NQS
16	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



Contact details

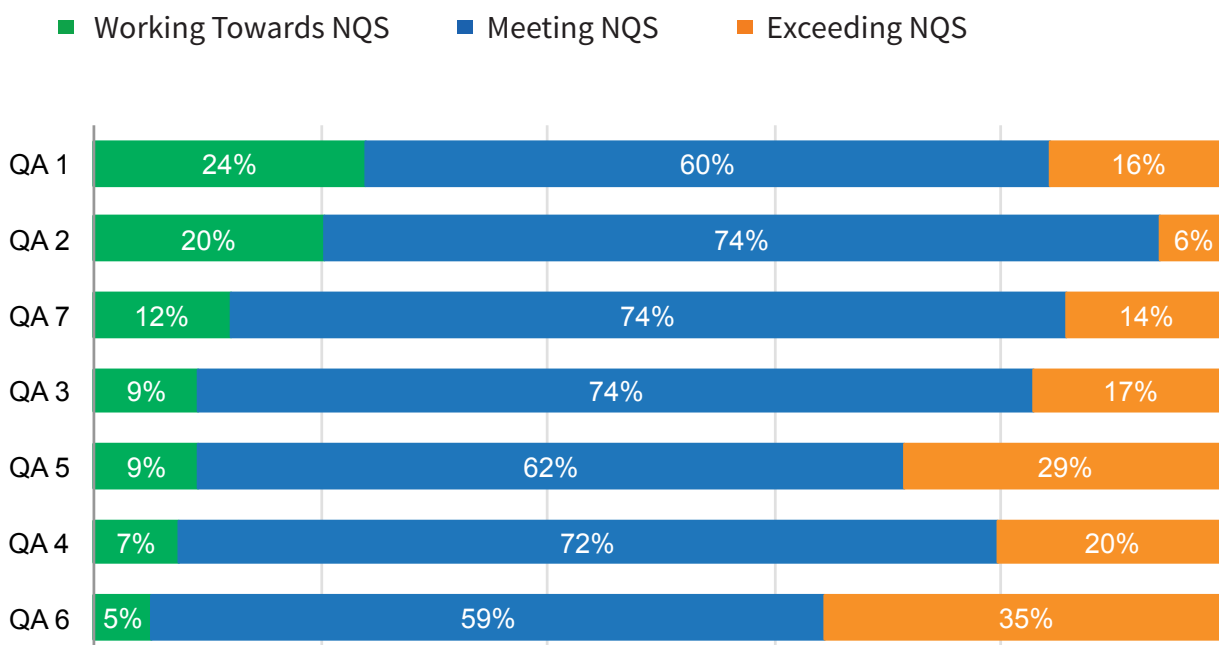
Department of Education
 Early Childhood Education Directorate
www.education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education

Northern Territory summary

221	services comprising 217 centre-based services and four family day care services
217 (98%)	services with a quality rating
62	services rated Working Towards NQS
115	services rated Meeting NQS
40	services rated Exceeding NQS

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

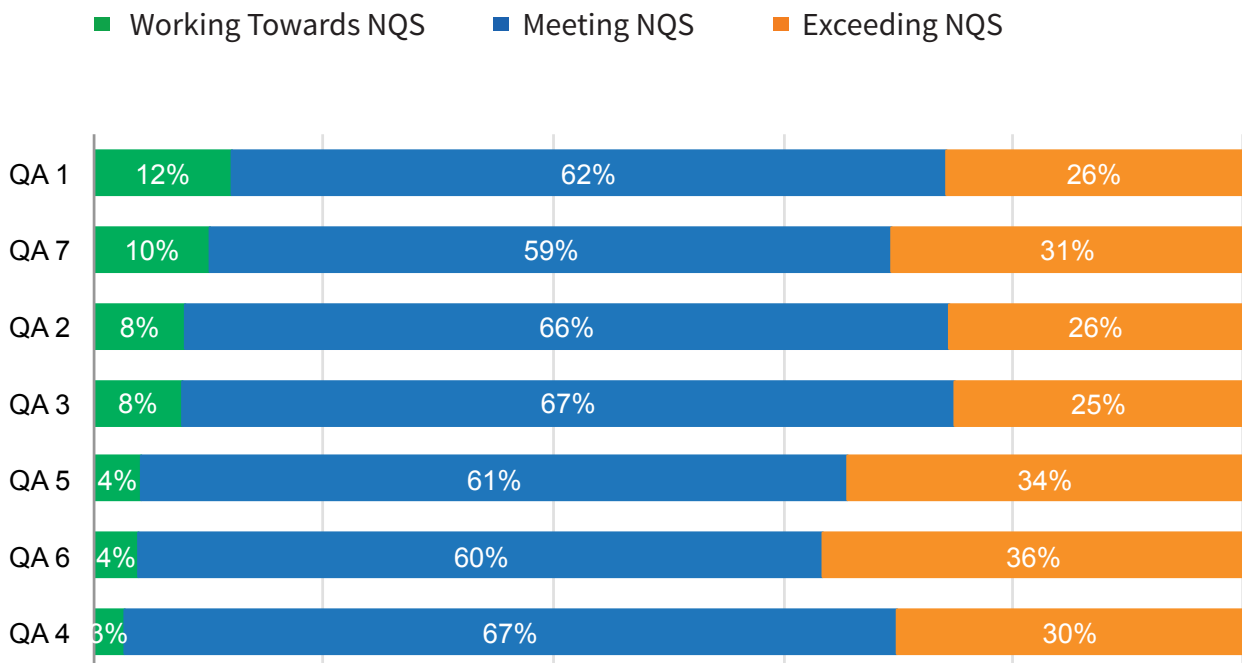
Department of Education
 Quality Education and Care NT
www.nt.gov.au/learning/early-childhood

Queensland summary

2984	services comprising 2873 centre-based services and 111 family day care services
2816 (94%)	services with a quality rating
2	service rated Significant Improvement Required
430	services rated Working Towards NQS
1503	services rated Meeting NQS
871	services rated Exceeding NQS
10	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

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
 Early Childhood Education and Care
www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au

South Australia summary

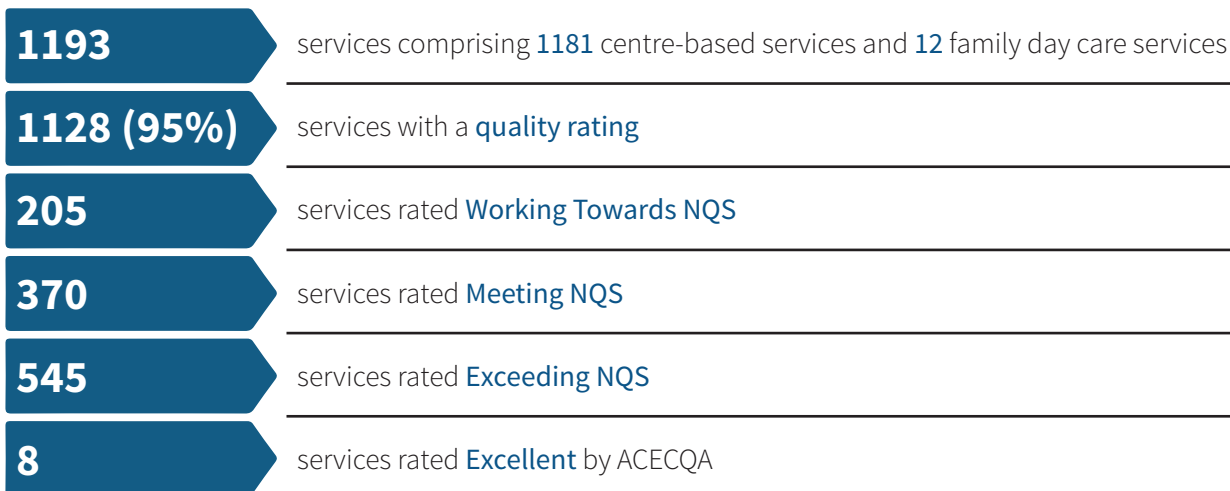
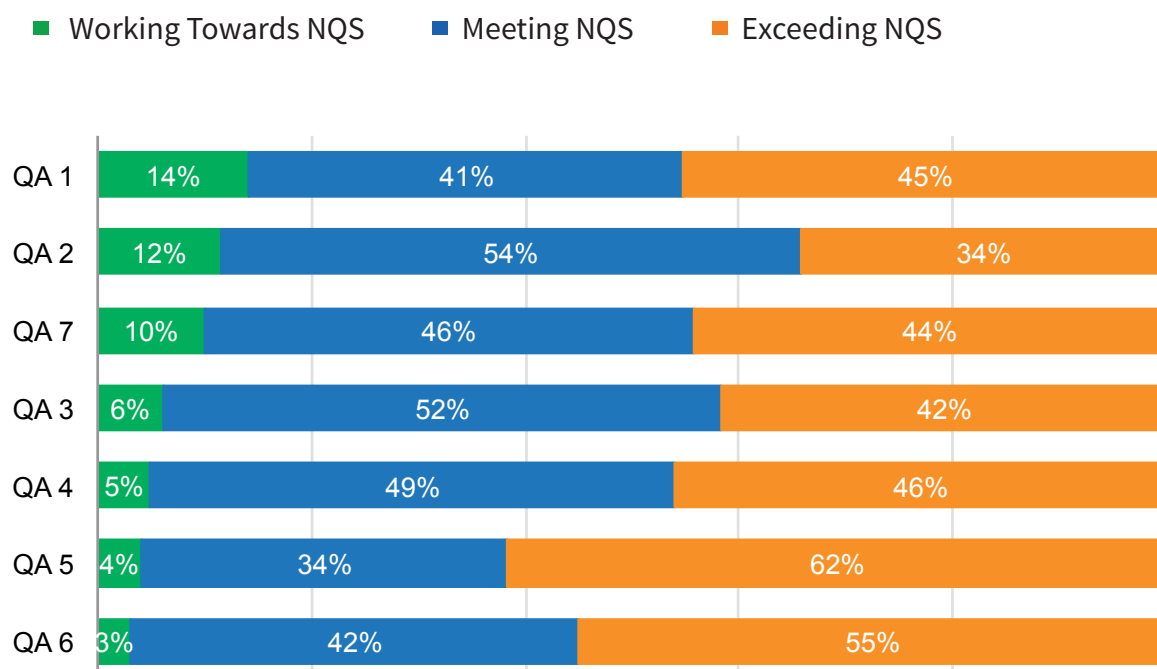


Figure 20 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 20: Quality area ratings



Contact details

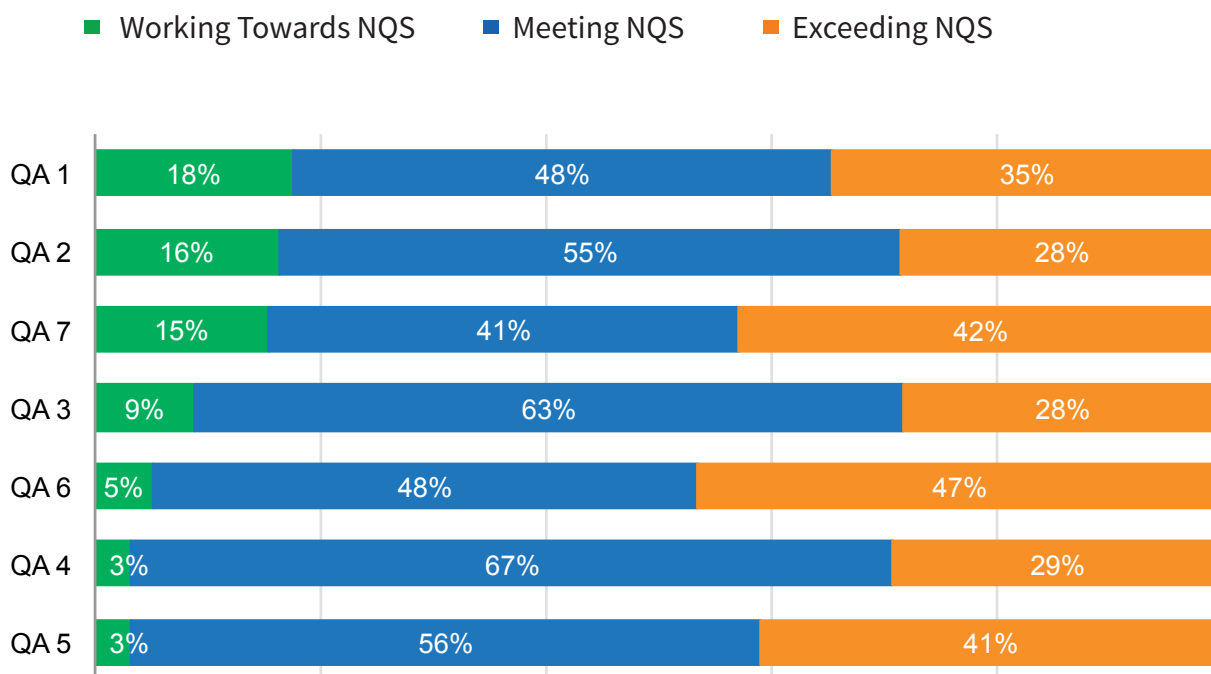
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards
Board of South Australia
www.esb.sa.gov.au/early-childhood

Tasmania summary

231	services comprising 221 centre-based services and 10 family day care services
217 (94%)	services with a quality rating
2	service rated Significant Improvement Required
49	services rated Working Towards NQS
88	services rated Meeting NQS
78	services rated Exceeding NQS

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

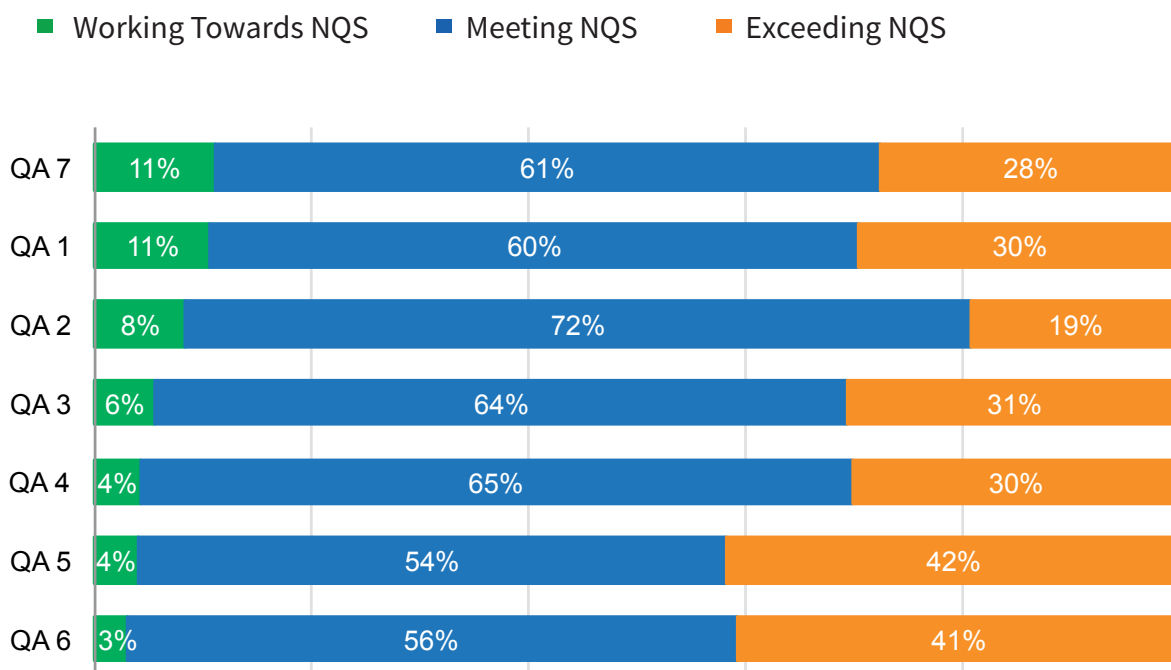
Department of Education
 Education and Care Unit
www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au

Victoria summary

4239	services comprising 4019 centre-based services and 220 family day care services
3987 (94%)	services with a quality rating
1	services rated Significant Improvement Required
623	services rated Working Towards NQS
2039	services rated Meeting NQS
1315	services rated Exceeding NQS
9	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

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

Western Australia summary

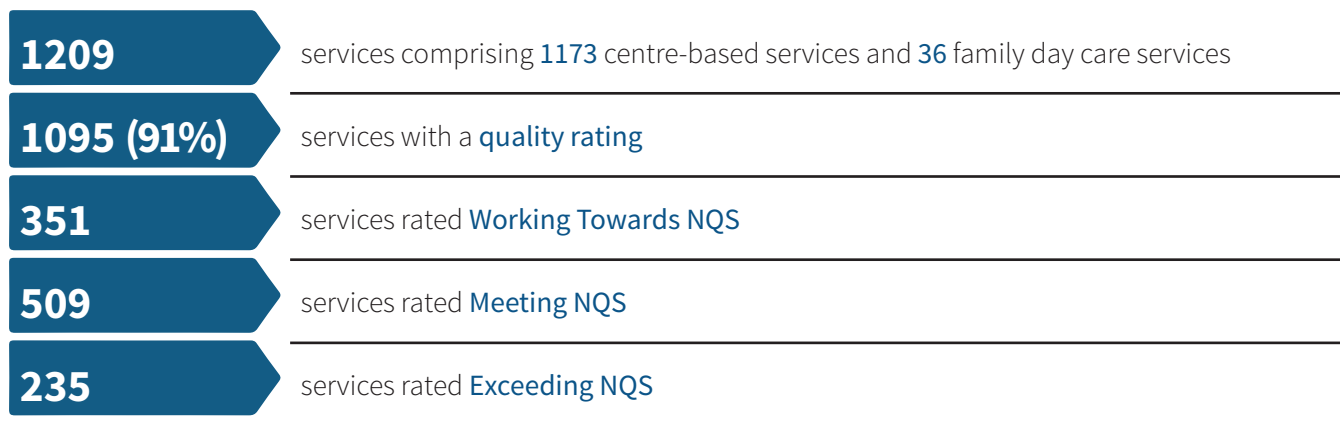
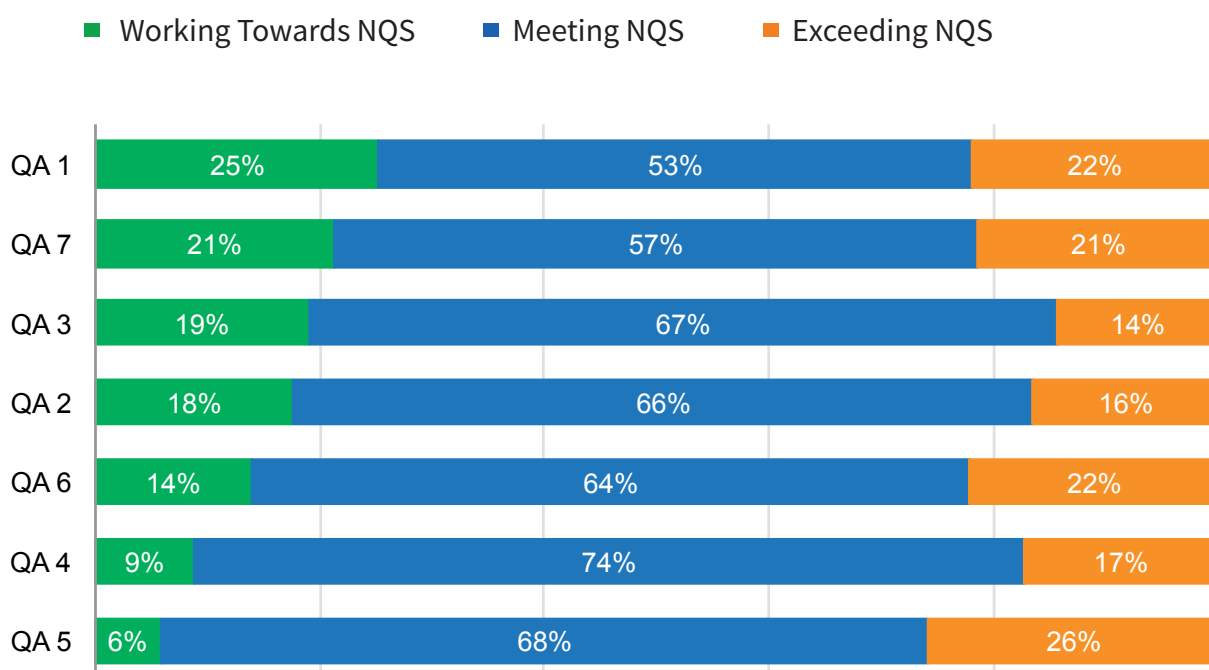


Figure 23 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 23: Quality area ratings



Contact details

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



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