

NQF Annual Performance Report

National Quality Framework

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 2019



Contents

- I. Purpose of the Annual Performance Report
- II. Overview of the children's education and care sector
- III. Report chapters:
 1. Children's health and safety
 2. Educational program and practice
 3. Children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds
 4. Public awareness of service quality
 5. Workforce



Purpose of the Annual Performance Report

The National Quality Framework (NQF) aims to ensure that all children attending regulated services receive educational and developmental benefits, including positive impacts to their health and wellbeing. It represents a nationwide commitment to quality education and care for our youngest citizens.

Evaluating and reporting on the implementation and administration of the NQF is required under the Education and Care Services National Law. The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) does this through quarterly NQF Snapshots, national audits, occasional papers, and NQF Annual Performance Reports.

This year's Annual Performance Report analyses fundamental aspects of the NQF, including children's health and safety, and educational program and practice, as well as one of its most persistent challenges – workforce.



Overview of the children's education and care sector

Overview of the children's education and care sector: Services

As at 30 June 2019:

- Over 15,900 children's education and care services approved to operate under the National Quality Framework (NQF):
 - 49% provide long day care services
 - 28% provide outside school hours care services
 - 20% provide preschool/kindergarten services
 - 4% provide family day care services.
- } centre-based care
- Four-fifths of services were located in the three most populous states: New South Wales (34%), Victoria (27%) and Queensland (19%).
 - More than 14,900 services had a published quality rating against the National Quality Standard (NQS), with 79% of these services rated Meeting NQS or above.



Overview of the children's education and care sector: Providers

As at 30 June 2019:

- Almost 7300 providers were approved to operate children's education and care services, with 82% operating a single service.
- The 10 largest providers in Australia operated a combined total of around 3200 services.
- Private for profit providers operated:
 - 66% of long day care services
 - 64% of family day care services
 - 47% of outside school hours care services
 - 2% of preschool/kindergarten services.
- 'Private not for profit community managed' providers operated around half (49%) of all preschools/kindergartens, with more than a fifth (22%) being 'state/territory and local government managed'.



Children's health and safety



Chapter 1

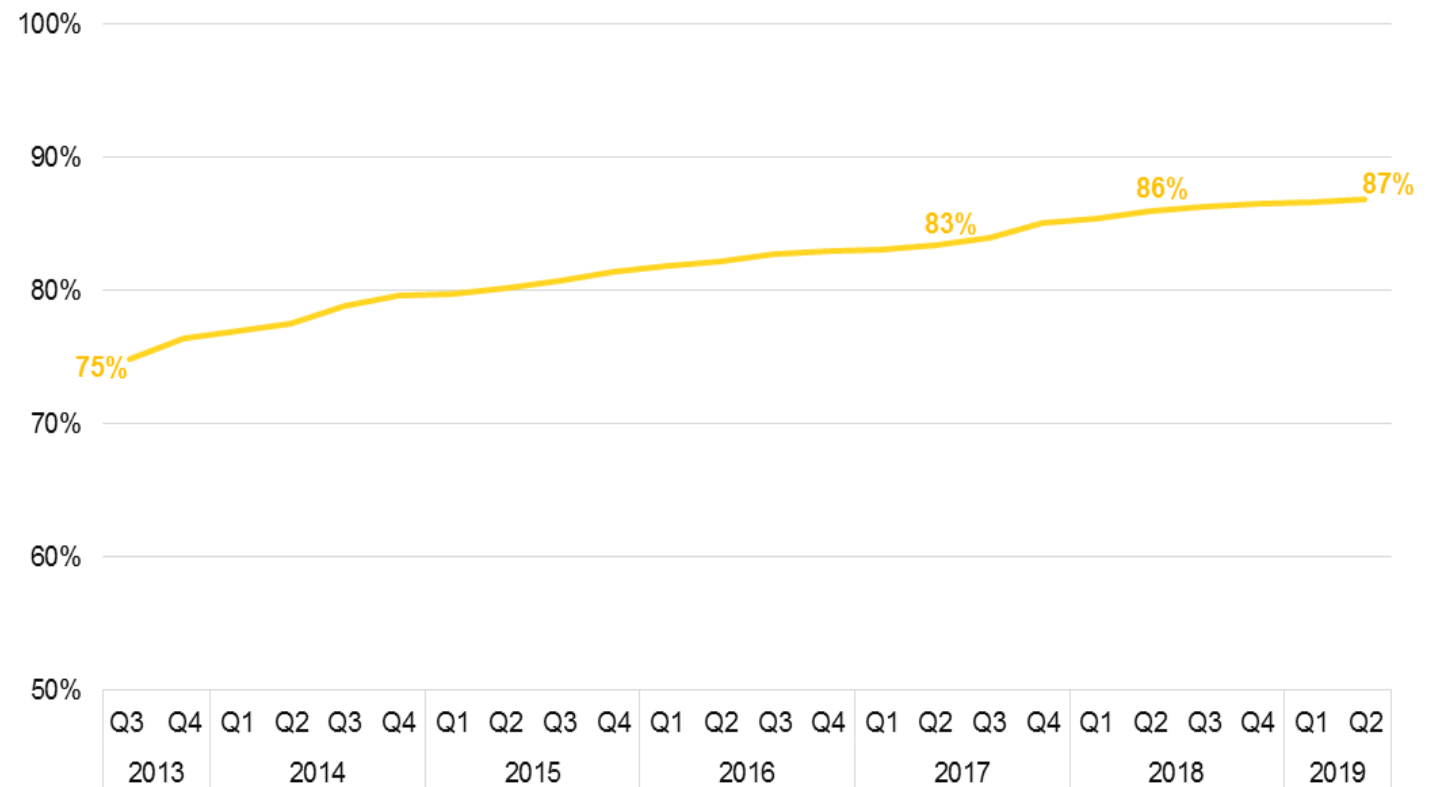
Children's health and safety

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

- each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
- each child is protected.

Almost nine out of ten (87%) services are rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 2, up from 86% in 2018 and 83% in 2017.

Figure 1: Proportion of services rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 2





**Educational program
and practice**



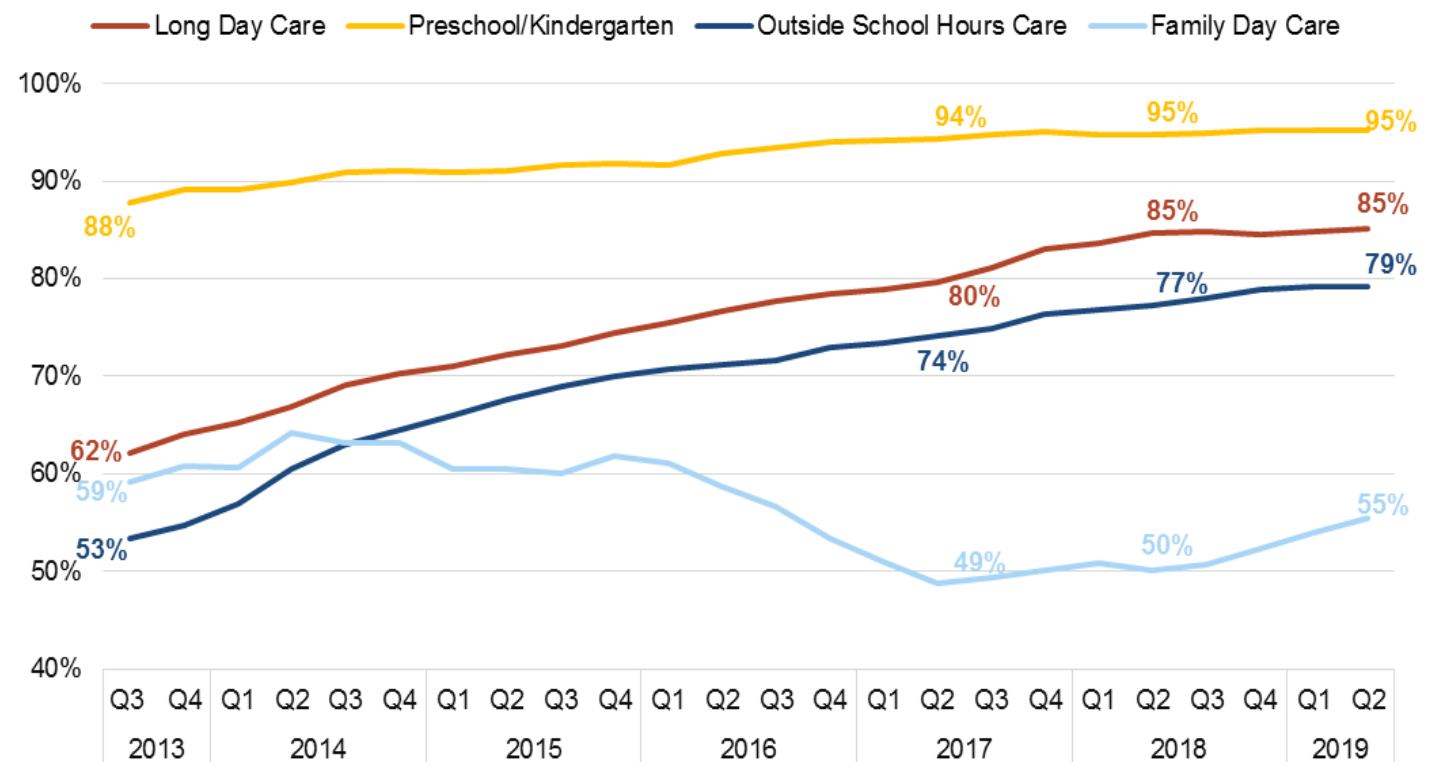
Chapter 2

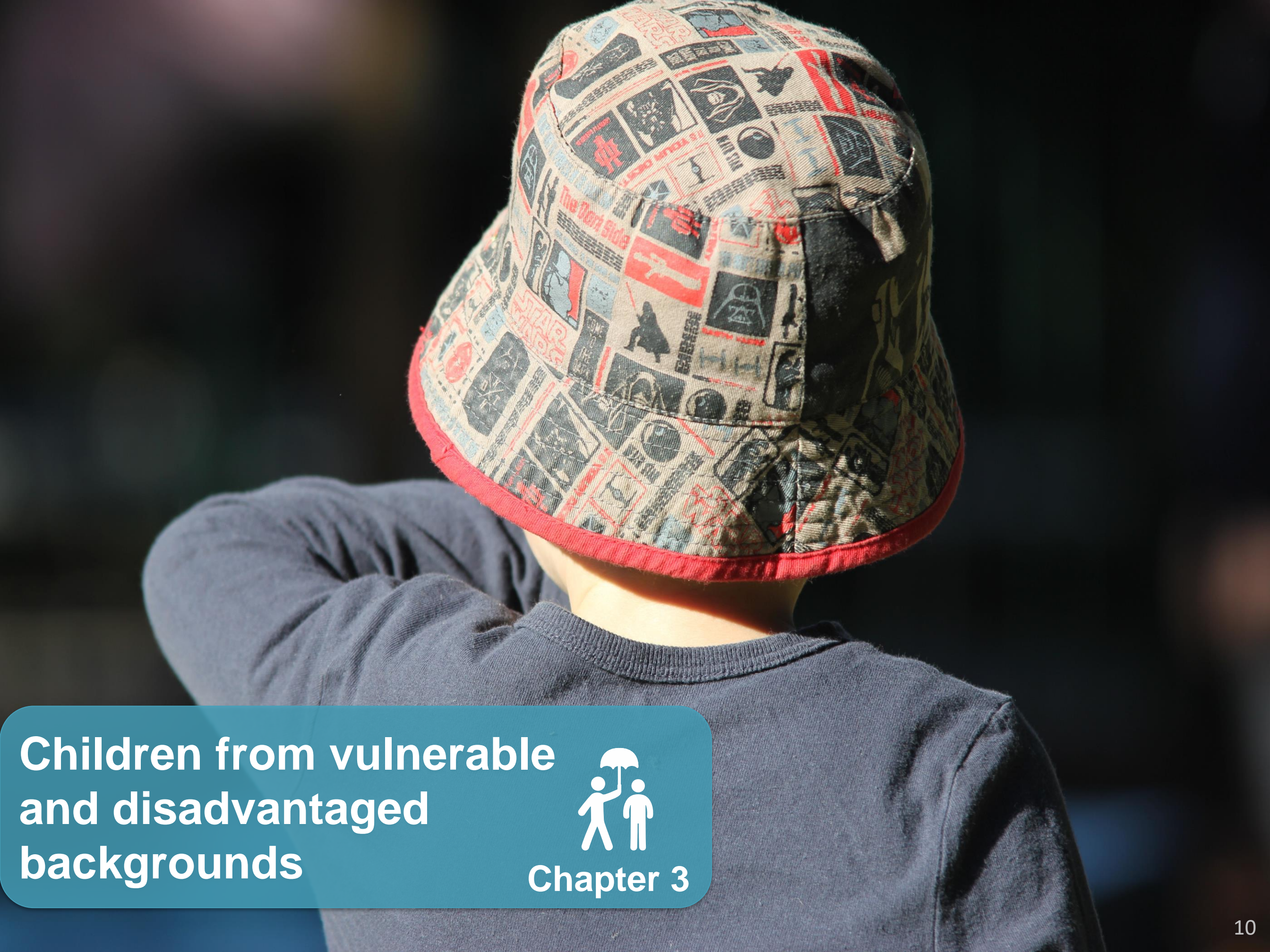
Educational program and practice

As at 30 June 2019:

- more than four-fifths (85%) of services are rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 1, up from 83% in 2018 and 80% in 2017
- preschools/kindergartens (95%) continue to have the highest proportion of services rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 1, followed by long day care (85%), outside school hours care (79%) and family day care services (55%).

Figure 2: Proportion of services rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 1





**Children from vulnerable
and disadvantaged
backgrounds**



Chapter 3

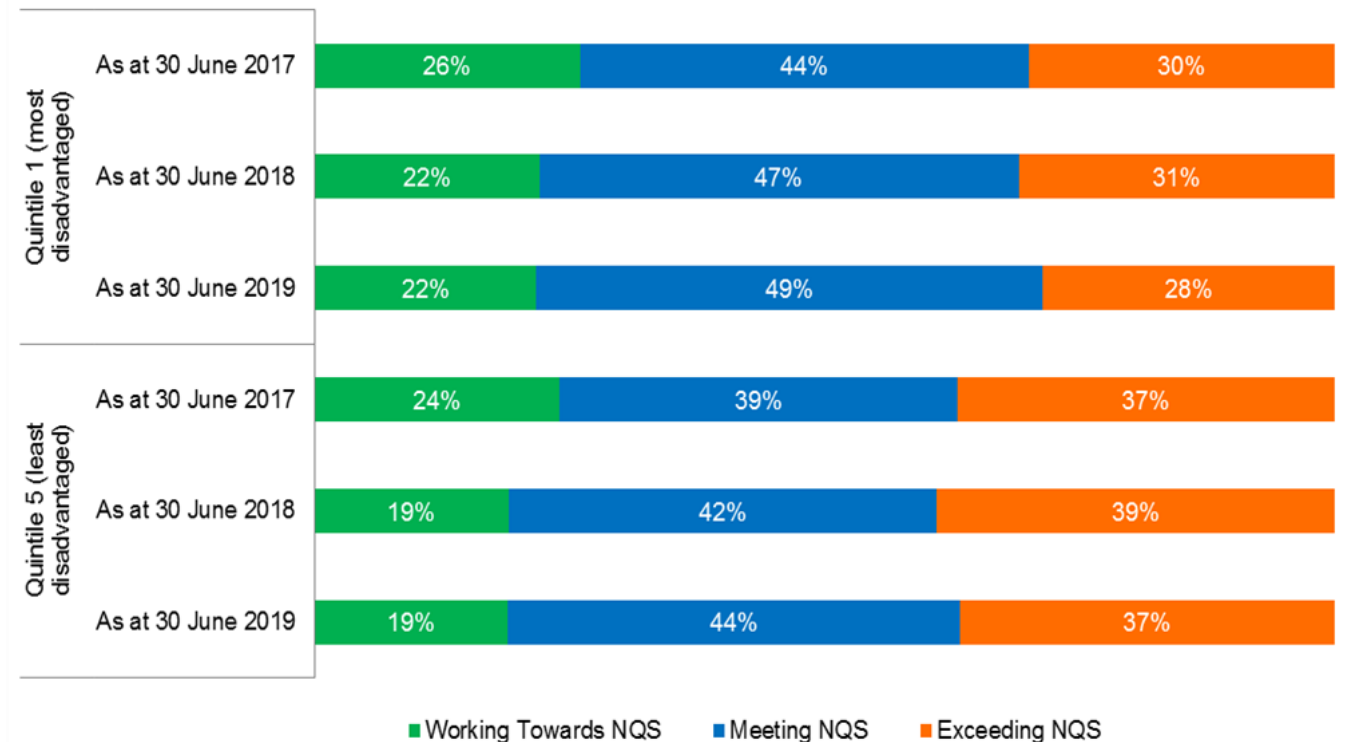
Children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds

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

As at 30 June 2019 there is a:

- relatively small difference between the proportion of services rated Meeting NQS or above in the most and least disadvantaged areas
- more marked difference in services rated Exceeding NQS in the most and least disadvantaged areas.

Figure 3: Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA quintiles 1 and 5





**Public awareness of
service quality**



Chapter 4

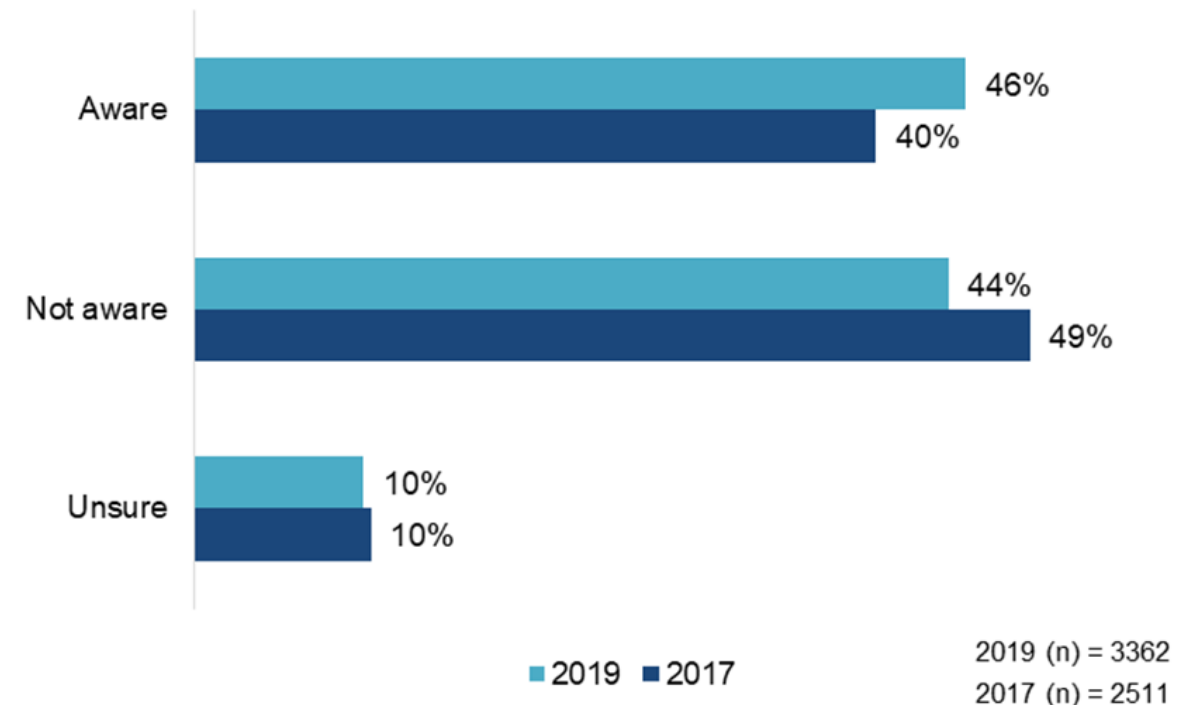
Public awareness of service quality

Research conducted in 2019 confirmed findings from earlier (2014, 2017, 2018) research, namely that knowledge and awareness of the NQS remains low.

Based on the 2019 survey, the level of awareness of the quality rating system remains low, although there has been an increase in awareness compared to the 2017 survey.


Issues raised in the initial consultation phase of the 2019 NQF Review relating to public awareness of service quality included the language, structure and frequency of the quality ratings, as well as the inherent differences between outside school hours care services and other centre-based services.

Figure 4: Survey respondents' awareness of the quality rating system





Workforce



Chapter 5

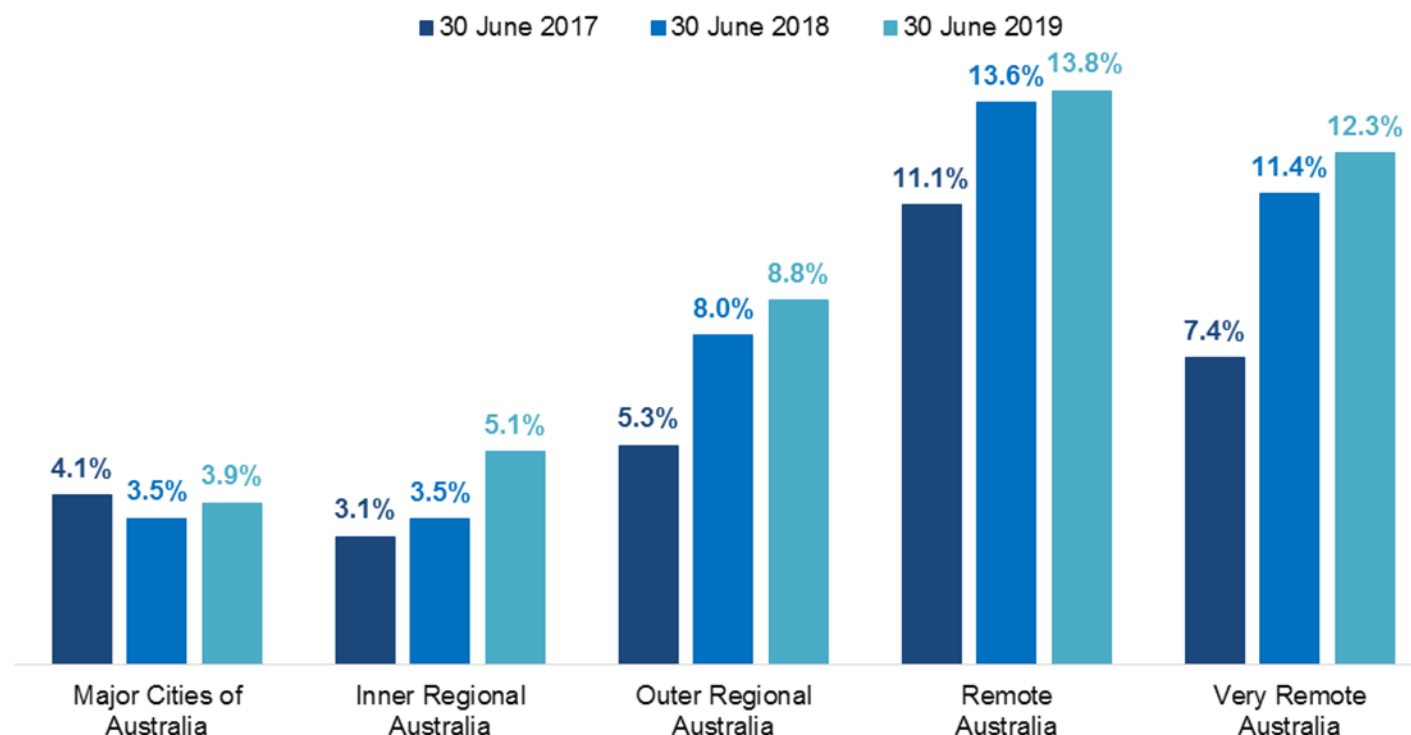
Workforce

Improved educator to child ratios and educator qualifications are associated with higher quality education and care.

There has been an overall reduction in enrolments in the Diploma and Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care between 2015 and 2018.

Services in remote and very remote areas continue to have the highest proportion of staffing waivers, with recent year on year increases in the proportion of services in regional and remote areas having a staffing waiver.

Figure 5: Proportion of services with a staffing waiver by remoteness classification





Annual Performance Report

More information

[acecqa.gov.au/APR](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/APR)

Subscribe to the ACECQA newsletter

[acecqa.gov.au/subscribe](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/subscribe)