

National Quality Framework

NQF Annual Performance Report 2022

This slide pack should be read in conjunction with the full Annual Performance Report

More details available at: [acecqa.gov.au/apr](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/apr)



Acknowledgement of Country



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority

ACECQA acknowledges the traditional custodians of all lands across Australia.

We recognise and celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians, including their role in the education and care of children.

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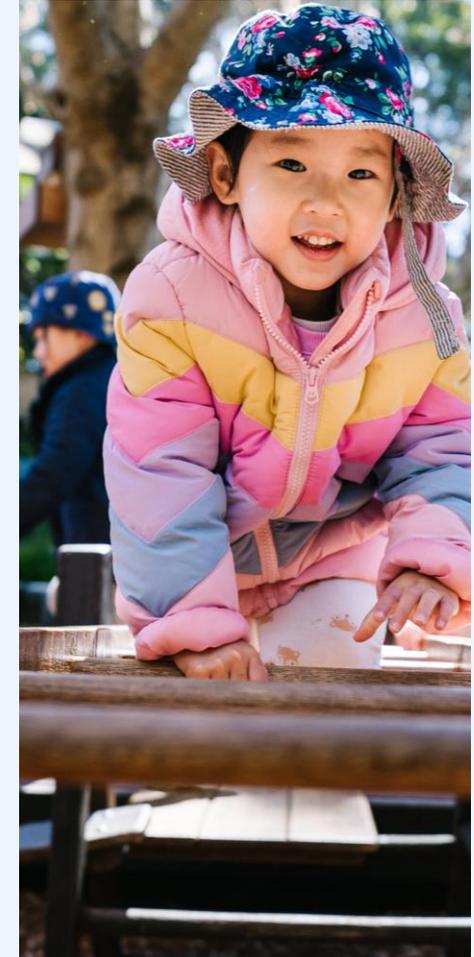
PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The **National Quality Framework (NQF)** represents a **nationwide commitment to quality education and care** for our youngest citizens. Of key importance in the NQF is ensuring children's health, safety and wellbeing, along with improving educational and developmental outcomes, and promoting continuous improvement in the quality of services.

The Annual Performance Report for 2022 analyses these fundamental aspects of the NQF, such as children's health and safety, educational outcomes, workforce, quality ratings by socio-economic status and remoteness and service provider perceptions of the NQF.

ACECQA's role to report to governments on the **evaluation of the NQF** is guided by a shared **NQF Evaluation Framework**. Reporting is done through quarterly **NQF Snapshots**, **occasional papers**, and **NQF Annual Performance Reports**, as well as discrete research projects.

Most of the data used in this report is **sourced from the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA ITS)**, as at 30 June 2022. The data is also **published on ACECQA's website**.



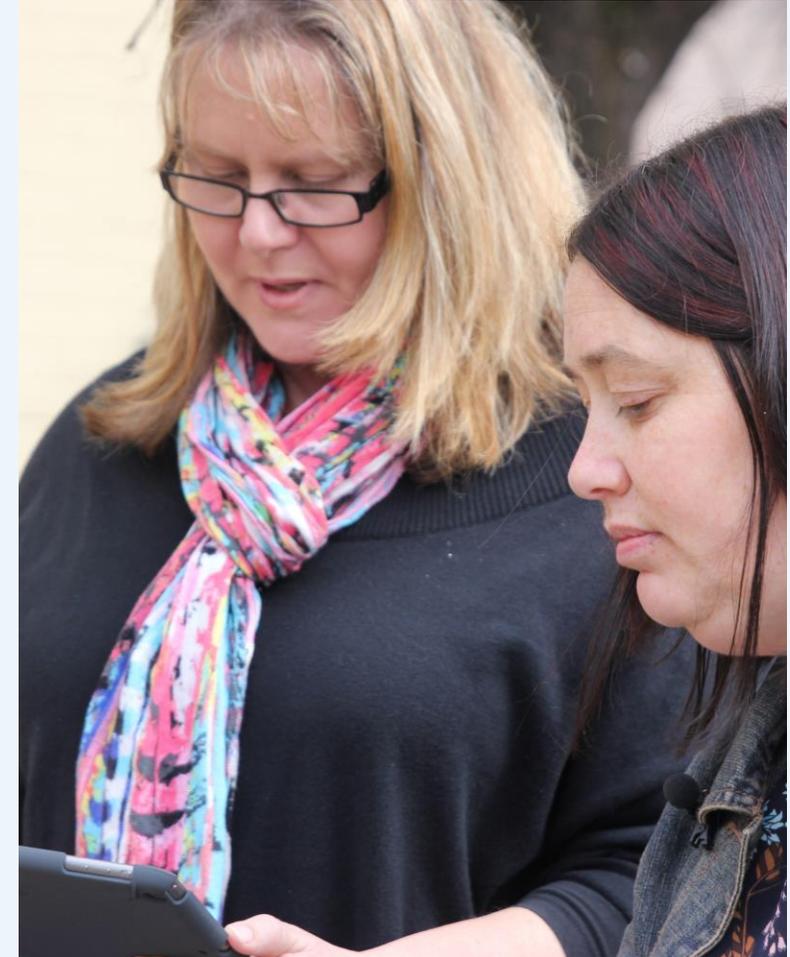


Overview of the children's education sector

OVERVIEW OF THE SECTOR: PROVIDERS

As at **30 June 2022**:

- More than **7200 providers**, with **80% operating a single service**.
- The **12 largest providers** in Australia **operate more than 100 services each**, with a combined total of around **3500 services**.
- **Private for-profit providers** operate:
 - **68% of long day care services**
 - **62% of family day care services**
 - **50% of outside school hours care services**
 - **1% of preschool/kindergarten services**.
- **‘Private not-for-profit community managed’** providers operate **half of preschools/kindergartens**, with more than a fifth (**22%**) being **‘state/territory and local government managed’**.

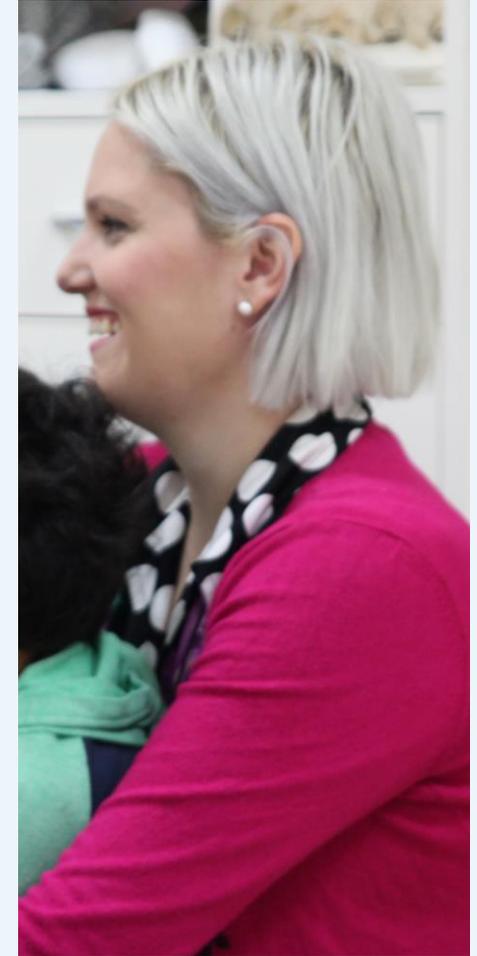


OVERVIEW OF THE SECTOR: SERVICES

As at **30 June 2022**:

- Almost **17,000 children's education and care services** approved to operate under the National Quality Framework (NQF):
 - **50%** classified as **long day care services**
 - **29%** **outside school hours care services**
 - **18%** **preschools/kindergartens**
 - **3%** **family day care services**.¹
- **Four-fifths (80%)** of services **located in the three most populous states**: New South Wales (34%), Victoria (27%) and Queensland (18%).
- **More than 15,300 services had a published quality rating** against the National Quality Standard (NQS), with **88%** of these services **rated Meeting NQS or above**.

¹ 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.



REPORT SNAPSHOT



The NQF aims to ensure the health and safety of all children attending approved education and care services

Chapter 1
Children's health and safety



More than 90% of services are rated Meeting NQS or above for educational program and practice

Chapter 2
Educational program and practice



More services than ever in the most disadvantaged areas of Australia are rated Meeting NQS or above

Chapter 3
Children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds



Quality outcomes for children depend upon a highly skilled, well supported and professionally recognised workforce

Chapter 4
Workforce



Support for the NQF remains very high among approved providers of services

Chapter 5
Service provider perceptions of the NQF



Chapter 1

Children's health and safety



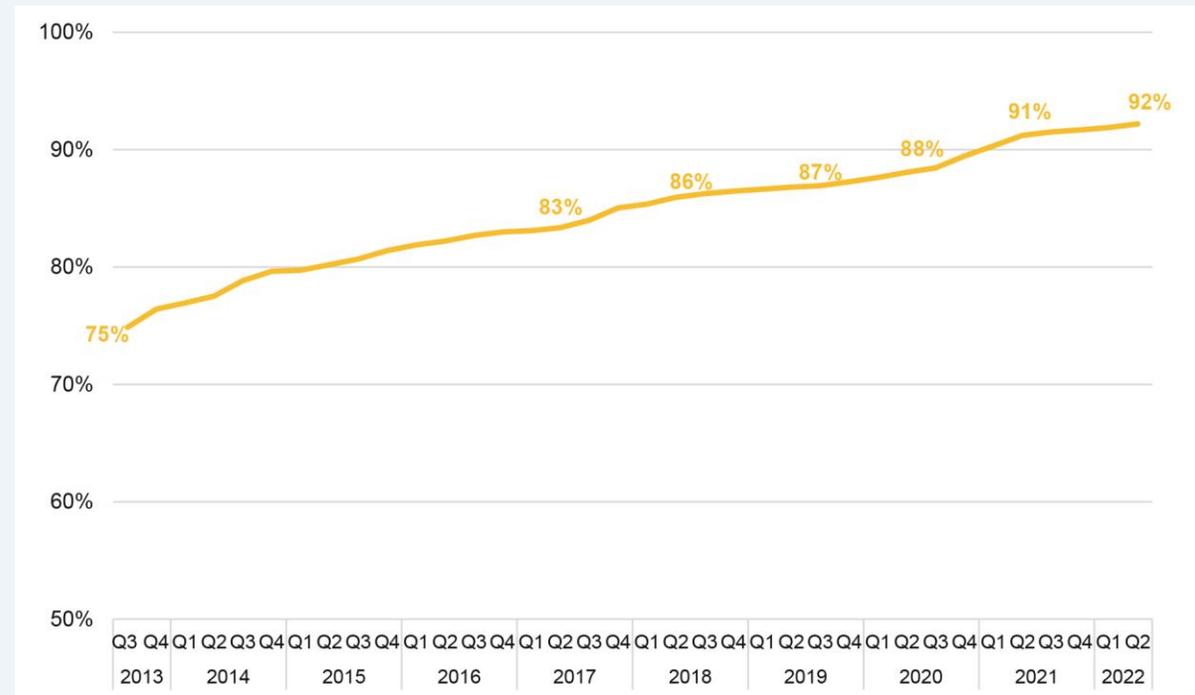
CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

As at 30 June 2022:

- More than nine out of ten (**92%**) services are rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 2, up from 91% one year ago and 88% two years ago.

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



Chapter 2

Educational program and practice

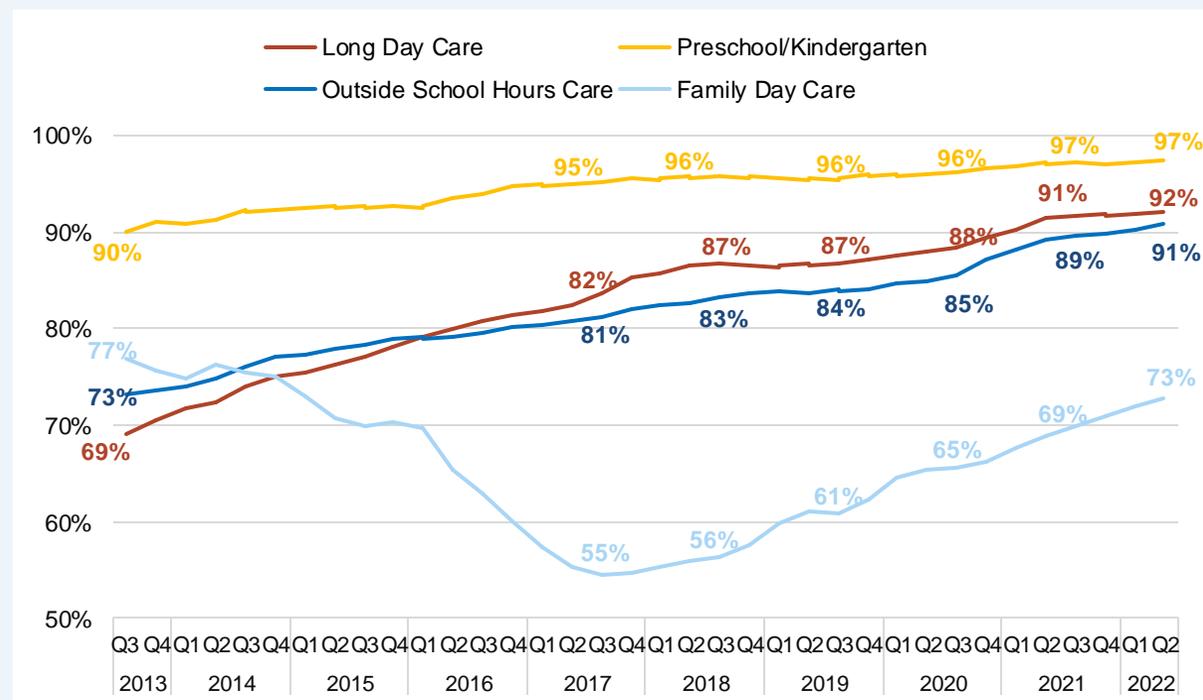


Educational program and practice

As at **30 June 2022**:

- 91% of services are rated Meeting NQS or above for Quality Area 1, up from 90% a year ago and 87% two years ago.
- **Almost three-quarters (73%)** of family day care services are rated Meeting NQS or above for educational programs and practice – **the highest proportion for more than seven years.**

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



Chapter 3

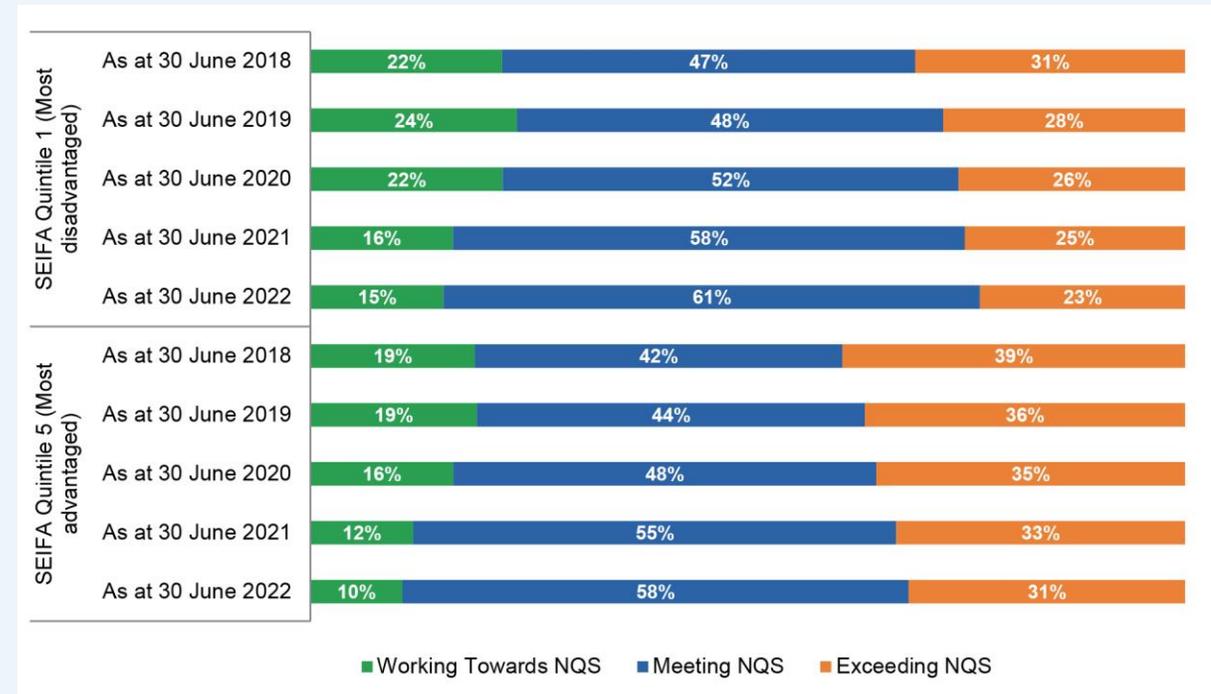
Children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds



Children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds

- Children from more disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to be **developmentally vulnerable** and receive the **greatest benefits from attending high quality education and care services**.
- The proportion of children’s education and care services in the **most disadvantaged areas** of Australia rated **Meeting NQS** or above **increased to 84%** in 2022 up from 83% last year and 78% two years ago.
- However, there remains a **marked difference** in the proportion of services rated Meeting and Exceeding NQS in the **most advantaged areas** compared to those in the **most disadvantaged areas**.

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





Chapter 4

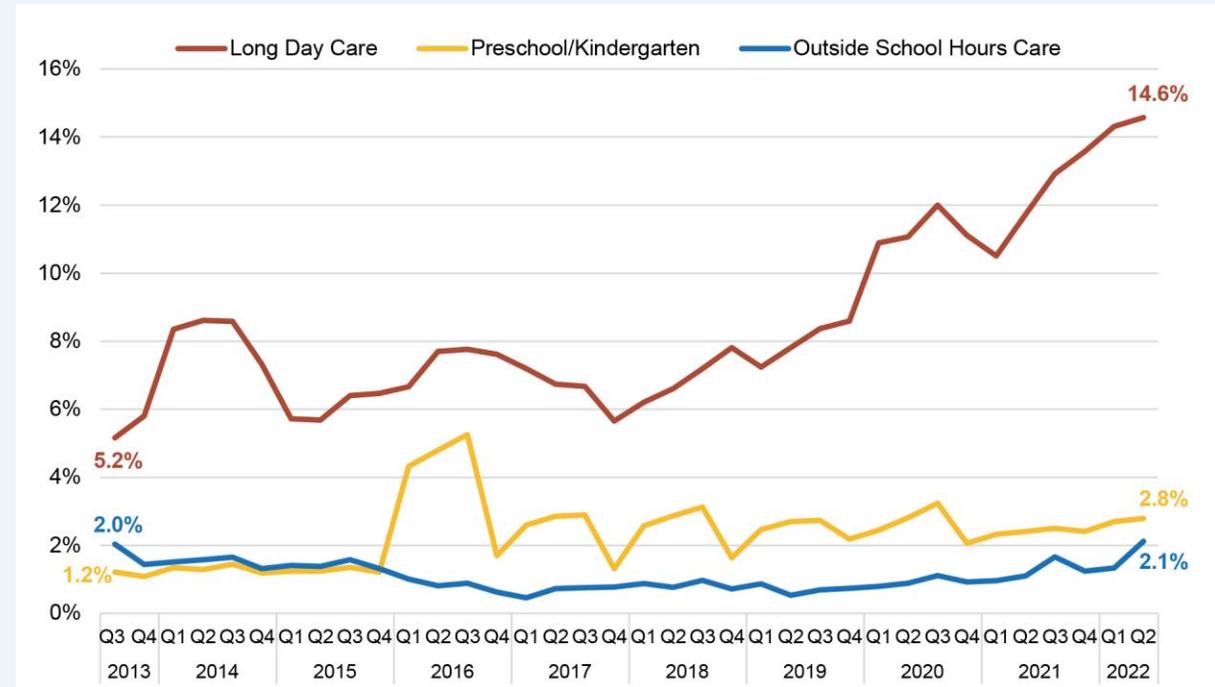
Workforce



Workforce

- Quality outcomes for children **depend** upon a **highly skilled, well supported** and **professionally recognised workforce**.
- As at 30 June 2022, **15% of long day care services** hold a **staffing waiver**, mostly relating to temporary issues meeting the early childhood teacher staffing requirements.
- An **implementation and evaluation plan** outlining the steps that will be taken **to progress, monitor and review the National Workforce Strategy's 21 actions** was published in September 2022.

Figure 4: Proportion of services with a staffing waiver by centre-based service type



[acecqa.gov.au/national-workforce-strategy](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-workforce-strategy)

Chapter 5

Service provider perceptions
of the NQF

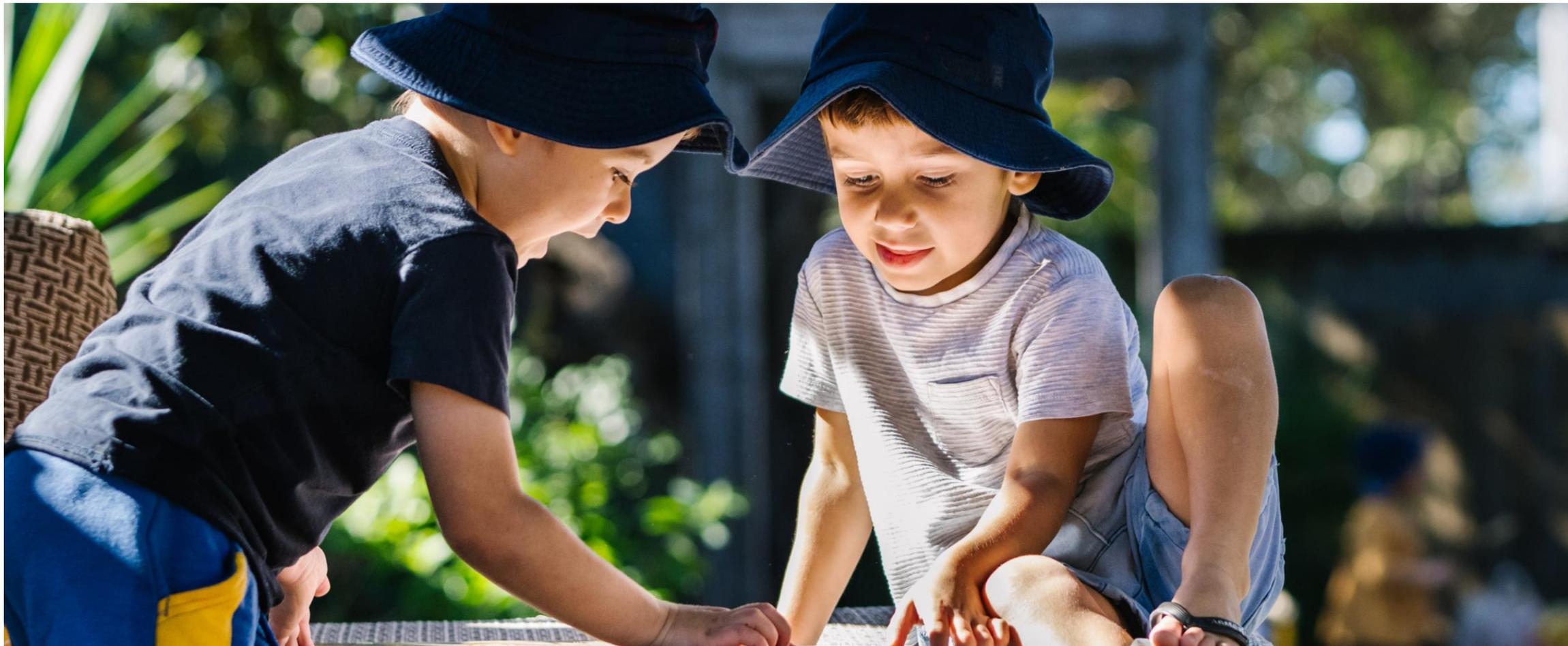


Service provider perceptions of the NQF

- One of the objectives of the National Quality Framework is to reduce the regulatory and administrative burden for children’s education and care services.
- Since 2013, ACECQA has conducted six surveys examining approved providers’ perceptions of the NQF.
- While support for the NQF remains very high, the level of burden associated with the administrative requirements of the NQF reported by some providers is something ACECQA and governments will work to address.

Figure 5: Overall support for the NQF

	Number of respondents	% of respondents that were supportive of the NQF
2013 survey	2,257	98.1%
2014 survey	2,623	97.9%
2015 survey	1,335	99.3%
2017 survey	2,362	97.1%
2018 survey	2,178	96.8%
2022 survey	1,814	96.9%



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