



# NQF Snapshot

## Q1 2018

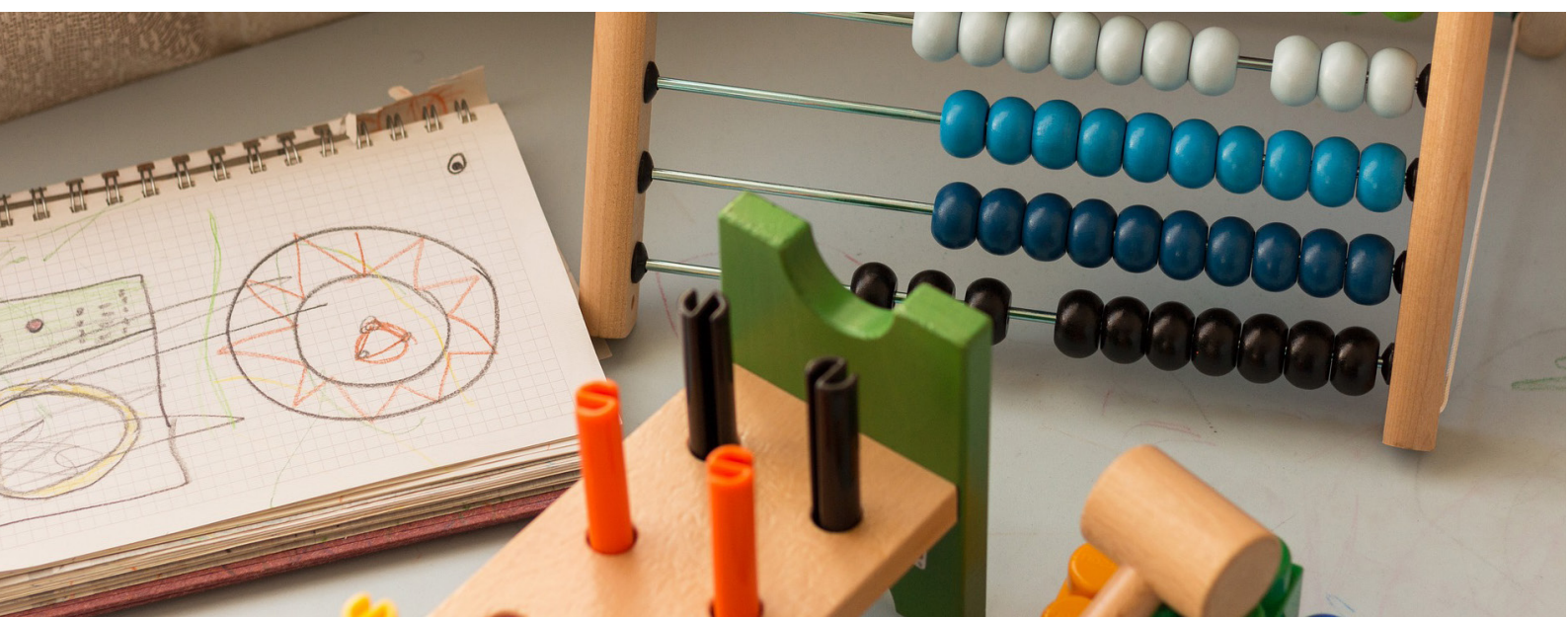


Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority™

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

May 2018

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# Overview

NQF Snapshot Q1 2018 is ACECQA's 21st 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, progress of assessment and rating 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. Previous NQF Snapshots have included analysis at the standard and element level. This analysis will be reintroduced once a sufficient number of services have been assessed and rated under the revised (2018) NQS to allow for meaningful comparisons.

An [interactive online version of the Snapshot](#) 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 April 2018 for the period ending 31 March 2018.

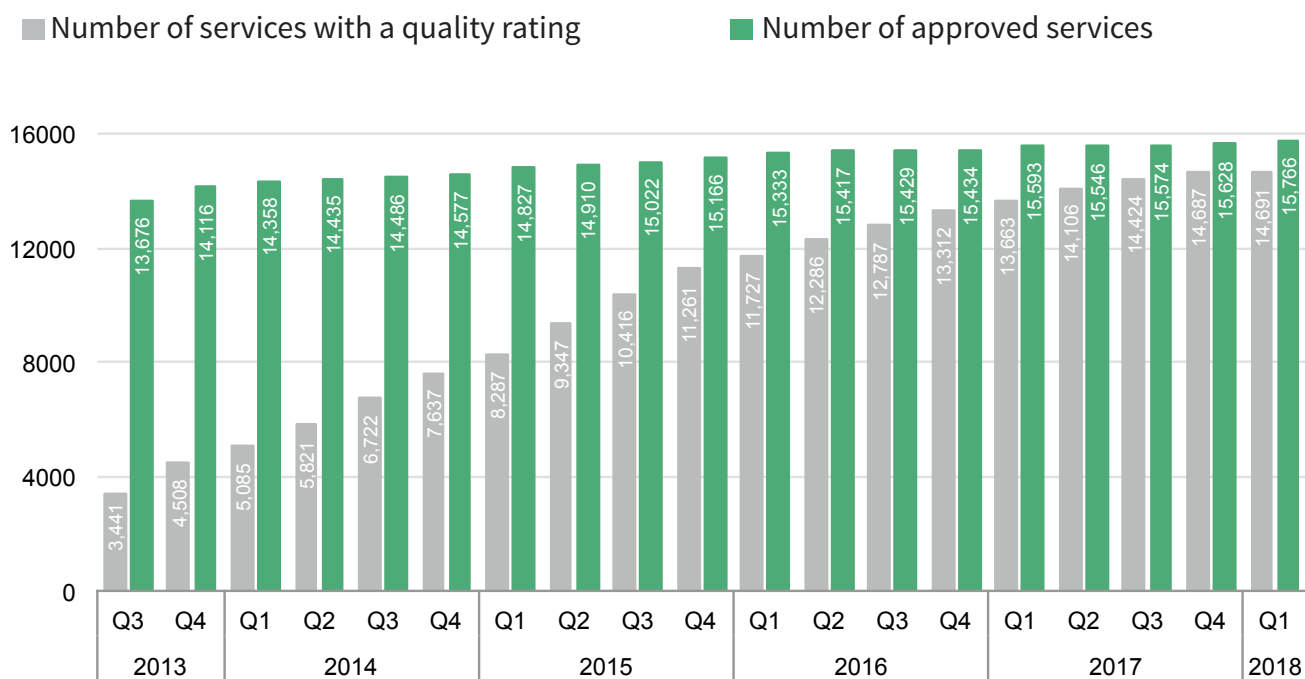
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



# Snapshot highlights

<b>15,766</b>	children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF
<b>14,691 (93%)</b>	services with a quality rating
<b>11,321 (77%)</b>	services with a quality rating of Meeting NQS or above
<b>7410</b>	providers approved to operate
<b>6107</b>	providers approved to operate only one service
<b>55</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA <sup>1</sup>
<b>4109</b>	quality rating reassessments completed
<b>67%</b>	of services rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment

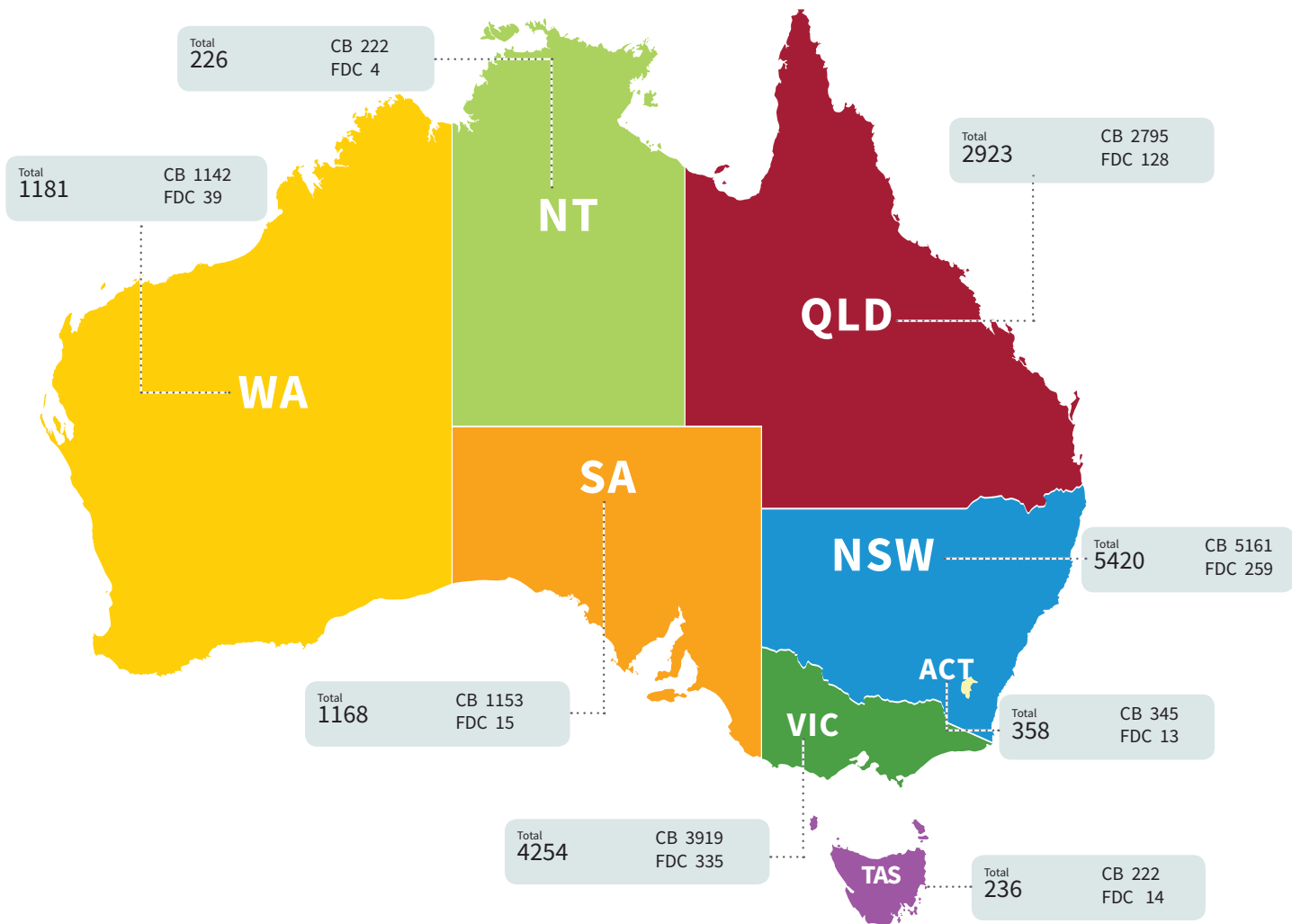
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



<sup>1</sup> 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) <sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>14,959 (95%)</b></p> <p>2% Increase on Q1 2017</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) <sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>807 (5%)</b></p> <p>16% Decrease on Q1 2017</p>	<p>Total</p> <p><b>15,766</b></p> <p>1% Increase on Q1 2017</p>
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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>

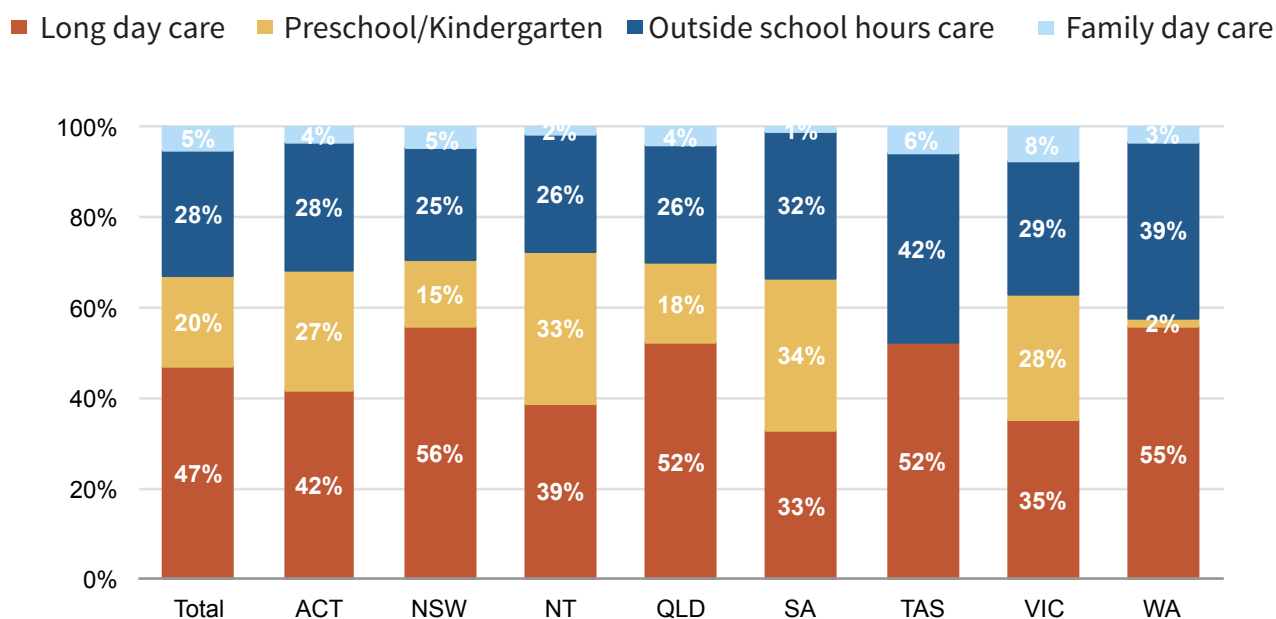


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	13	149	95	101	0	358
NSW	259	3017	797	1347	0	5420
NT	4	87	75	58	2	226
QLD	128	1517	517	759	2	2923
SA	15	380	398	375	0	1168
TAS	14	123	0	99	0	236
VIC	335	1482	1199	1238	0	4254
WA	39	654	26	460	2	1181
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>7409</b>	<b>3107</b>	<b>4437</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15,766</b>

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 would tick multiple boxes.

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

Figure 4: Proportion of approved services by provider management type <sup>1,2,3</sup>

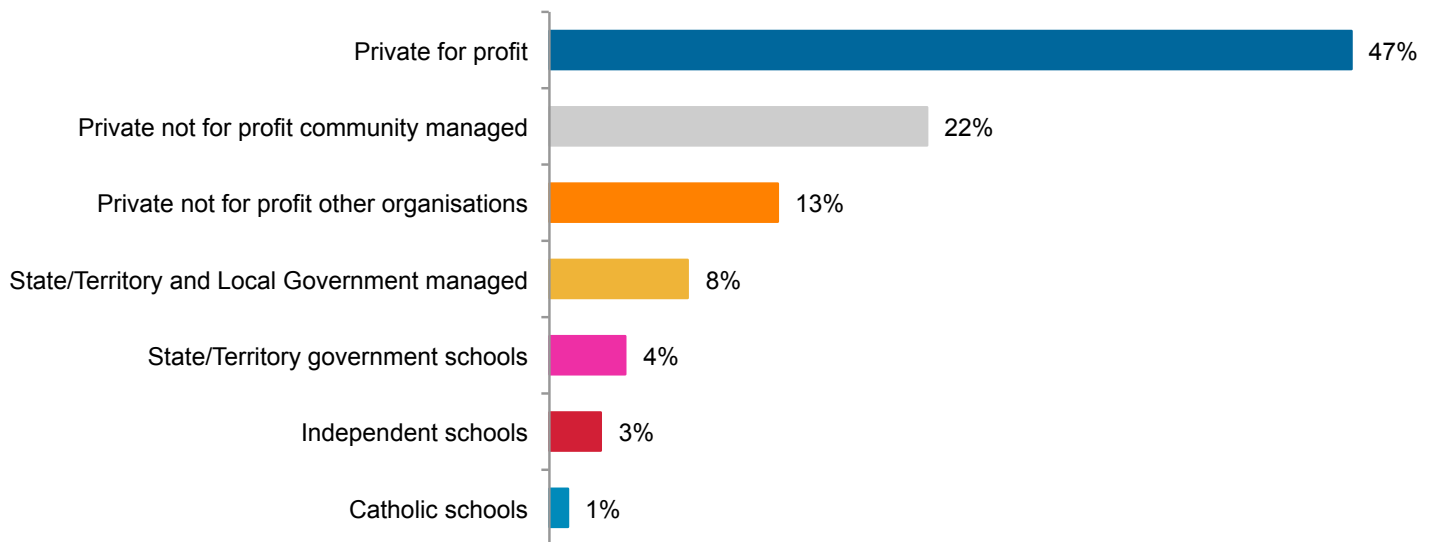


Table 2: Number and proportion of approved services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7466	47%
Private not for profit community managed	3516	22%
Private not for profit other organisations	2126	13%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1287	8%
State/Territory government schools	706	4%
Independent schools	478	3%
Catholic schools	173	1%
Not stated/Other	14	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,766</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provider management type classifications have been applied for the purposes of Snapshot reporting. The type of services in these categories can vary significantly. In the case of 'State/Territory and local government' managed services, for example, providers include local councils, health departments, the vocational training arms of government, and other government controlled agencies that are not government schools. Provider service sub-type profile also varies significantly across and within jurisdictions. For example, 'Private for Profit' services are predominantly comprised of Long Day Care, while 'State/Territory and local government' managed services are predominantly comprised of Preschool/Kindergarten. More detailed definitions of these classifications can be found at Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014) National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Data Collection Guide, 2013, Cat. No. 4240.0.55.002, ABS, Canberra, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/EDCFD2FC57CD225CA257C93000D13A7?opendocument>

<sup>3</sup> 14 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 with services by size**

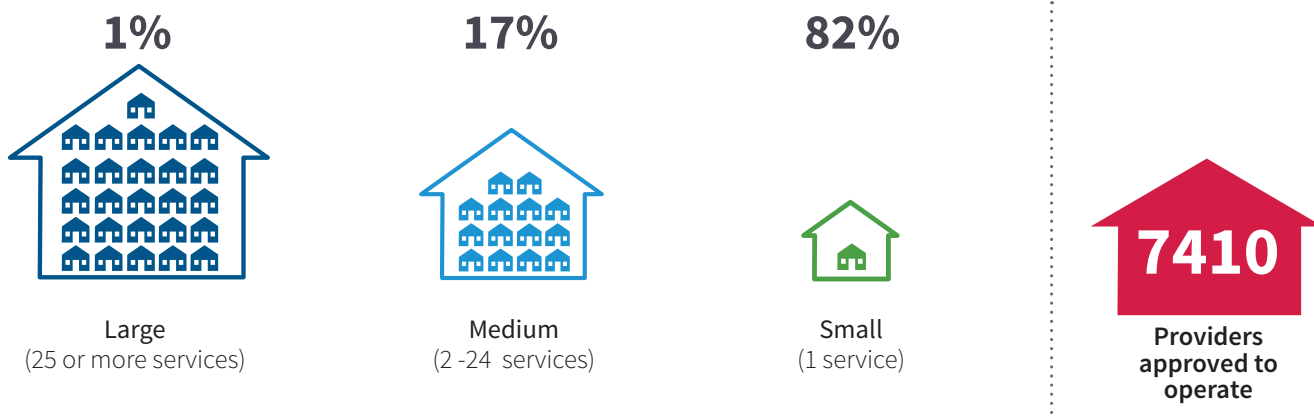
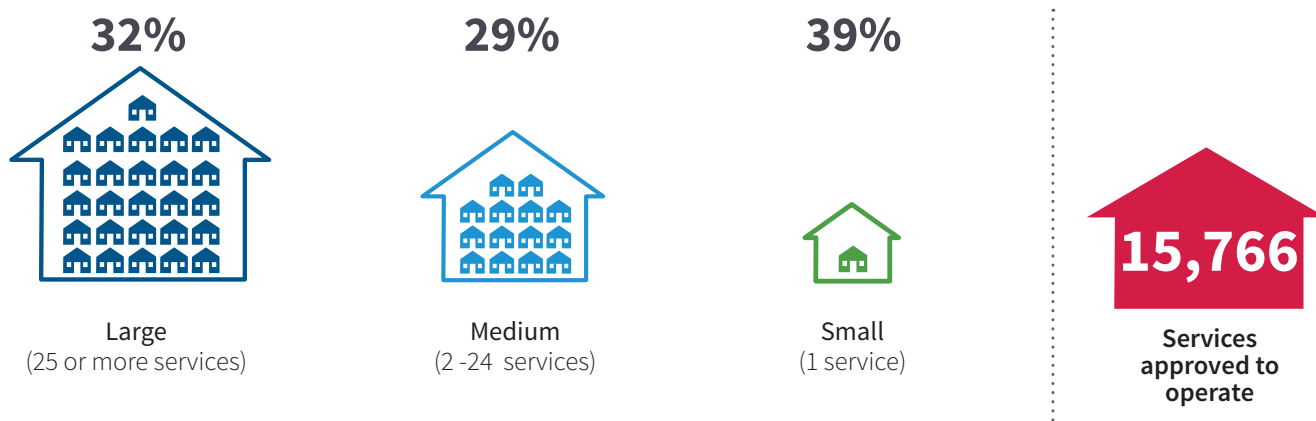


Figure 6 shows that 39% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 32% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

**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 97%.

**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%	320	89%
NSW	5420	34%	5172	95%
NT	226	1%	210	93%
QLD	2923	19%	2760	94%
SA	1168	7%	1054	90%
TAS	236	1%	222	94%
VIC	4254	27%	3883	91%
WA	1181	7%	1070	91%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,766</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,691</b>	<b>93%</b>

**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	7	132	92	89	0	<b>320</b>
NSW	220	2895	789	1268	0	<b>5172</b>
NT	4	80	74	50	2	<b>210</b>
QLD	105	1442	503	708	2	<b>2760</b>
SA	9	341	345	359	0	<b>1054</b>
TAS	13	121	0	88	0	<b>222</b>
VIC	271	1329	1170	1113	0	<b>3883</b>
WA	39	611	22	396	2	<b>1070</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>6951</b>	<b>2995</b>	<b>4071</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14,691</b>

# Quality improvement

Table 5 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 1351 of services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 919 services previously rated Working Towards NQS received the same rating again after reassessment.

**Table 5: Reassessments by overall quality rating<sup>1</sup>**

		Rating after reassessment				Total
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	13	37	7	1	58
	Working Towards NQS	15	919	1351	569	2854
	Meeting NQS	0	177	404	250	831
	Exceeding NQS	0	53	81	232	366
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>1843</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>4109</b>

		Rating after reassessment				Improvement rate
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	22%	64%	12%	2%	78%
	Working Towards NQS	1%	32%	47%	20%	67%
	Meeting NQS	0%	21%	49%	30%	30%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	14%	22%	63%	-

<sup>1</sup> 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.

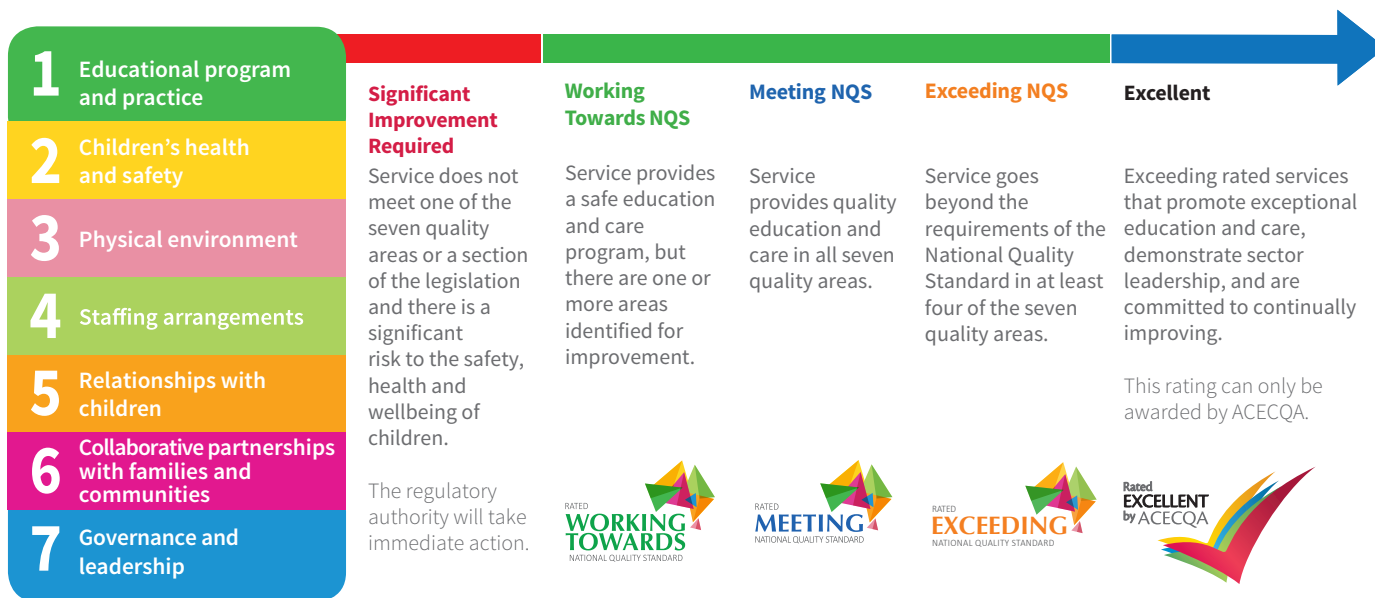


Table 6: Overall quality ratings by jurisdiction

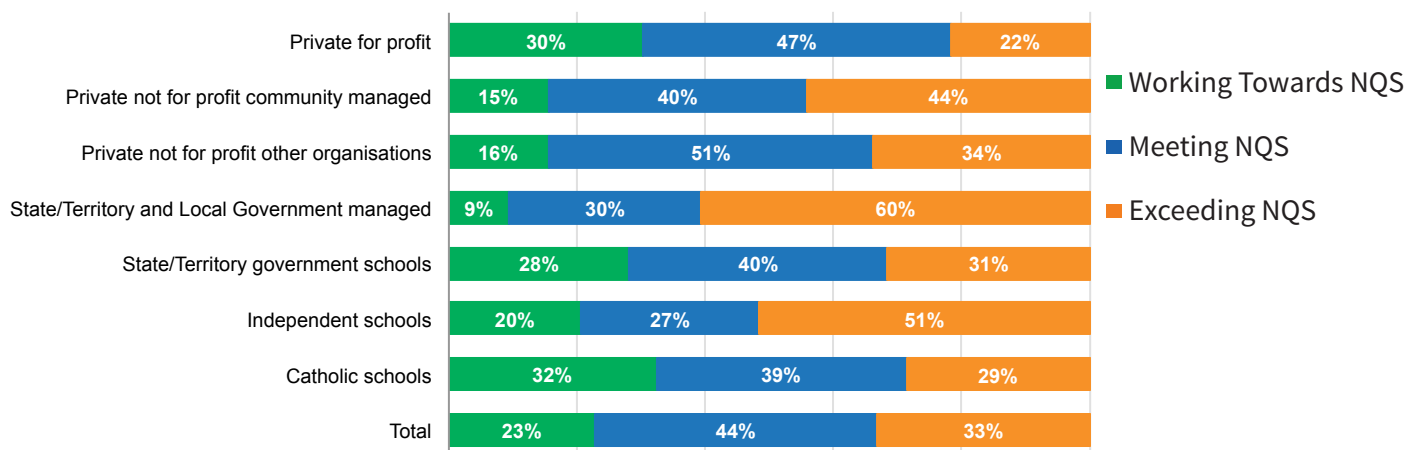
	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
ACT	0	98 (31%)	77 (24%)	140 (44%)	5	320
NSW	26	1335 (26%)	2254 (44%)	1540 (30%)	17	5172
NT	0	80 (38%)	94 (45%)	35 (17%)	1	210
QLD	2	518 (19%)	1322 (48%)	904 (33%)	14	2760
SA	0	281 (27%)	252 (24%)	514 (49%)	7	1054
TAS	0	46 (21%)	91 (41%)	85 (38%)	0	222
VIC	8	619 (16%)	1917 (49%)	1328 (34%)	11	3883
WA	0	357 (33%)	409 (38%)	304 (28%)	0	1070
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3334 (23%)</b>	<b>6416 (44%)</b>	<b>4850 (33%)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>14,691</b>

# Overall quality ratings by provider management type

Figure 7 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 9). In contrast, preschools/kindergartens make up only 1% of 'Private for profit' services.

**Figure 7: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level<sup>1</sup>**



**Table 7: Number of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level**

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
Private for profit	34	2033	3196	1456	11	6730
Private not for profit community managed	2	528	1370	1496	23	3419
Private not for profit other organisations	0	315	1025	682	4	2026
State/Territory and Local Government managed	0	113	356	722	6	1197
State/Territory government schools	0	195	278	218	2	693
Independent schools	0	91	122	227	8	448
Catholic schools	0	53	64	47	0	164
Not Stated/Other	0	6	5	2	1	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3334</b>	<b>6416</b>	<b>4850</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>14,691</b>

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



# Overall quality ratings by service type

Figure 8: Overall quality ratings by service type

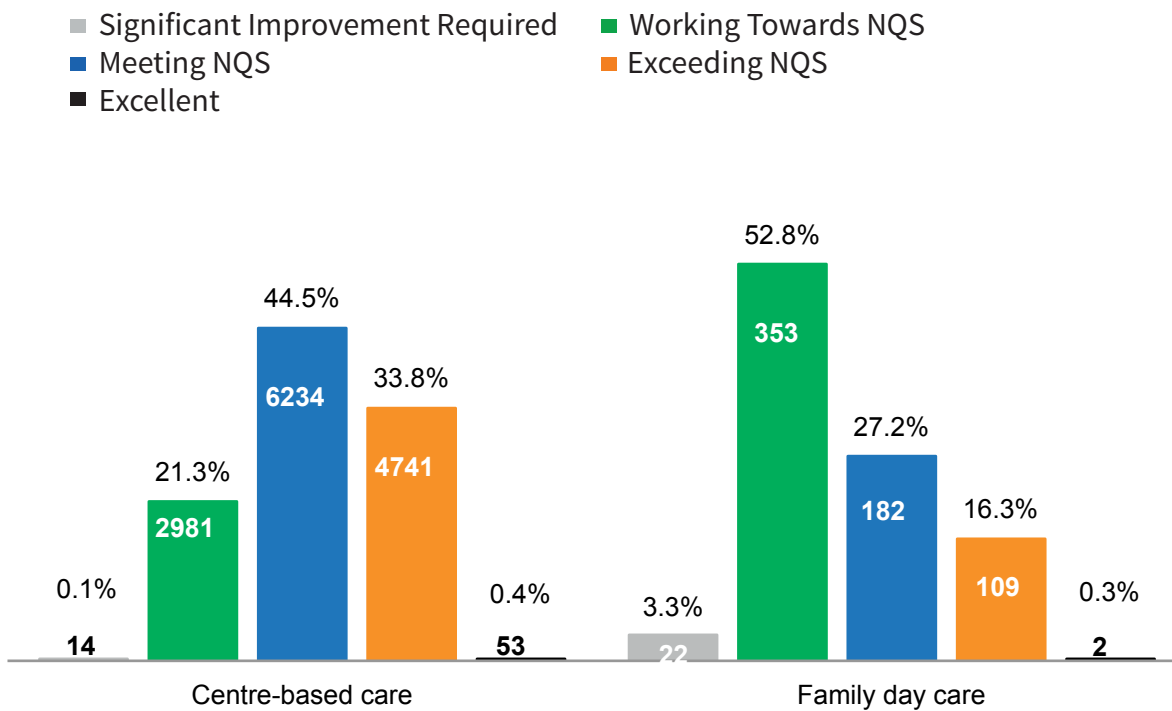
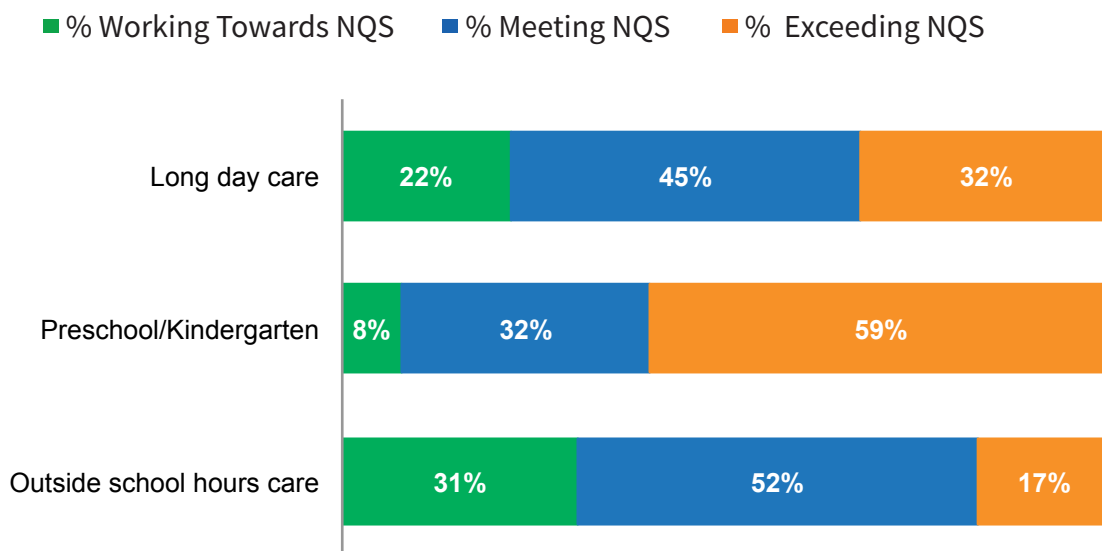


Figure 9: Overall quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type



The interactive online version of the Snapshot includes additional analysis and is available on the ACECQA website.

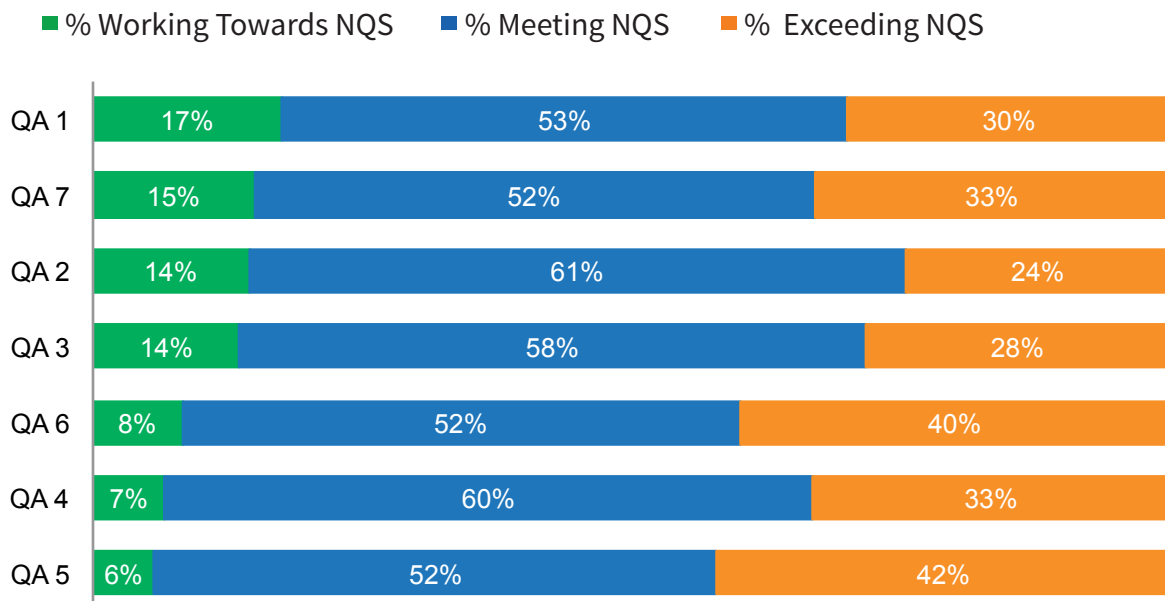
# Quality area ratings

Table 8 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 8: Number of approved services with a quality rating by quality area and overall quality level**

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Total
QA 1	1	2,566	7,741	4,383	14,691
QA 7	27	2,195	7,625	4,844	14,691
QA 2	33	2,117	8,951	3,590	14,691
QA 3	17	2,004	8,518	4,152	14,691
QA 6	0	1,211	7,613	5,867	14,691
QA 4	8	978	8,830	4,875	14,691
QA 5	0	837	7,683	6,171	14,691

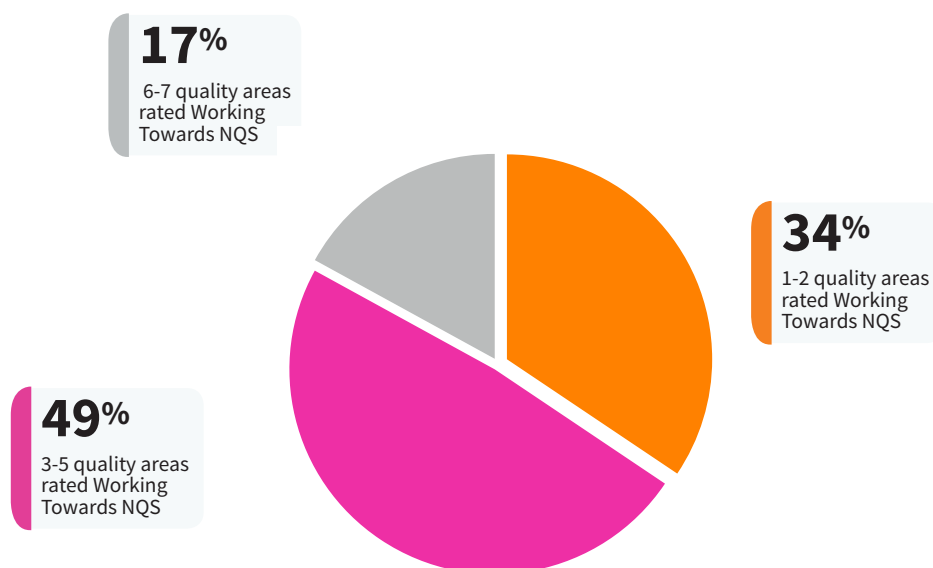
**Figure 10: Quality area ratings**



# Services rated Working Towards NQS

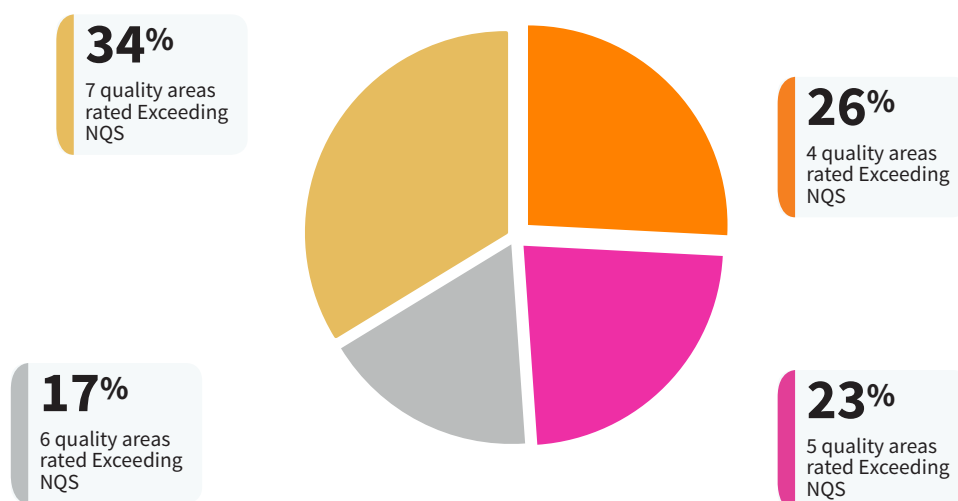
A service will receive an overall rating of Working Towards NQS if any of the seven quality areas are rated as Working Towards NQS. A quality area will be rated as Working Towards NQS if any of the standards within that quality area are rated as Working Towards NQS.

Figure 11: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of quality areas rated Working Towards NQS



# Services rated Exceeding NQS

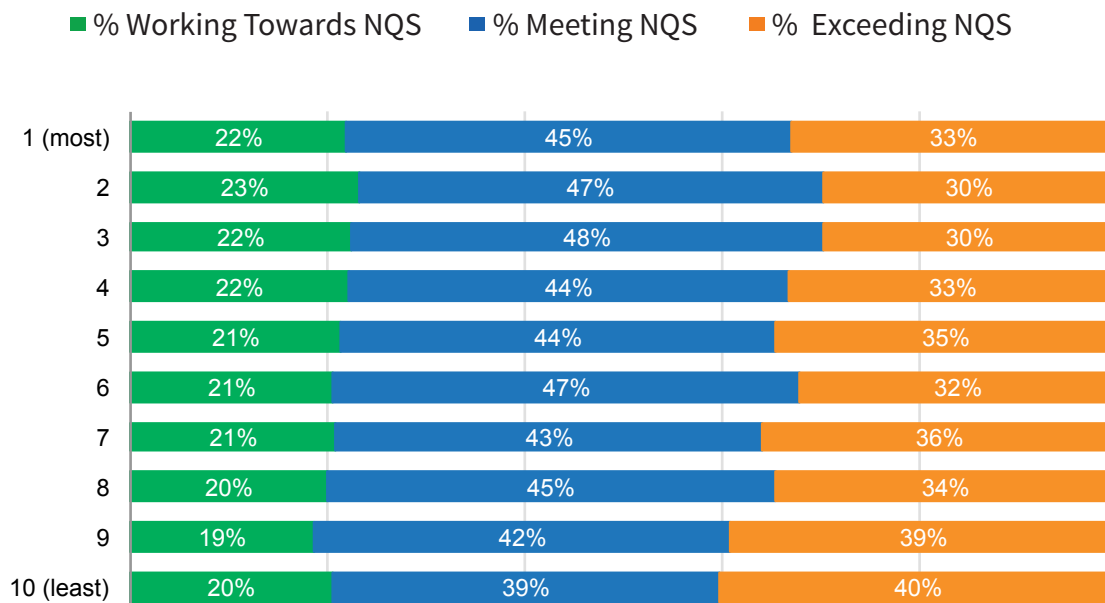
Figure 12: Proportion of services rated Exceeding NQS overall by number of quality areas rated Exceeding NQS



# Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA<sup>1</sup>

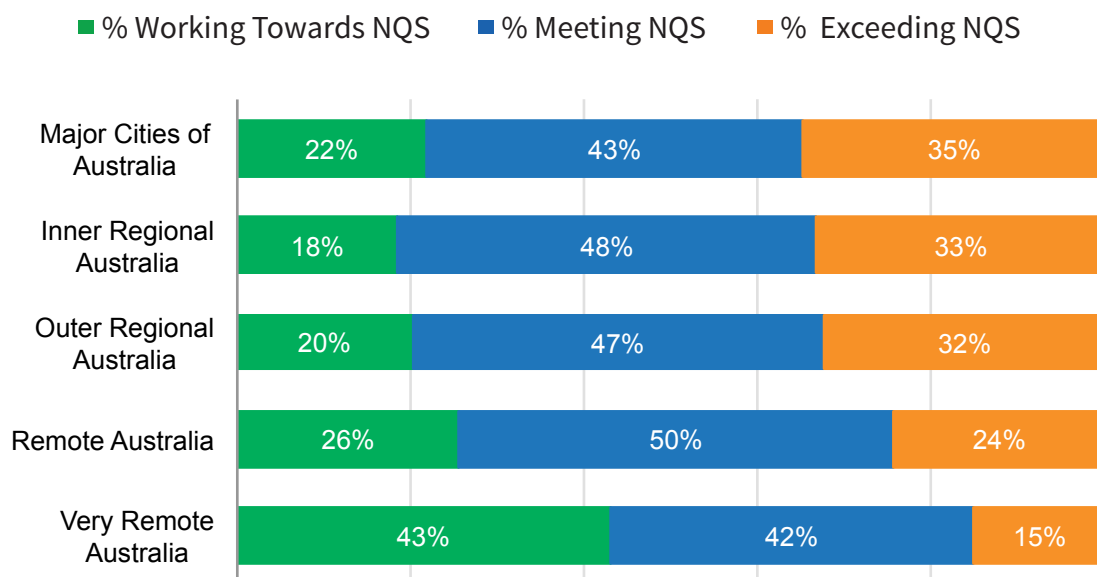
SEIFA is a product that ranks areas according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on census data. Variables used cover a number of areas including household income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other indicators of advantage and disadvantage.

Figure 13: Quality ratings by SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage



# Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification<sup>2</sup>

Figure 14: Quality ratings by remoteness classification



1 FDC services are excluded from SEIFA classification because their approval is not specific to one location. There are also 503 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a SEIFA classification.

2 FDC services are excluded from remoteness classification because their approval is not specific to one location. There are also 107 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with an ARIA+ classification.



# Australian Capital Territory summary

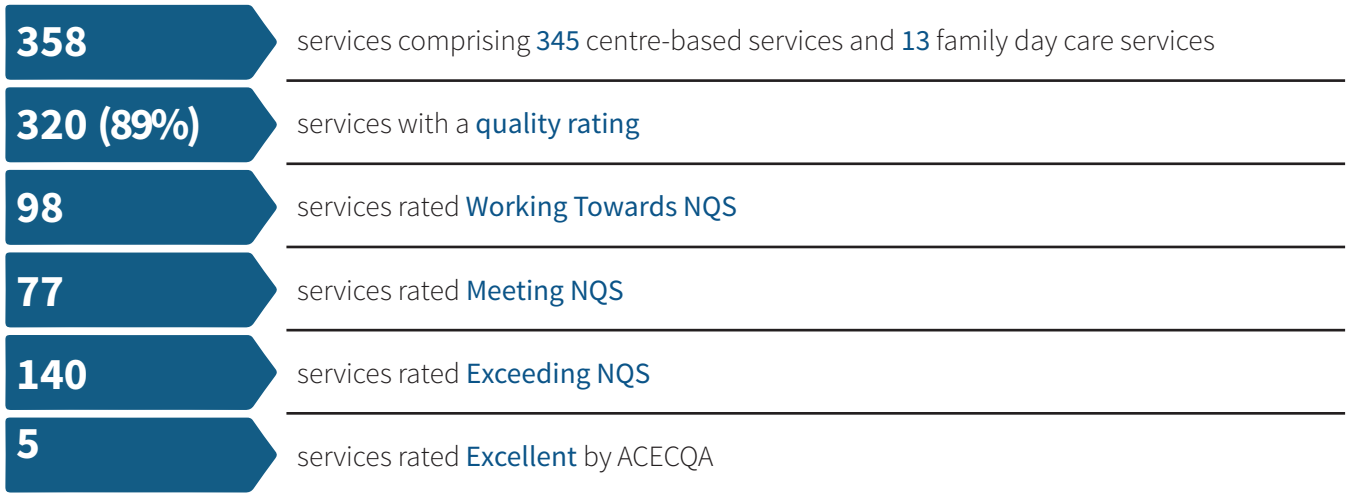
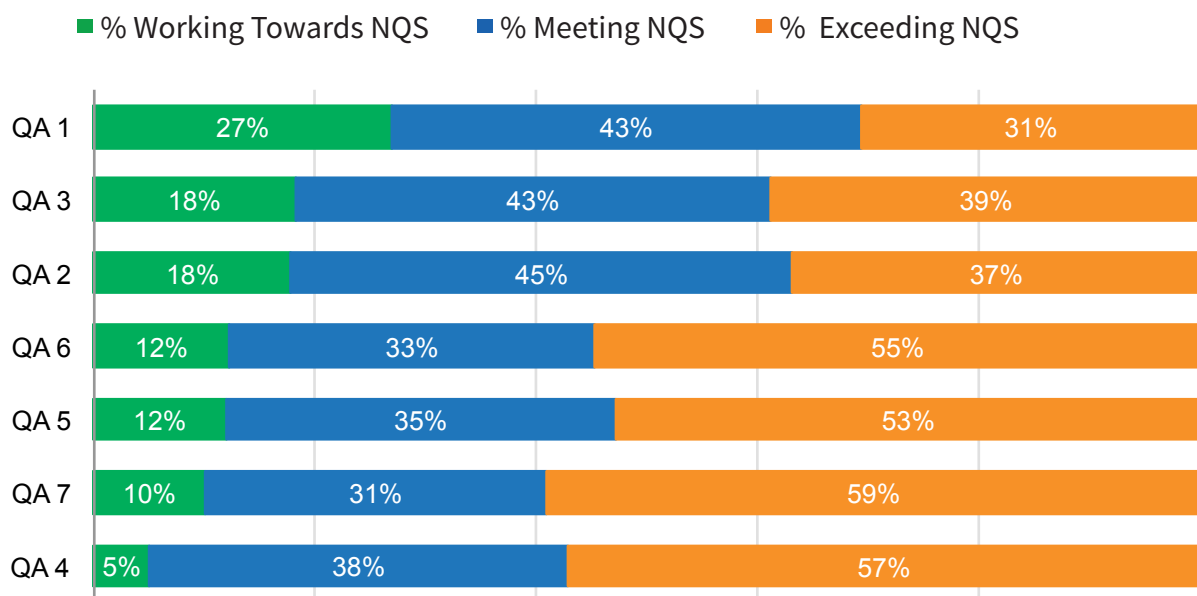


Figure 15 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

**Figure 15: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

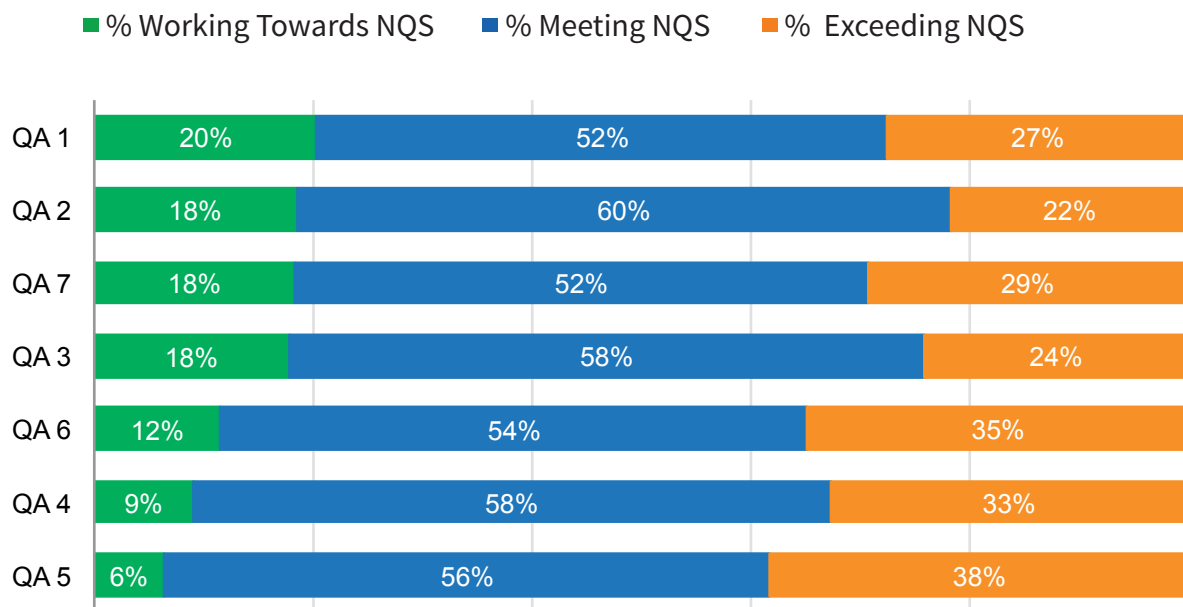
Education and Training Directorate  
 Children's Governance and Assurance  
[www.education.act.gov.au](http://www.education.act.gov.au)

# New South Wales summary

<b>5420</b>	services comprising <b>5161</b> centre-based services and <b>259</b> family day care services
<b>5172 (95%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>26</b>	services rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>1335</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>2254</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>1540</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>17</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

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

Department of Education  
 Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate  
[www.education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education)

# Northern Territory summary

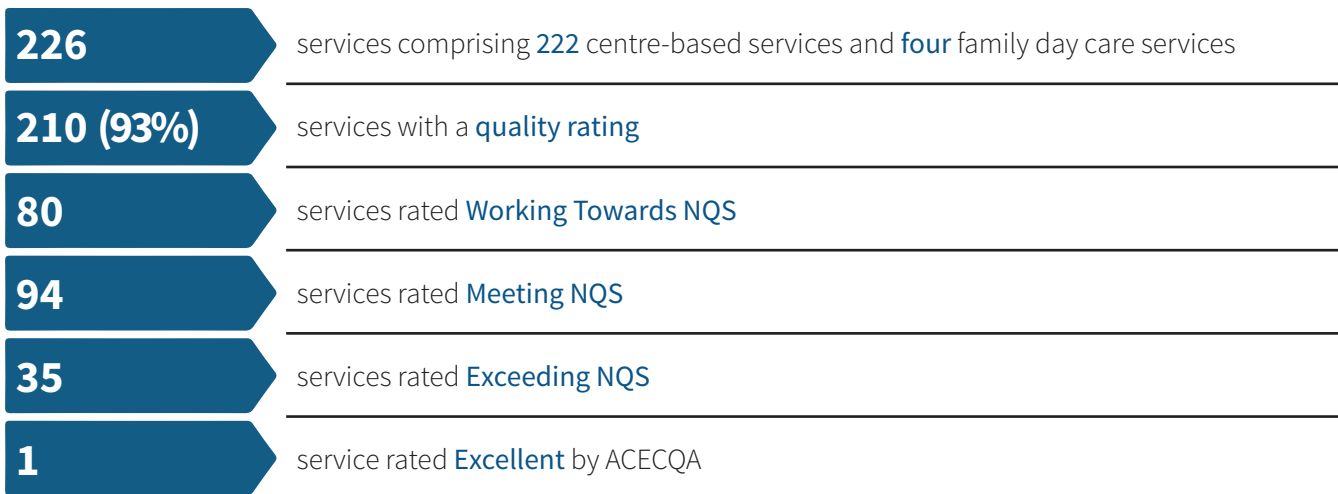
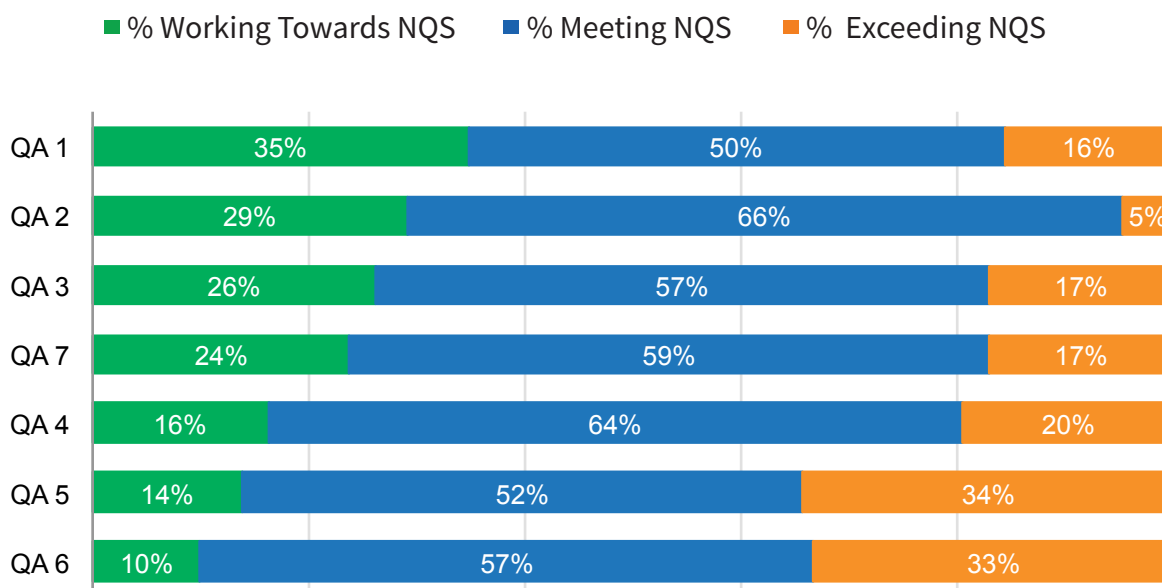


Figure 17 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 17: Quality area ratings



## Contact details

Department of Education  
Quality Education and Care NT  
[www.education.nt.gov.au](http://www.education.nt.gov.au)

# Queensland summary

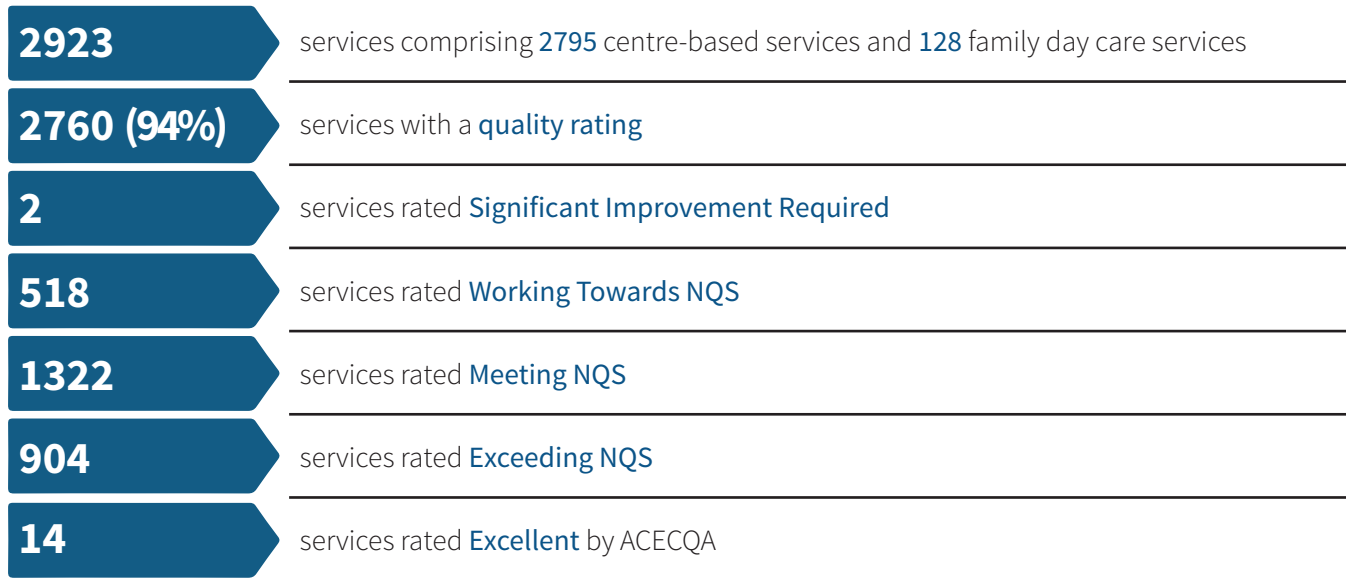
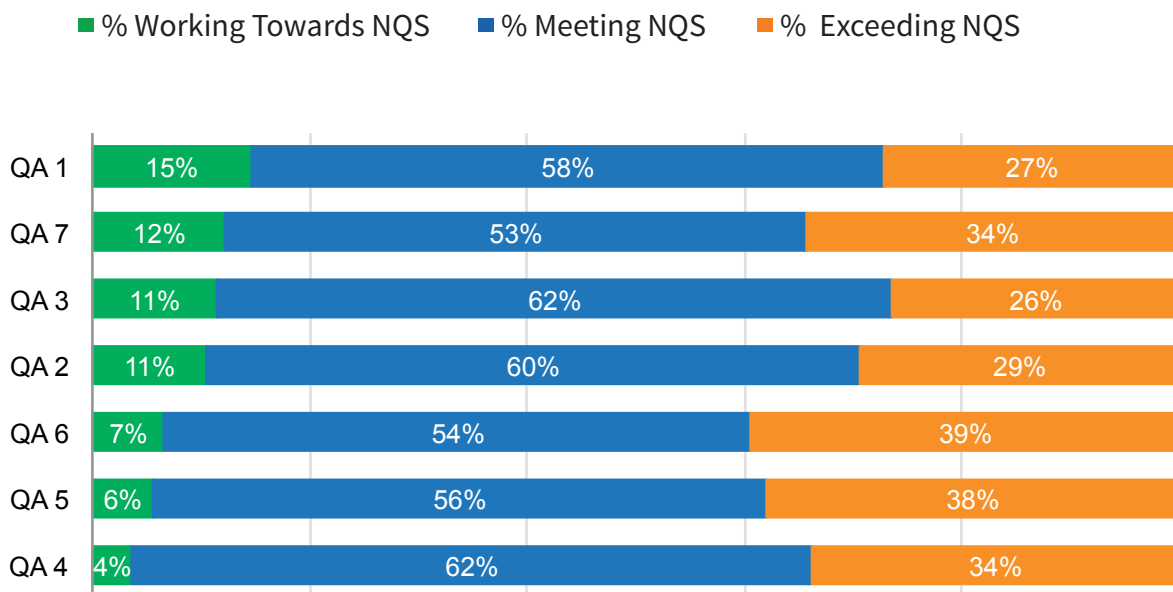


Figure 18 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

**Figure 18: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

Department of Education and Training  
 Early Childhood Education and Care  
[www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood)



# South Australia summary

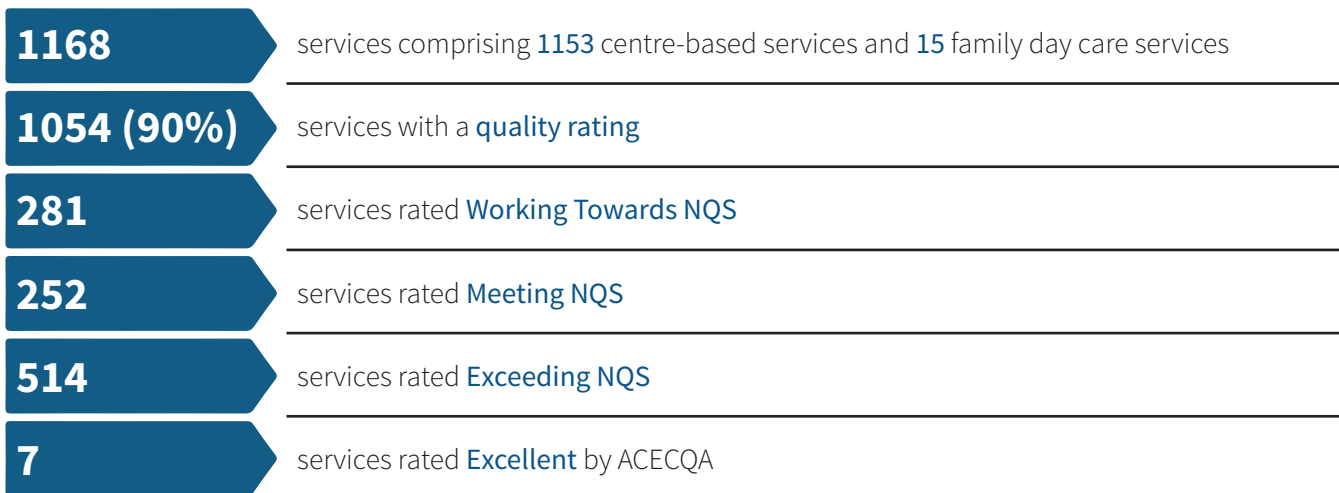
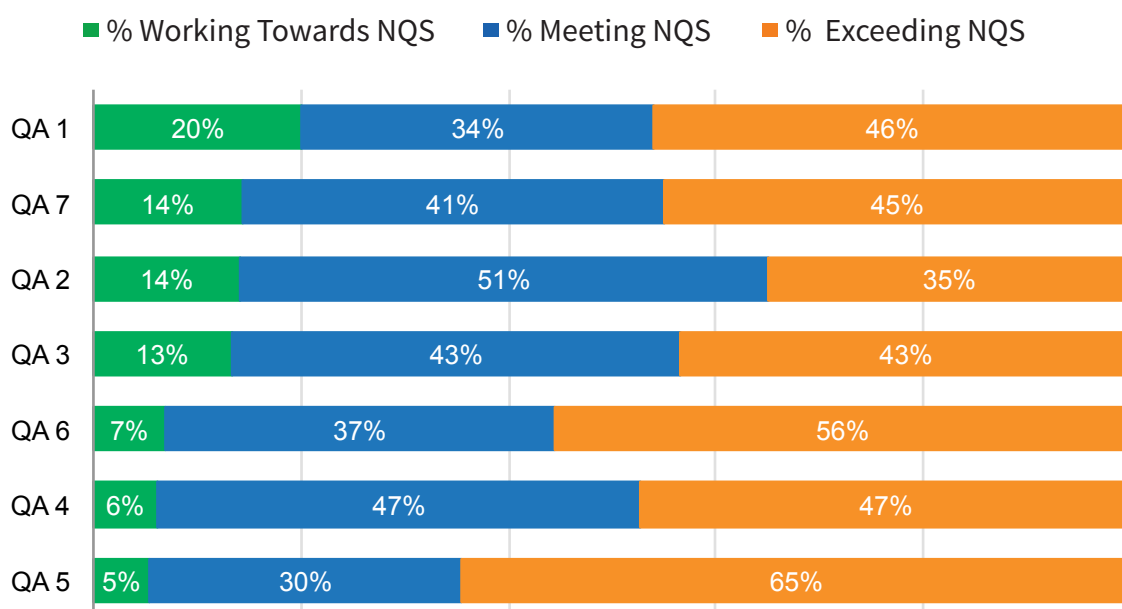


Figure 19 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

**Figure 19: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

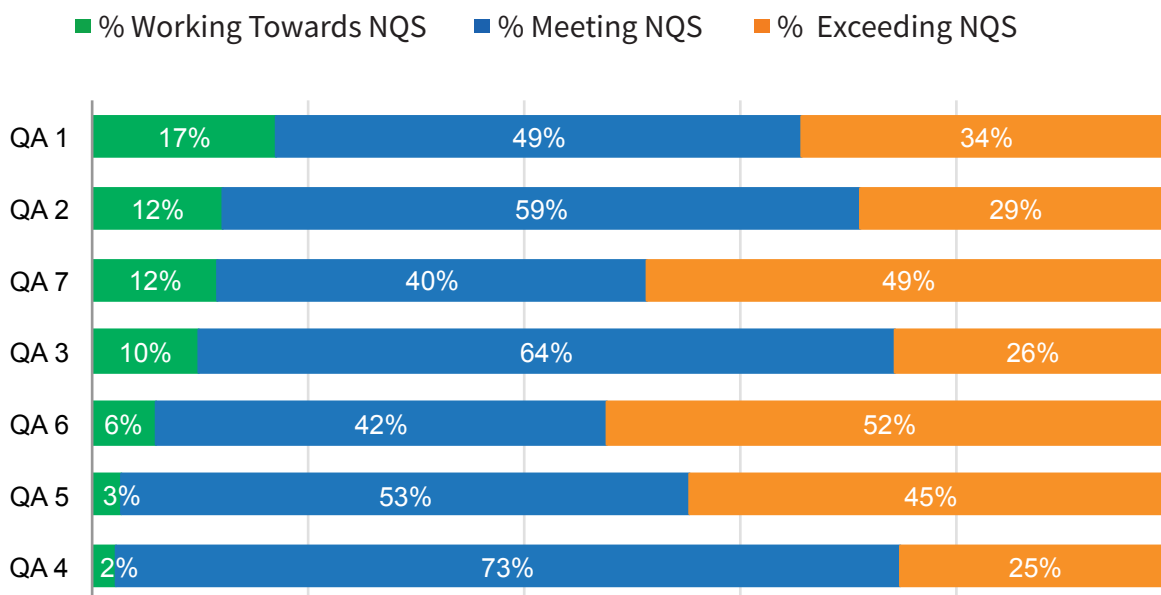
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards  
Board of South Australia  
[www.esb.sa.gov.au](http://www.esb.sa.gov.au)

# Tasmania summary

<b>236</b>	services comprising <b>222</b> centre-based services and <b>14</b> family day care services
<b>222 (94%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>46</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>91</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>85</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>

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

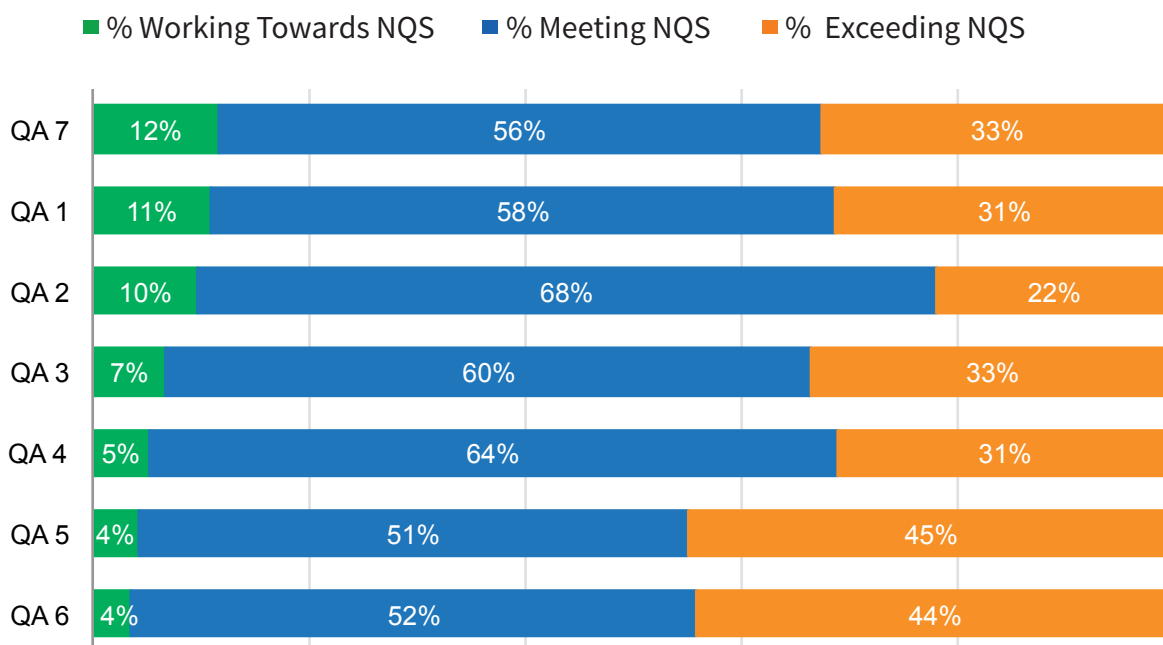
Department of Education  
 Education and Care Unit  
[www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au](http://www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au)

# Victoria summary

<b>4254</b>	services comprising <b>3919</b> centre-based services and <b>335</b> family day care services
<b>3883 (91%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>8</b>	services rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>619</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>1917</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>1328</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>11</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

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 and Training  
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation)

# Western Australia summary

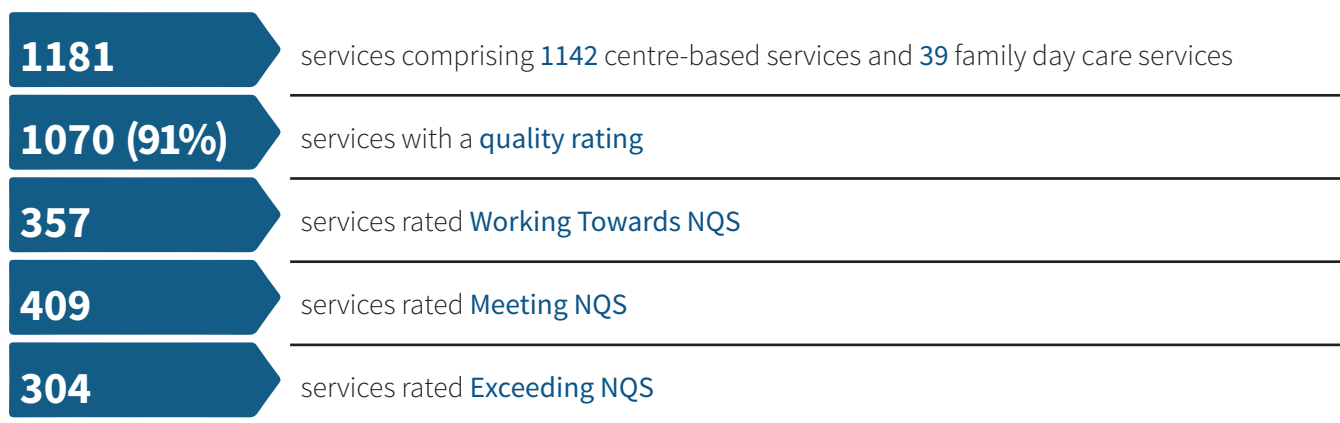
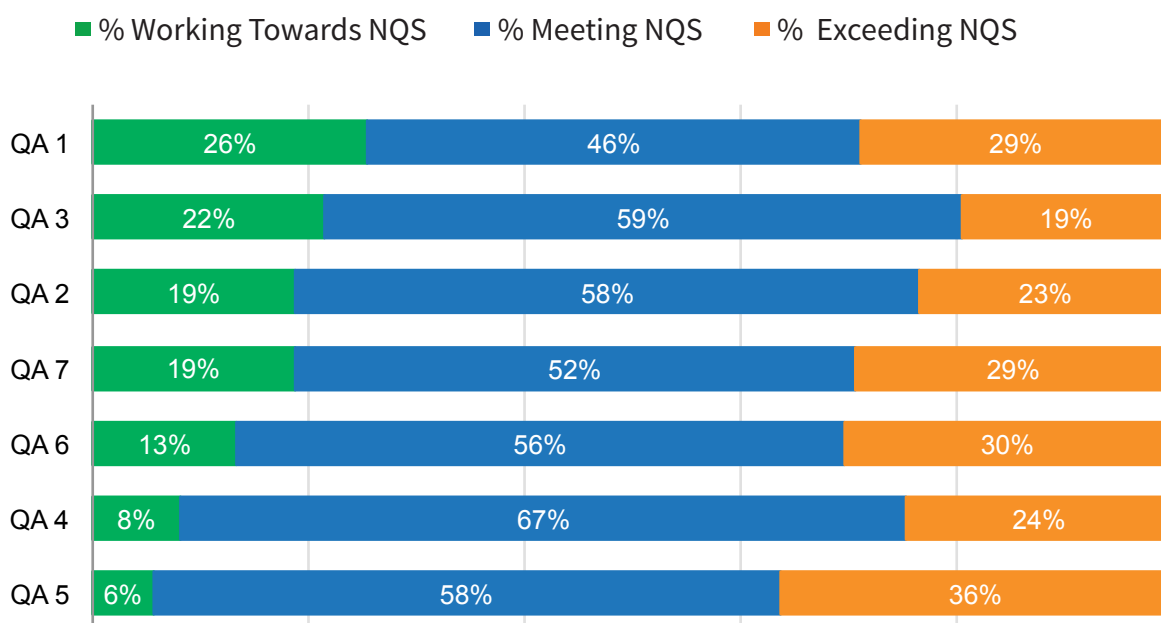


Figure 22 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

**Figure 22: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

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 Education and Care Regulatory Unit  
[www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au)



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Published by ACECQA

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