



# NQF Snapshot

## Q1 2019



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority™

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

May 2019

# Table of contents



Overview	3
Snapshot highlights	4
Profile of the sector	5
Progress of assessment and rating	9
Quality improvement	10
Overall quality ratings	11
Quality area ratings	14
Standard level ratings under the 2018 NQS	15
Element level results under the 2018 NQS	16
Services rated Working Towards NQS	17
Services rated Exceeding NQS	17
Jurisdiction summaries	18

# Overview

NQF Snapshot Q1 2019 is ACECQA's 25<sup>th</sup> 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 April 2019 for the period ending 31 March 2019.

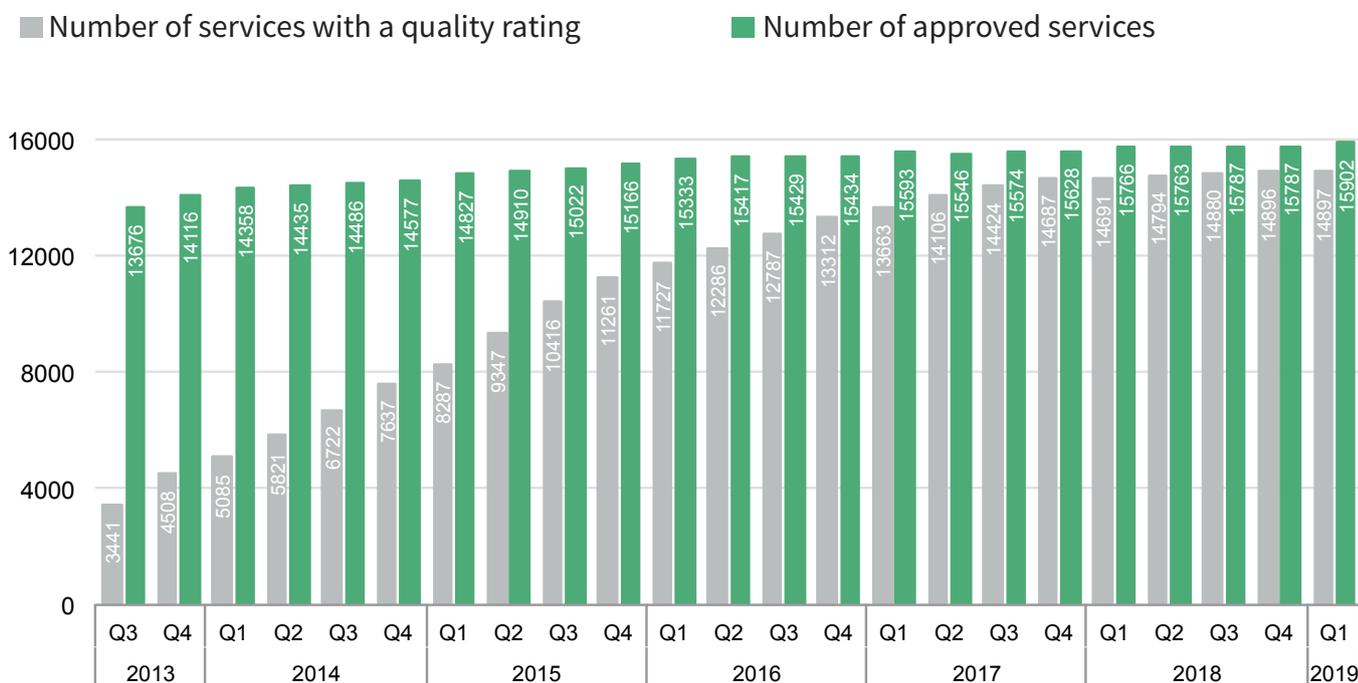
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



# Snapshot highlights

<b>15,902</b>	children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF
<b>14,897 (94%)</b>	services with a quality rating
<b>11,766 (79%)</b>	services with a quality rating of Meeting NQS or above
<b>7314</b>	providers approved to operate
<b>5978 (82%)</b>	providers approved to operate only one service
<b>47</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA <sup>1</sup>
<b>7231</b>	quality rating reassessments completed
<b>66%</b>	of services rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment
<b>3697 (23%)</b>	services with a quality rating against the 2018 NQS

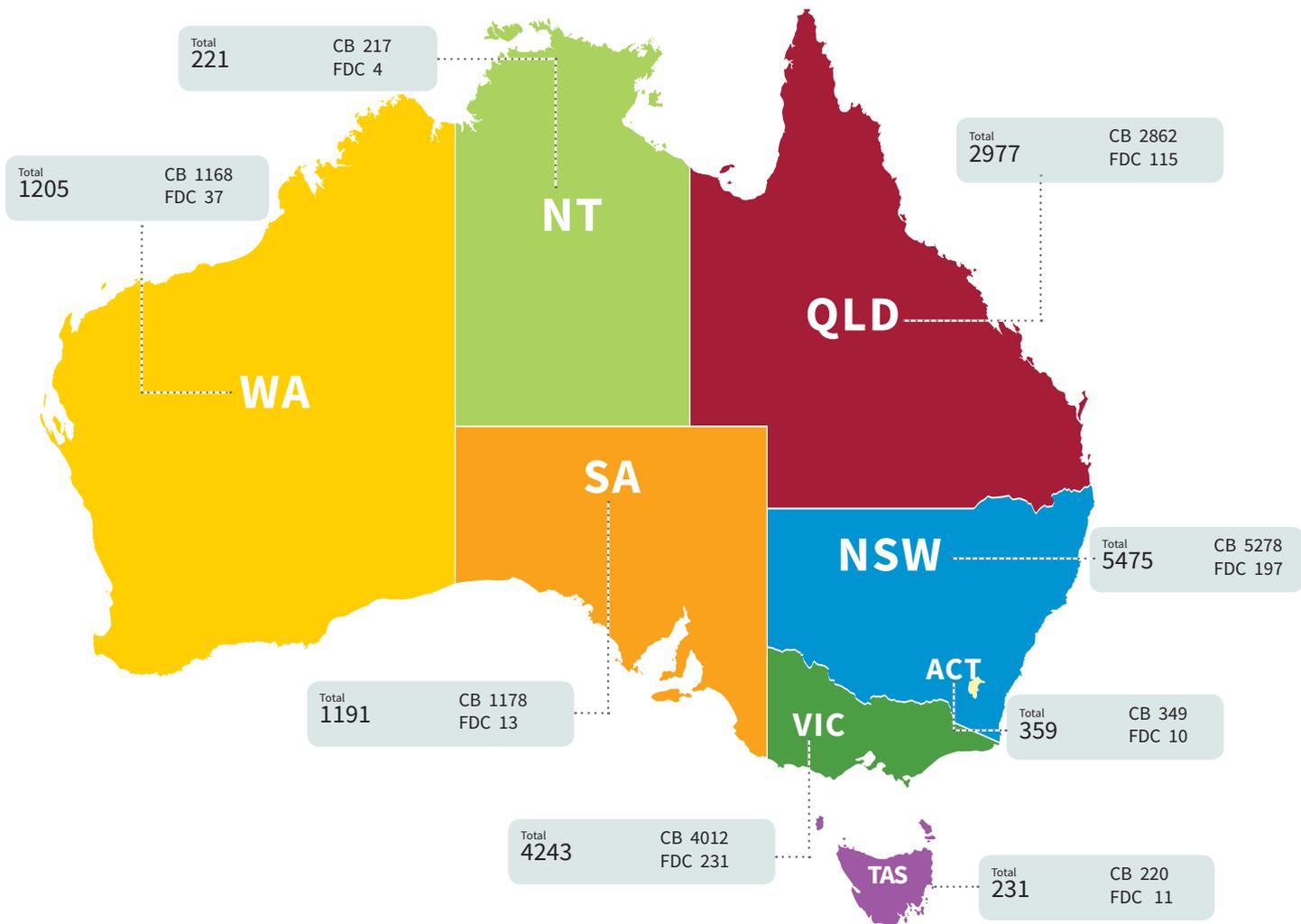
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



<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>15,284 (96%)</b></p> <p>2% Increase on Q1 2018</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) <sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>618 (4%)</b></p> <p>23% Decrease on Q1 2018</p>	<p><b>Total</b></p> <p><b>15,902</b></p> <p>1% Increase on Q1 2018</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>

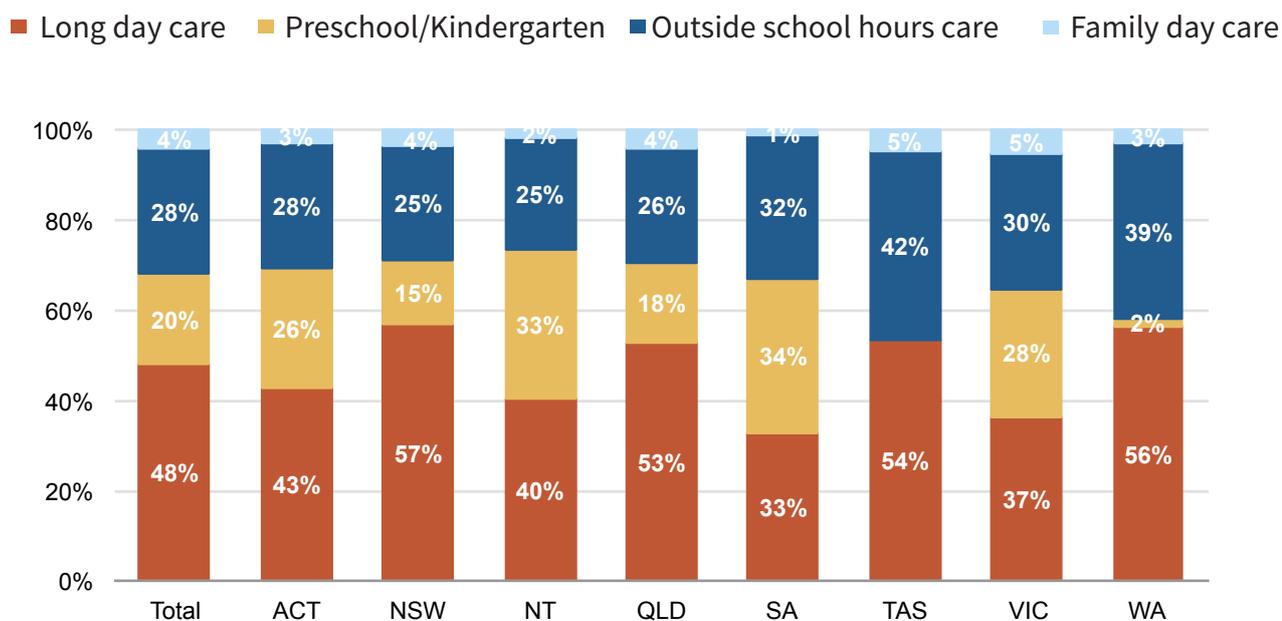


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	10	154	94	101	0	359
NSW	197	3106	798	1374	0	5475
NT	4	88	73	54	2	221
QLD	115	1576	526	759	1	2977
SA	13	391	410	377	0	1191
TAS	11	124	0	96	0	231
VIC	231	1552	1201	1259	0	4243
WA	37	678	23	466	1	1205
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>7669</b>	<b>3125</b>	<b>4486</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15,902</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.

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

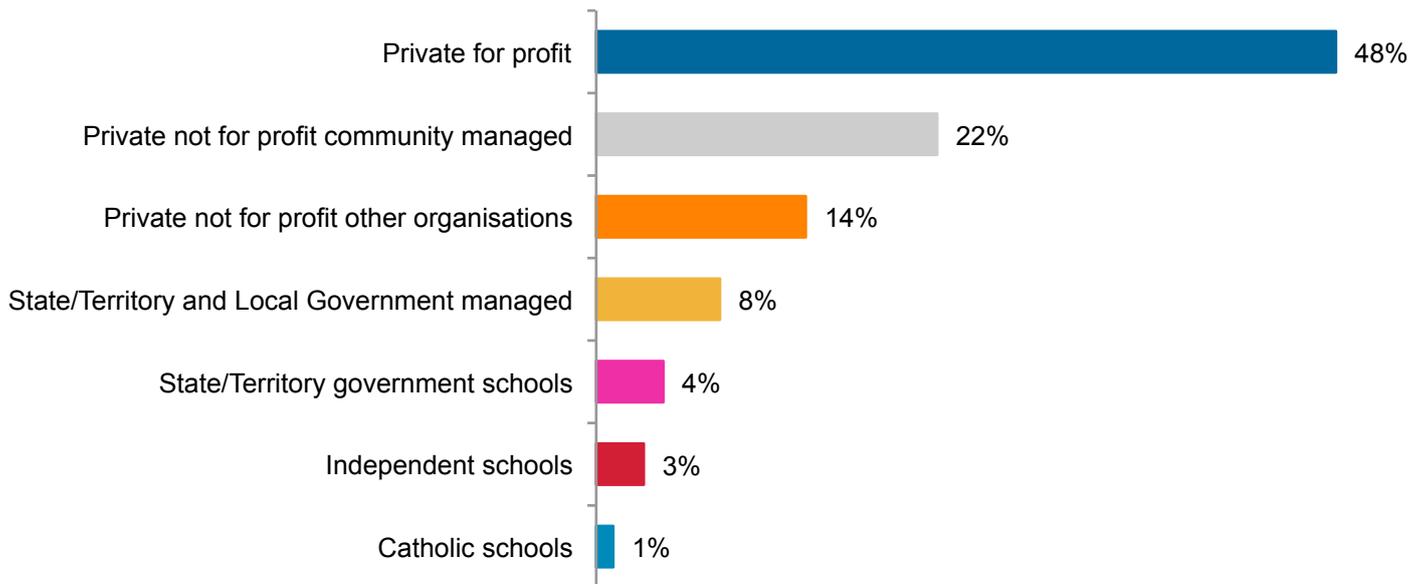


Table 2: Number and proportion of services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7603	48%
Private not for profit community managed	3505	22%
Private not for profit other organisations	2154	14%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1272	8%
State/Territory government schools	690	4%
Independent schools	489	3%
Catholic schools	175	1%
Not stated/Other	14	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,902</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 are available at [http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup\\_EDCEFD2FC57CD225CA257C93000D13A7?opendocument](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup_EDCEFD2FC57CD225CA257C93000D13A7?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 by size**

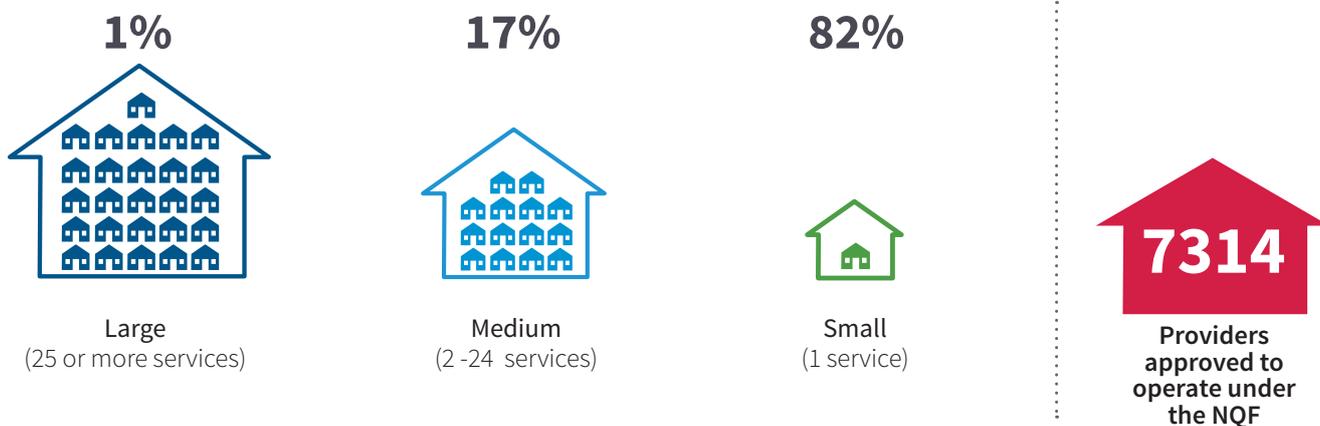
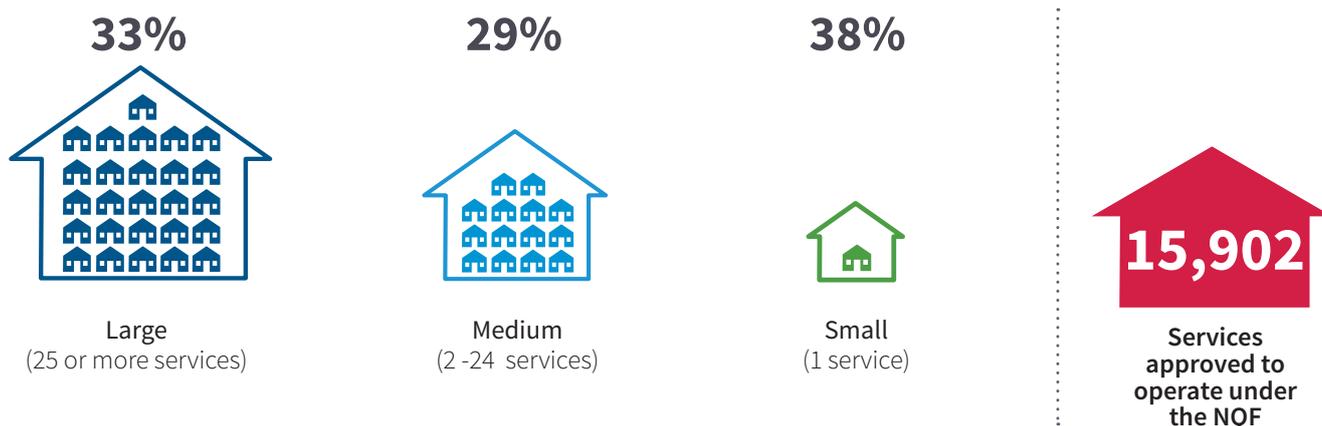


Figure 6 shows that 38% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 33% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

**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	359	2%	326	91%
NSW	5475	34%	5168	94%
NT	221	1%	215	97%
QLD	2977	19%	2801	94%
SA	1191	7%	1117	94%
TAS	231	1%	218	94%
VIC	4243	27%	3961	93%
WA	1205	8%	1091	91%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,902</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,897</b>	<b>94%</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	8	136	92	90	0	326
NSW	187	2923	787	1271	0	5168
NT	4	86	73	50	2	215
QLD	105	1466	509	720	1	2801
SA	12	346	398	361	0	1117
TAS	11	121	0	86	0	218
VIC	185	1443	1170	1163	0	3961
WA	31	625	20	414	1	1091
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>7146</b>	<b>3049</b>	<b>4155</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14,897</b>

# Quality improvement

Table 5 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 1903 services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 1311 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	19	50	9	0	78
	Working Towards NQS	19	1311	1903	635	3868
	Meeting NQS	1	443	1241	429	2114
	Exceeding NQS	0	142	425	604	1171
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1946</b>	<b>3578</b>	<b>1668</b>	<b>7231</b>

		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	0%	34%	49%	16%	66%
	Meeting NQS	0%	21%	59%	20%	20%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	12%	36%	52%	-

<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	82 25%	91 28%	149 46%	4	326
NSW	6	1315 25%	2402 46%	1429 28%	16	5168
NT	0	58 27%	118 55%	39 18%	0	215
QLD	1	445 16%	1469 52%	875 31%	11	2801
SA	0	223 20%	347 31%	539 48%	8	1117
TAS	1	47 22%	89 41%	81 37%	0	218
VIC	2	600 15%	2055 52%	1296 33%	8	3961
WA	0	351 32%	478 44%	262 24%	0	1091
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3121 21%</b>	<b>7049 47%</b>	<b>4670 31%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>14,897</b>

Figure 7: Overall quality ratings by service type

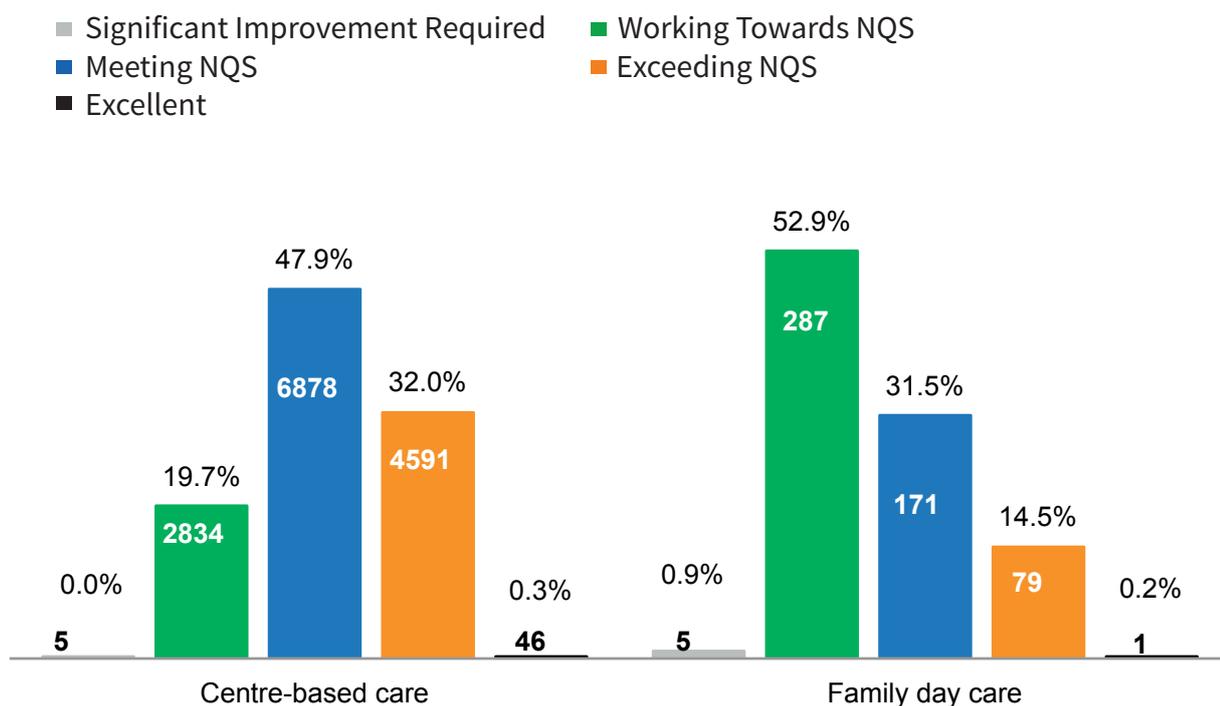


Figure 8: Overall quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

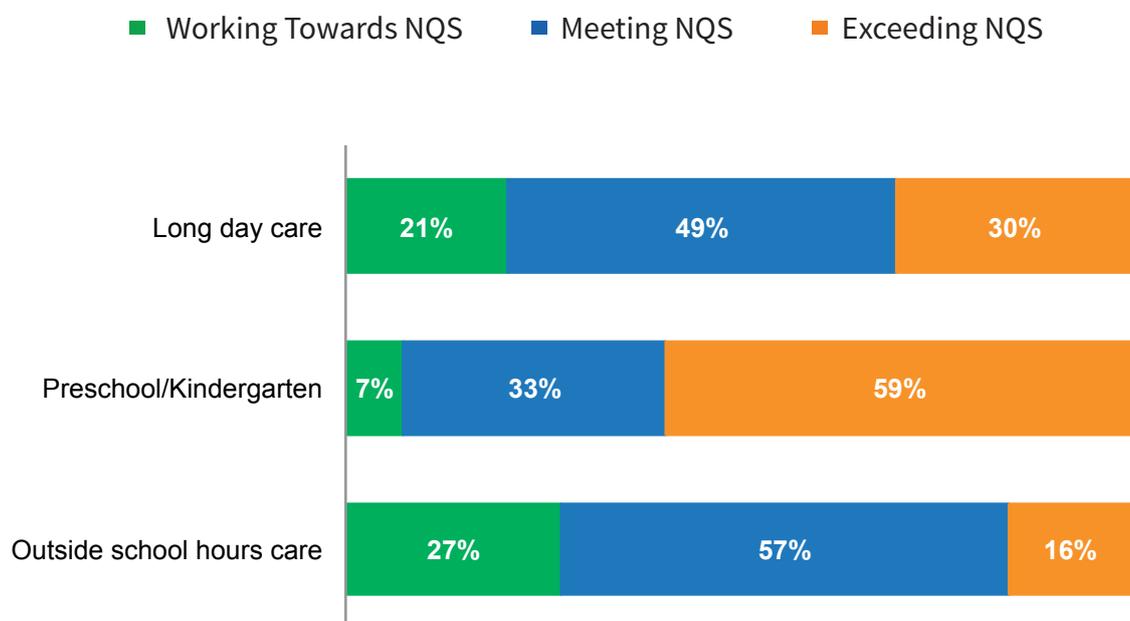
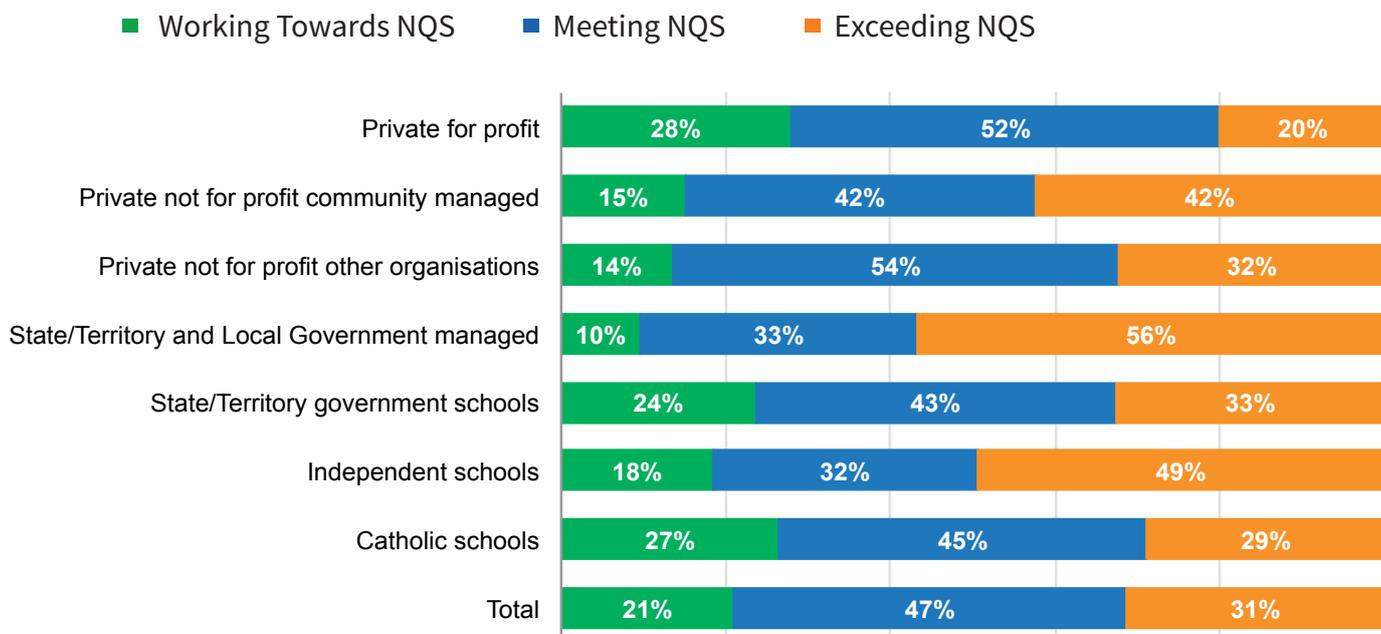


Figure 9 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings between provider management types.

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 type<sup>1</sup>**



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

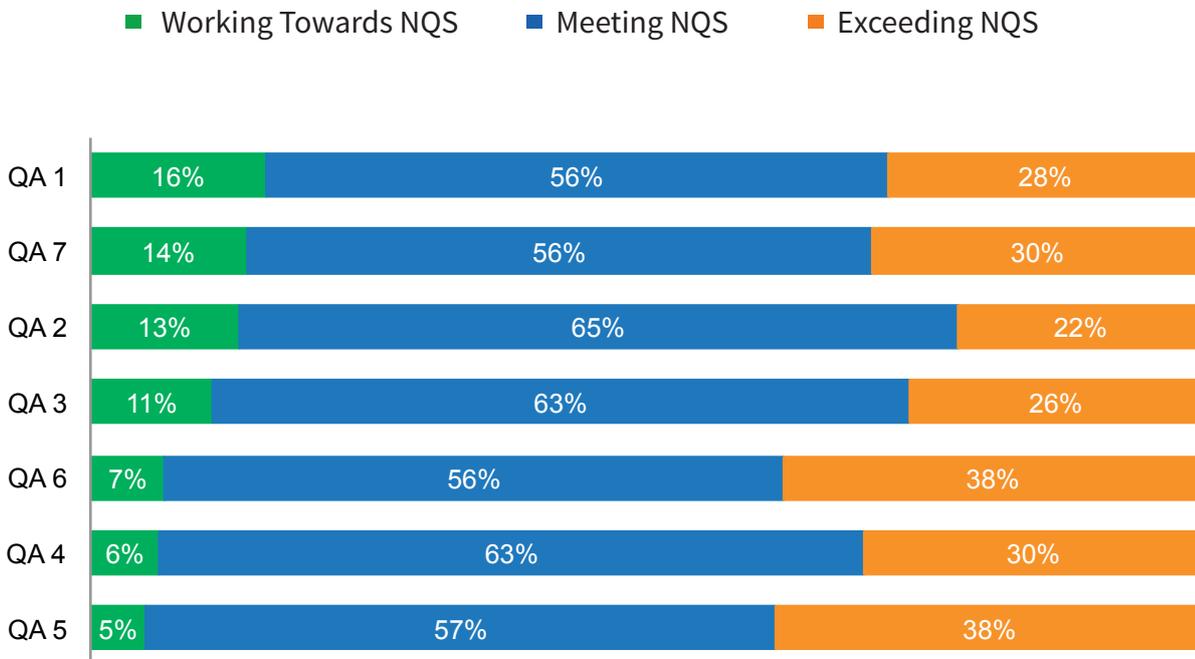
# Quality area ratings

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	0	2352	8321	4224
Quality Area 7 - Governance and leadership	7	2091	8369	4430
Quality Area 2 - Children's health and safety	8	1982	9629	3278
Quality Area 3 - Physical environment	2	1635	9323	3937
Quality Area 6 - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	0	1001	8273	5623
Quality Area 4 - Staffing arrangements	6	924	9427	4540
Quality Area 5 - Relationships with children	1	741	8440	5715

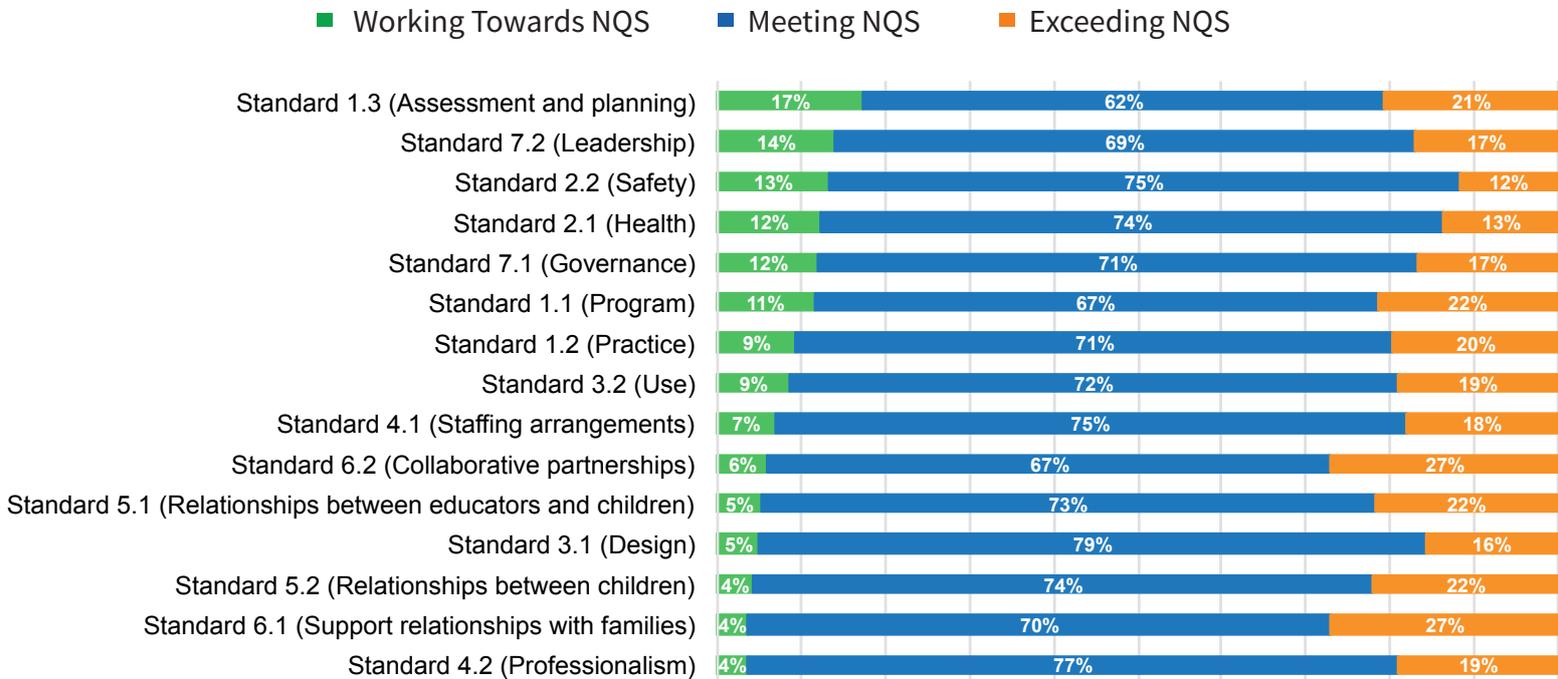
**Figure 10: Quality area ratings**



# 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.

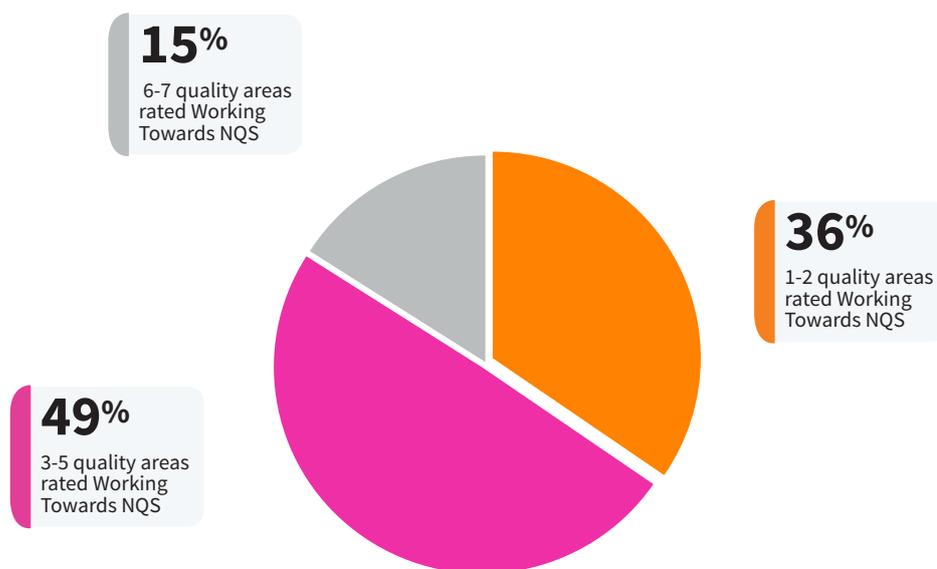
**Table 8: Element level results under 2018 NQS**

	% Not Met		% Not Met
1.3.2 (Critical reflection)	14.4%	1.3.3 (Information for families)	4.1%
1.3.1 (Assessment and planning cycle)	14.2%	5.1.2 (Dignity and rights of the child)	4.1%
7.1.2 (Management systems)	10.5%	3.1.2 (Upkeep)	4.0%
2.1.2 (Health practices and procedures)	9.9%	7.1.1 (Service philosophy and purpose)	3.9%
7.2.2 (Educational leadership)	9.5%	5.2.2 (Self-regulation)	3.7%
2.2.1 (Supervision)	8.9%	7.1.3 (Roles and responsibilities)	3.4%
1.1.3 (Program learning opportunities)	8.7%	3.2.2 (Resources support play-based learning)	3.4%
7.2.3 (Development of professionals)	8.4%	2.2.3 (Child protection)	3.2%
2.2.2 (Incident and emergency management)	6.7%	5.1.1 (Positive educator to child interactions)	3.0%
4.1.1 (Organisation of educators)	6.4%	6.2.2 (Access and participation)	2.8%
1.1.1 (Approved learning framework)	5.9%	2.1.1 (Wellbeing and comfort)	2.7%
1.2.2 (Responsive teaching and scaffolding)	5.8%	4.2.2 (Professional standards)	2.6%
3.2.3 (Environmentally responsible)	5.8%	3.1.1 (Fit for purpose)	2.1%
1.2.3 (Child directed learning)	5.6%	6.2.1 (Transitions)	2.1%
7.2.1 (Continuous improvement)	5.4%	6.1.3 (Families are supported)	2.0%
1.1.2 (Child-centred)	5.3%	4.2.1 (Professional collaboration)	1.9%
1.2.1 (Intentional teaching)	5.1%	6.1.1 (Engagement with the service)	1.8%
3.2.1 (Inclusive environment)	4.6%	5.2.1 (Collaborative learning)	1.6%
6.2.3 (Community engagement)	4.4%	6.1.2 (Parent views are respected)	1.6%
2.1.3 (Healthy lifestyle)	4.2%	4.1.2 (Continuity of staff)	1.4%

# Services rated Working Towards NQS

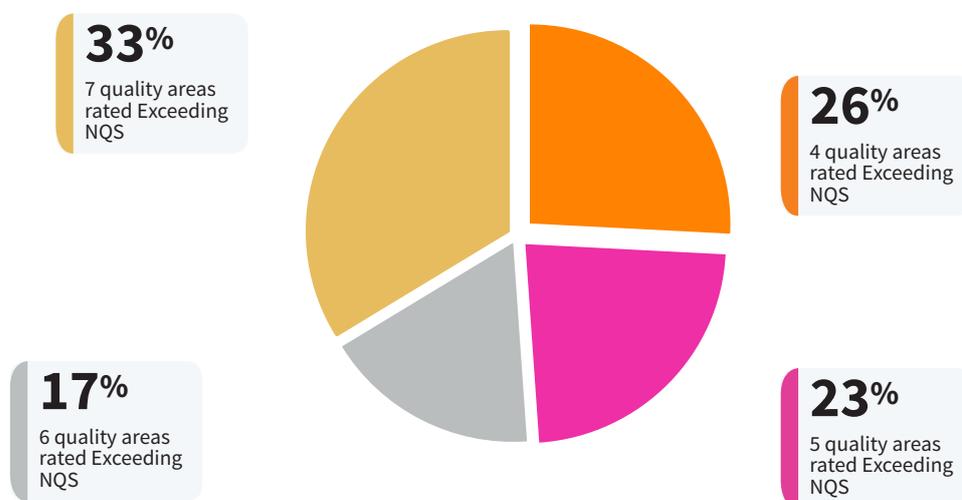
A service receives an overall rating of Working Towards NQS if any of the seven quality areas are rated Working Towards NQS. A quality area is rated Working Towards NQS if any of the standards within that quality area are rated Working Towards NQS.

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

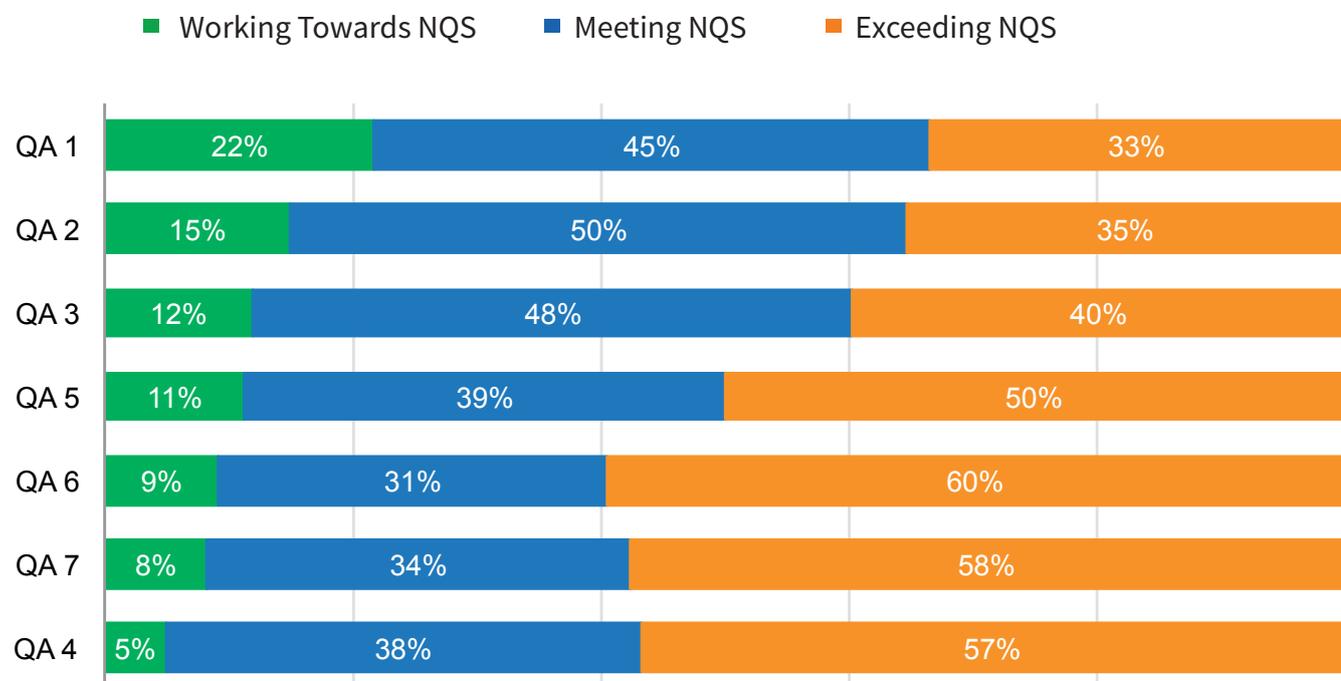


# Australian Capital Territory summary



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**



## Contact details

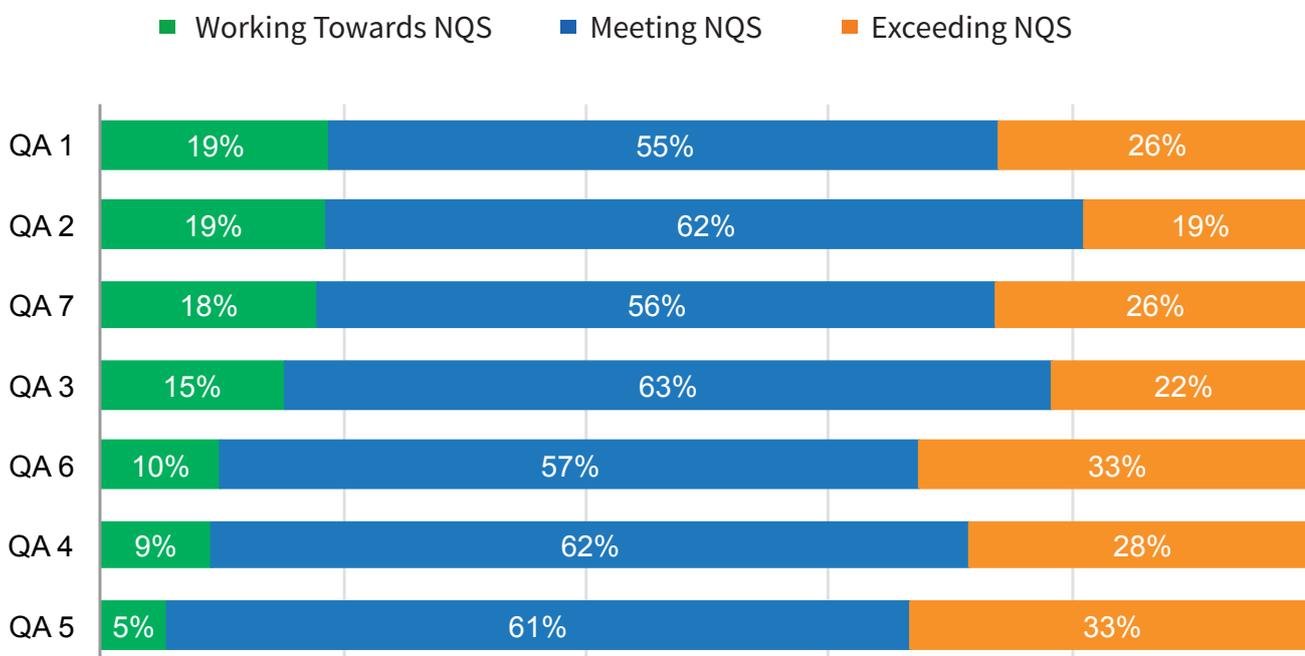
Education Directorate  
 Children's Education and Care Assurance  
[www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood](http://www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood)

# New South Wales summary

<b>5475</b>	services comprising <b>5278</b> centre-based services and <b>197</b> family day care services
<b>5168 (94%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>6</b>	services rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>1315</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>2402</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>1429</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>16</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> 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**



## Contact details

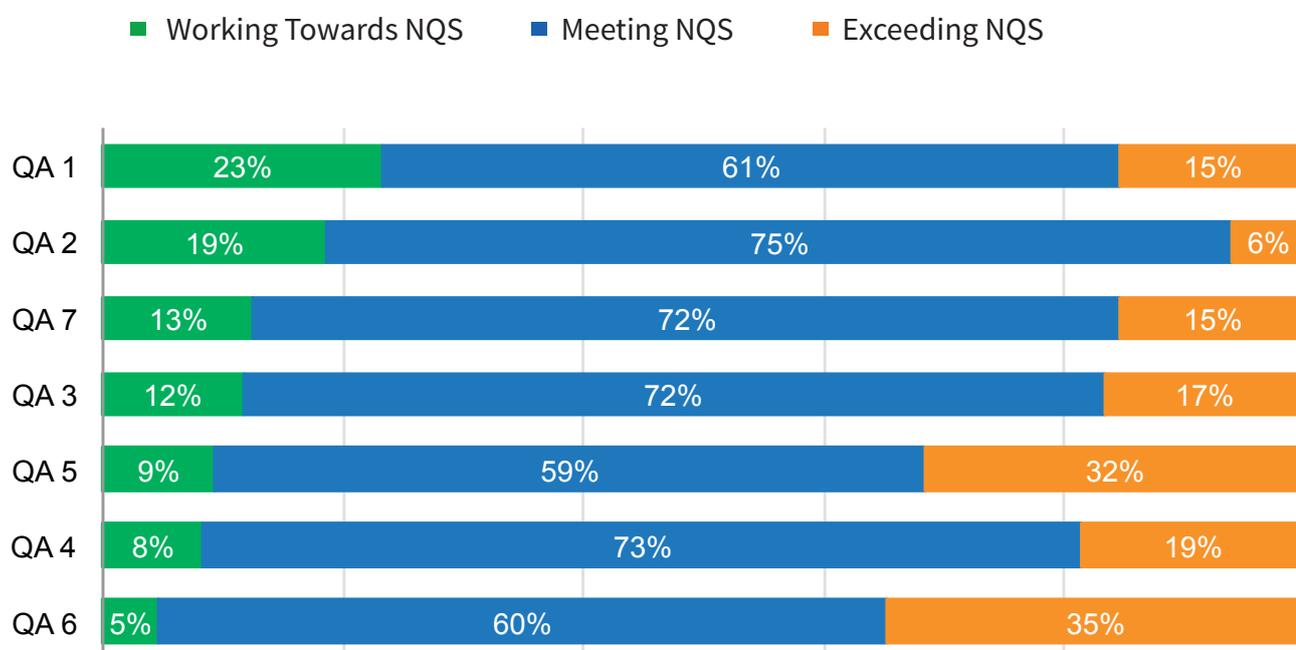
Department of Education  
 Early Childhood Education Directorate  
[www.education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education)

# Northern Territory summary

<b>221</b>	services comprising <b>217</b> centre-based services and <b>four</b> family day care services
<b>215 (97%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>58</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>118</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>39</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>

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

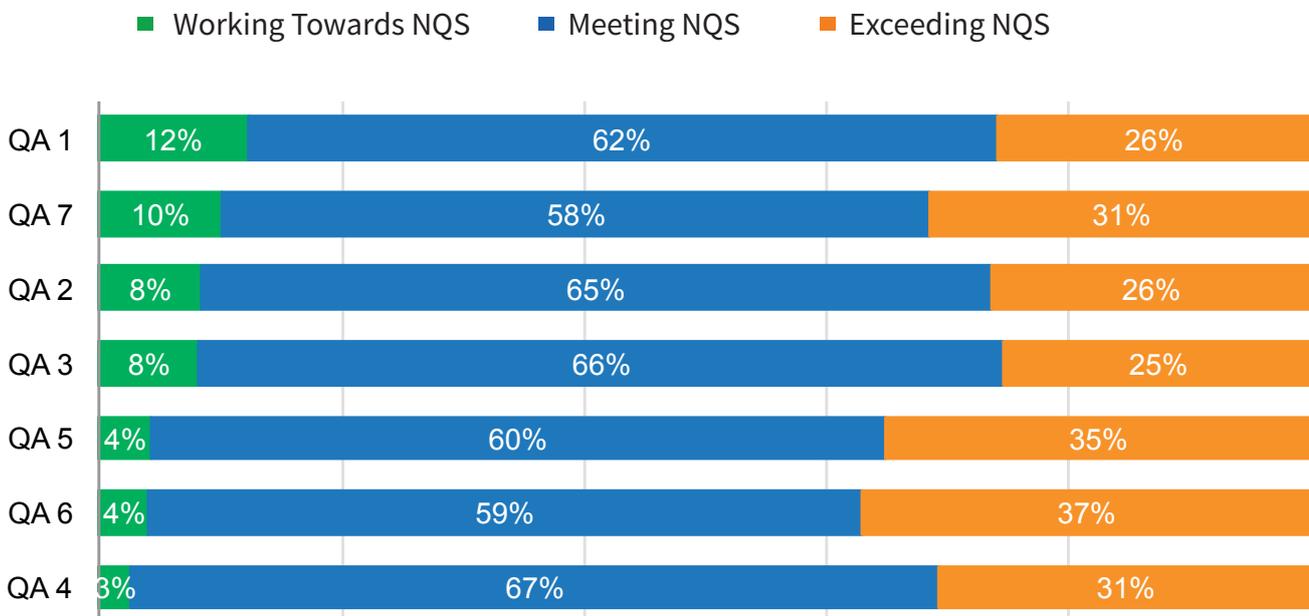
Department of Education  
 Quality Education and Care NT  
[www.education.nt.gov.au](http://www.education.nt.gov.au)

# Queensland summary

<b>2977</b>	services comprising <b>2862</b> centre-based services and <b>115</b> family day care services
<b>2801 (94%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>1</b>	service rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>445</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>1469</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>875</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>11</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> 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

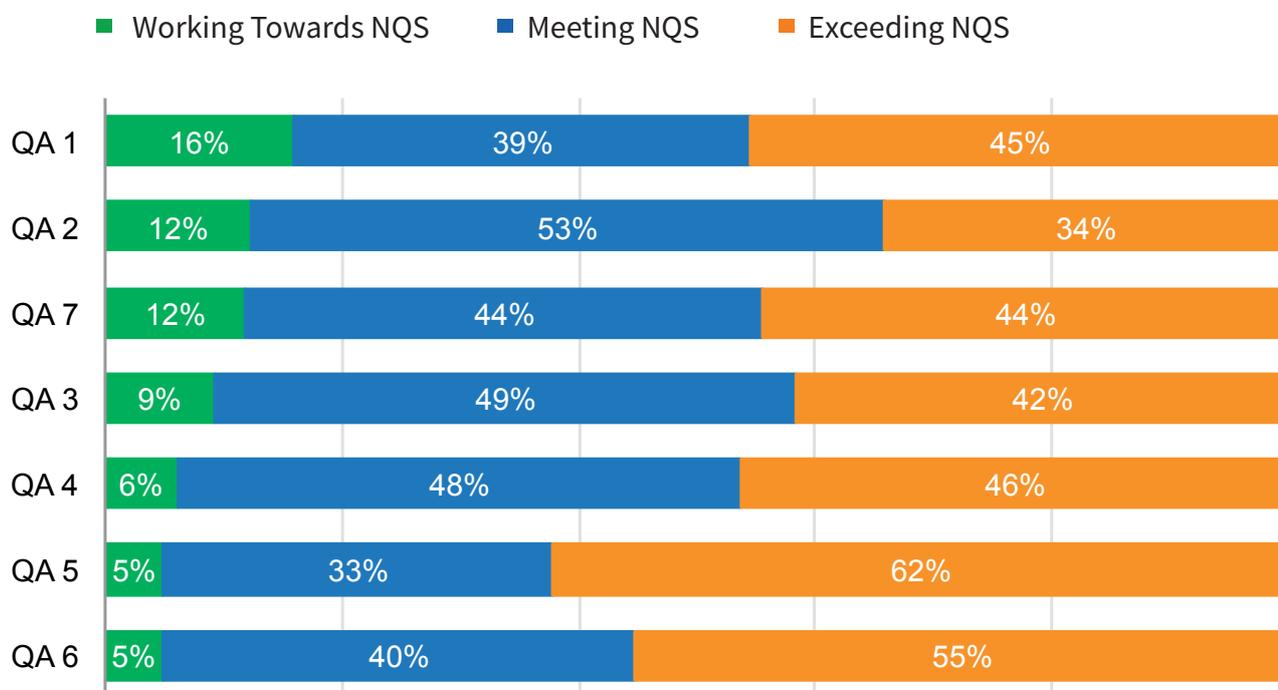
Department of Education  
 Early Childhood Education and Care  
[www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au](http://www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au)

# South Australia summary

<b>1191</b>	services comprising <b>1178</b> centre-based services and <b>13</b> family day care services
<b>1117 (94%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>223</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>347</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>539</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>8</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> 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**



## Contact details

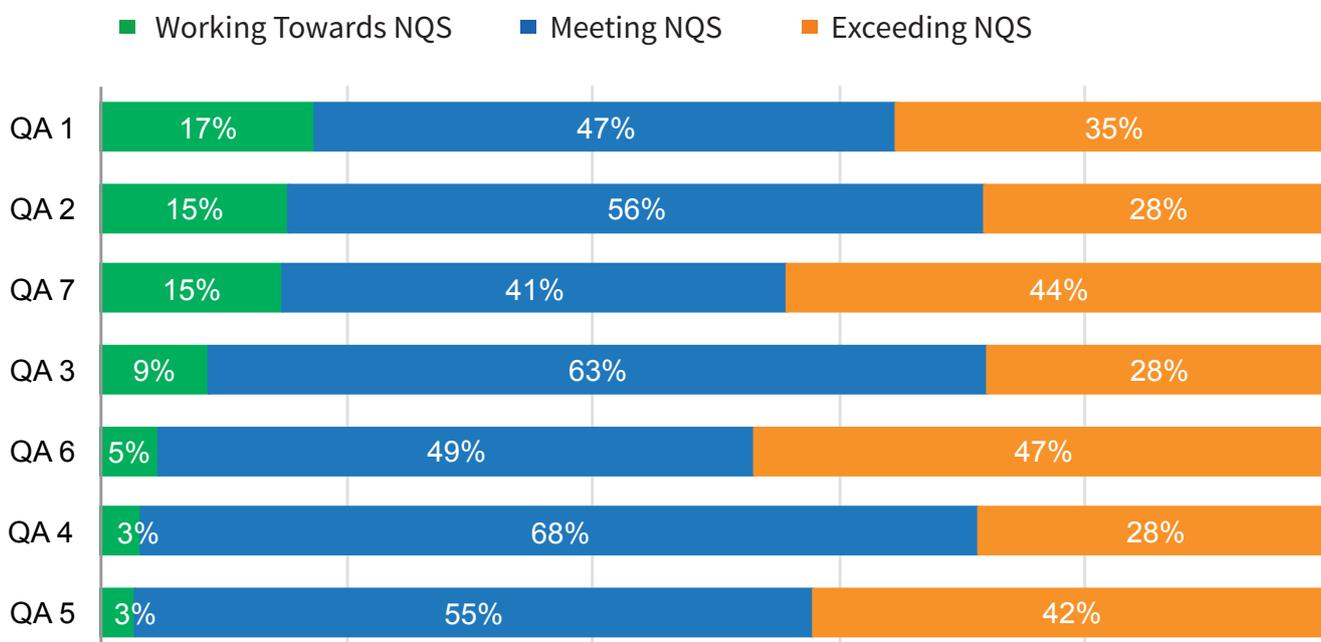
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards  
Board of South Australia  
[www.esb.sa.gov.au/early-childhood](http://www.esb.sa.gov.au/early-childhood)

# Tasmania summary

<b>231</b>	services comprising <b>220</b> centre-based services and <b>11</b> family day care services
<b>218 (94%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>1</b>	service rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>47</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>89</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>81</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>

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

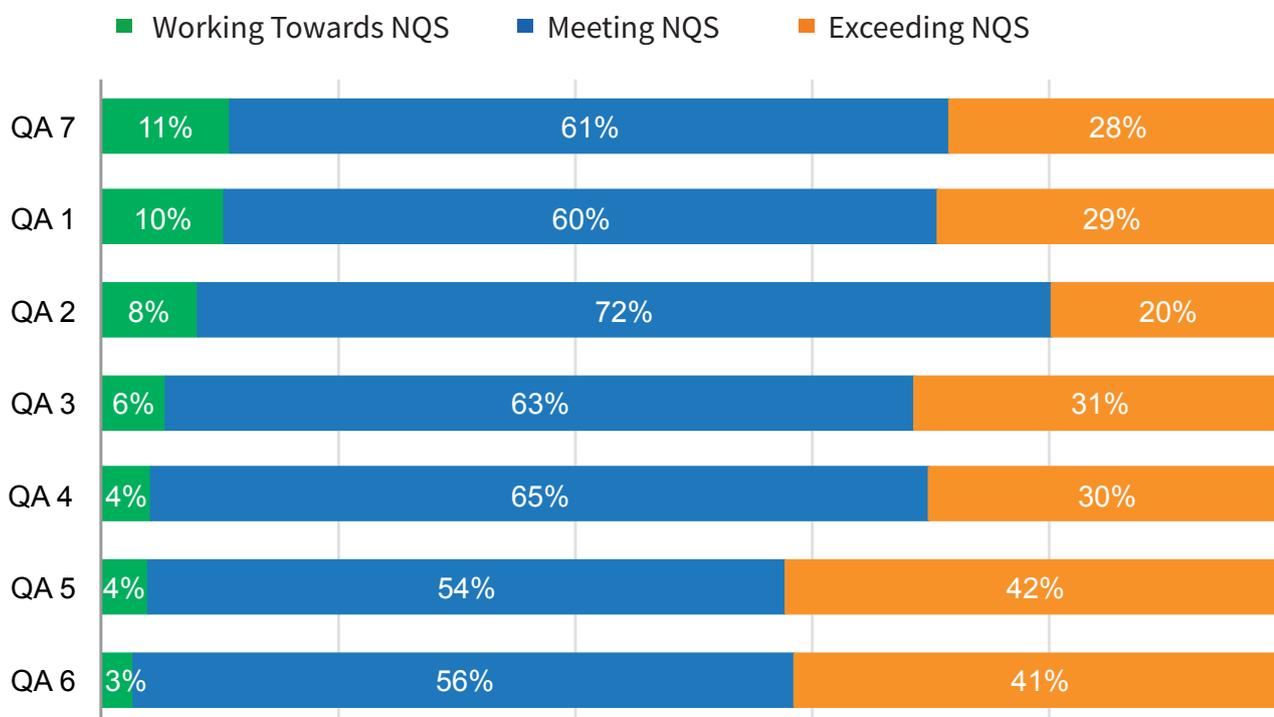
Department of Education  
 Education and Care Unit  
[www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au](http://www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au)

# Victoria summary

<b>4243</b>	services comprising <b>4012</b> centre-based services and <b>231</b> family day care services
<b>3961 (93%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>2</b>	services rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>600</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>2055</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>1296</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>8</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> 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**

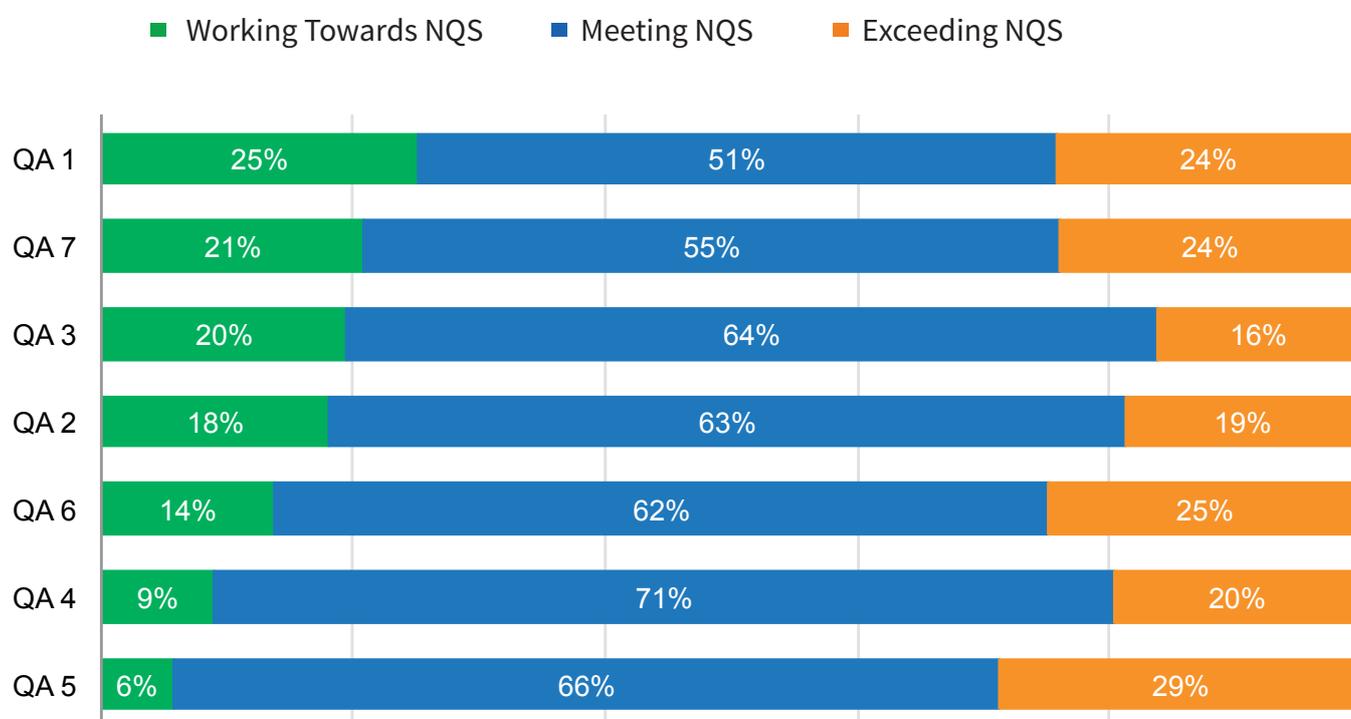
Department of Education and Training  
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation)

# 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

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