



NQF Snapshot

Q4 2019



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority™

February 2020

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Overview

NQF Snapshot Q4 2019 is ACECQA's 28th 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 January 2020 for the period ending 31 December 2019.

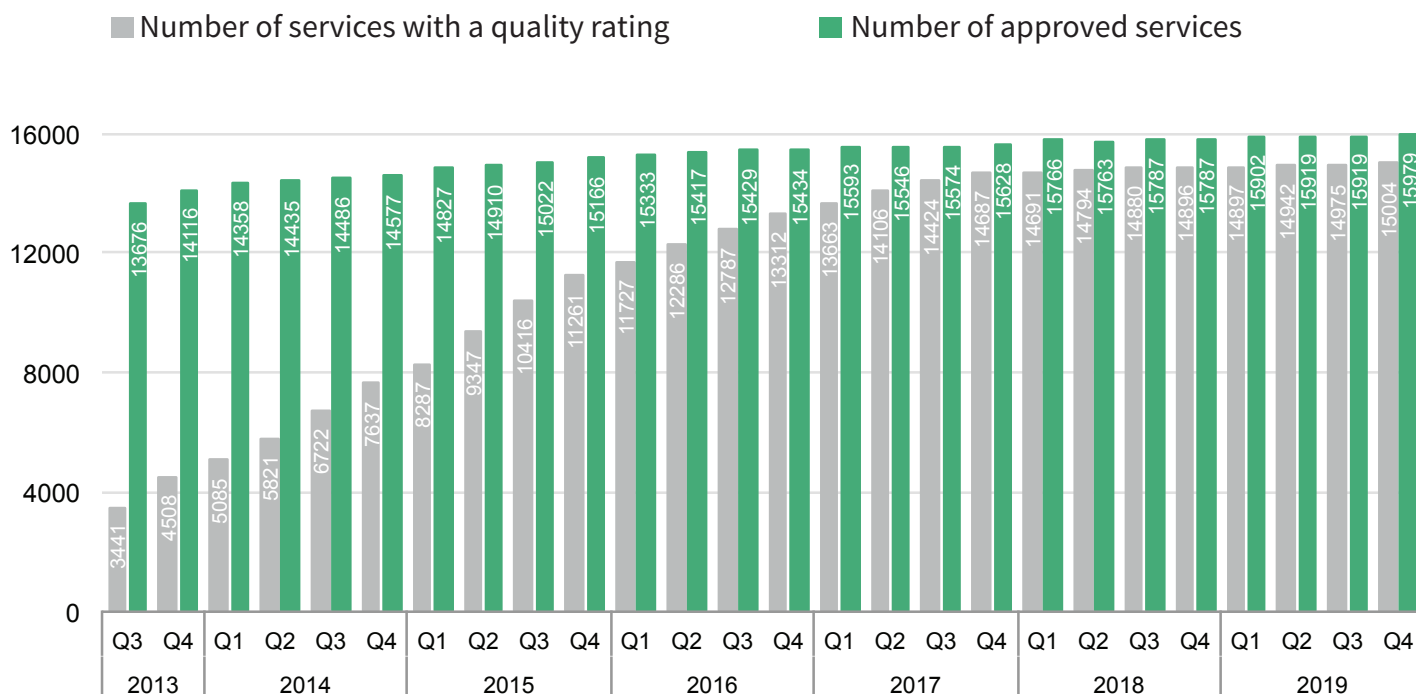
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



Snapshot highlights

15,979	children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF
15,004 (94%)	services with a quality rating
11,987 (80%)	services with a quality rating of Meeting NQS or above
7273	providers approved to operate
5930 (82%)	providers approved to operate only one service
45	services rated Excellent by ACECQA ¹
10,005	quality rating reassessments completed
65%	of services rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment
6702 (42%)	services with a quality rating against the 2018 NQS

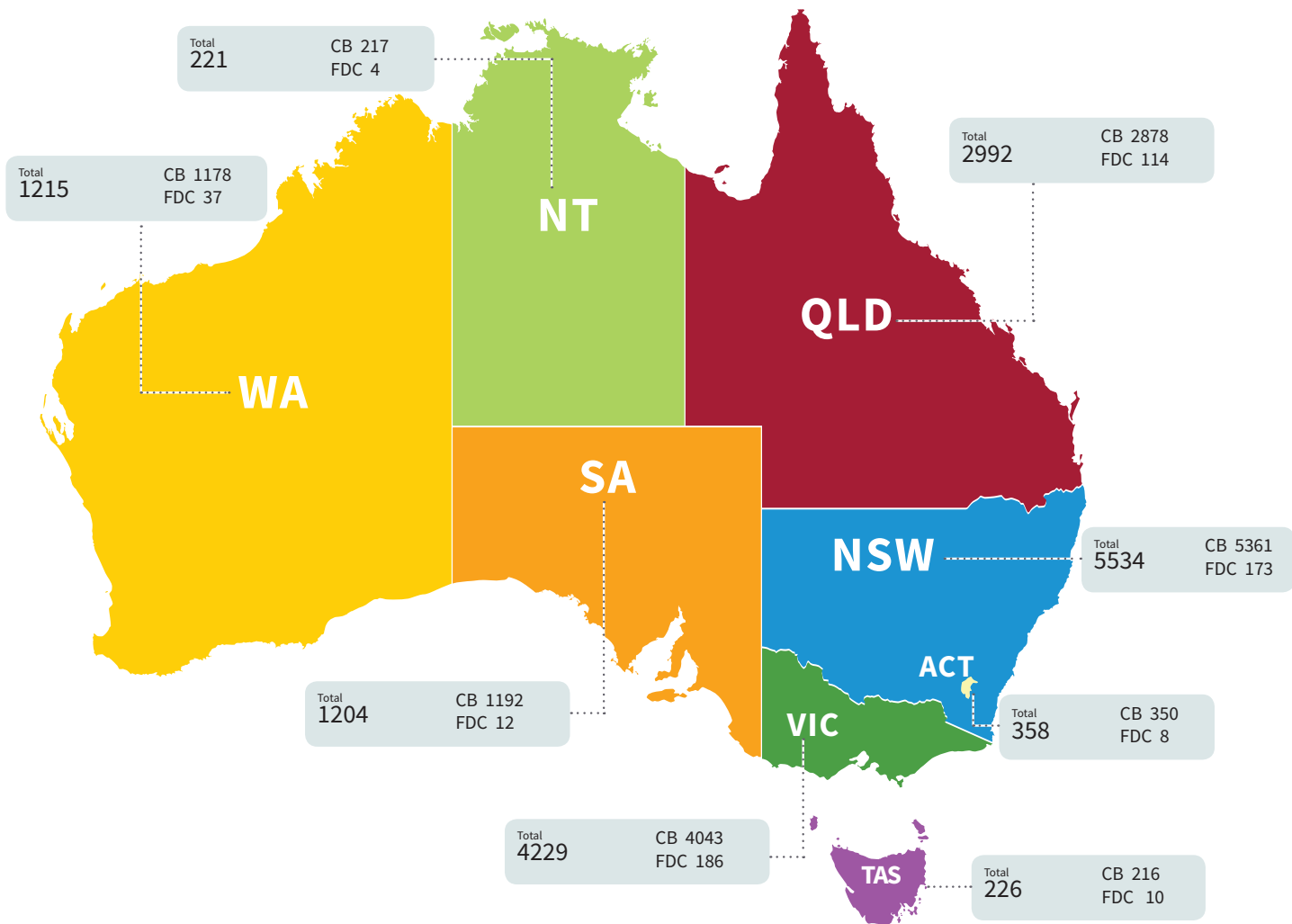
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



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>15,435 (97%)</p> <p>2% Increase on Q4 2018</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) ²</p> <p>544 (3%)</p> <p>17% Decrease on Q4 2018</p>	<p>Total</p> <p>15,979</p> <p>1% Increase on Q4 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

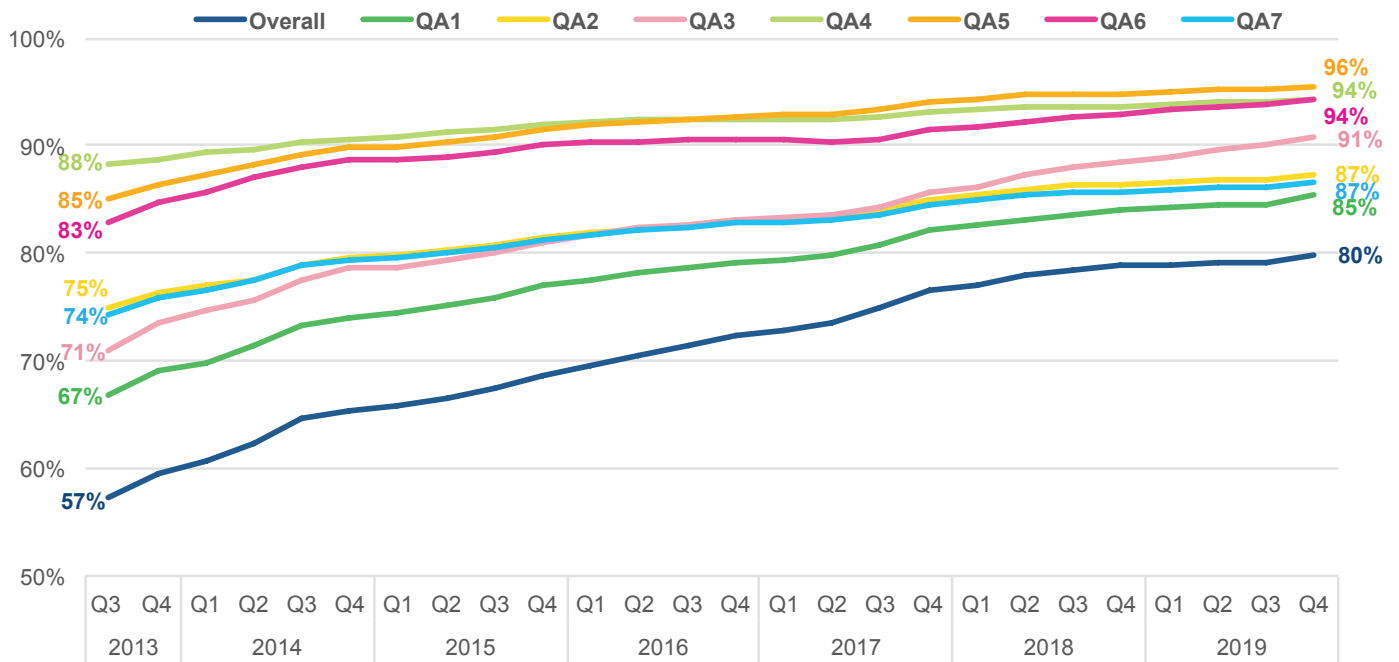


Figure 4: Proportion of services rated Exceeding NQS or above by overall rating and quality area

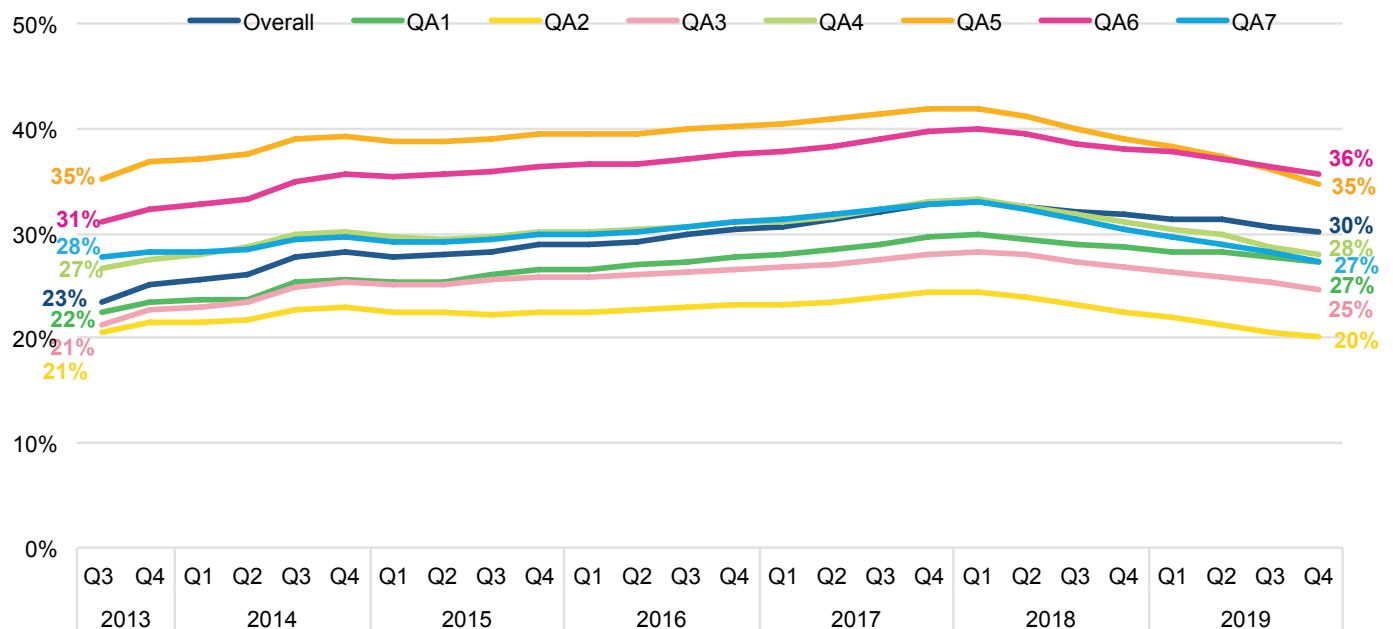


Figure 5: Proportion of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction ^{1,2,3,4,5}

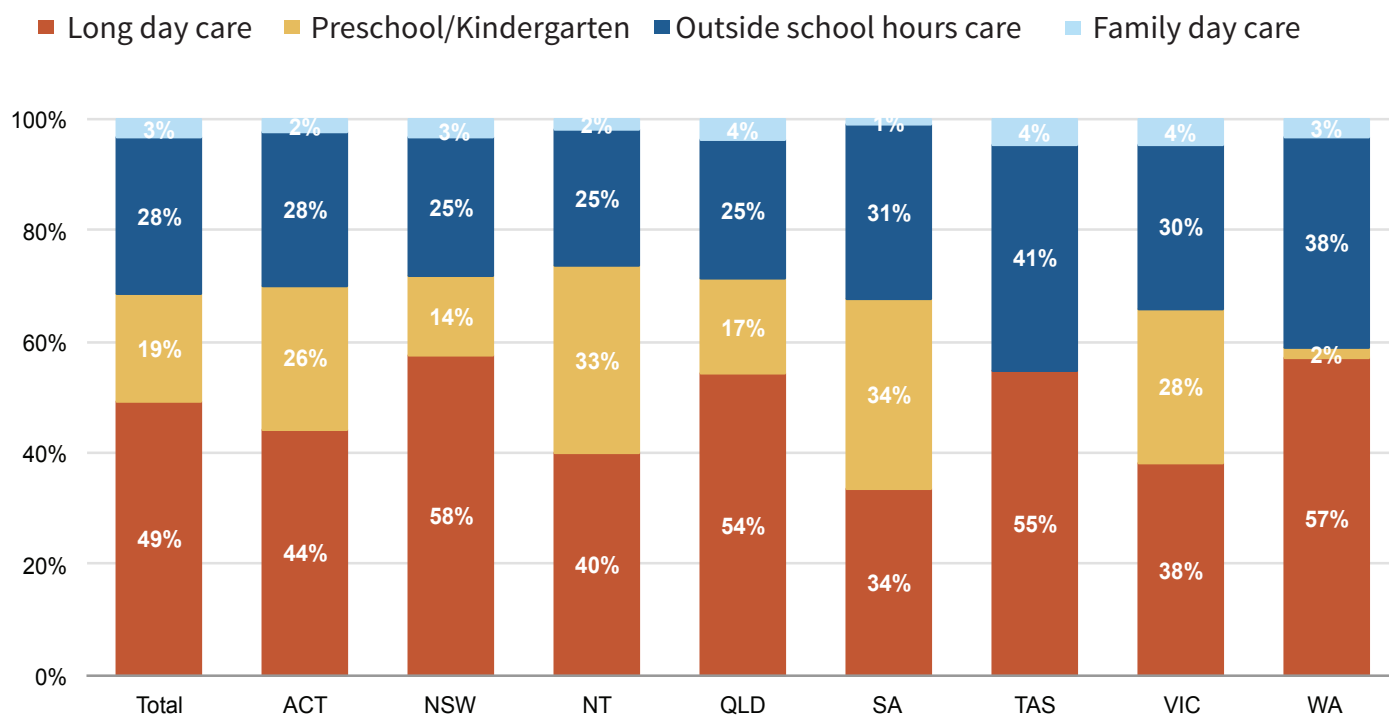


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	8	159	92	99	0	358
NSW	173	3197	768	1396	0	5534
NT	4	88	73	54	2	221
QLD	114	1621	512	744	1	2992
SA	12	407	407	378	0	1204
TAS	10	124	0	92	0	226
VIC	186	1607	1186	1250	0	4229
WA	37	691	23	463	1	1215
TOTAL	544	7894	3061	4476	4	15,979

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}

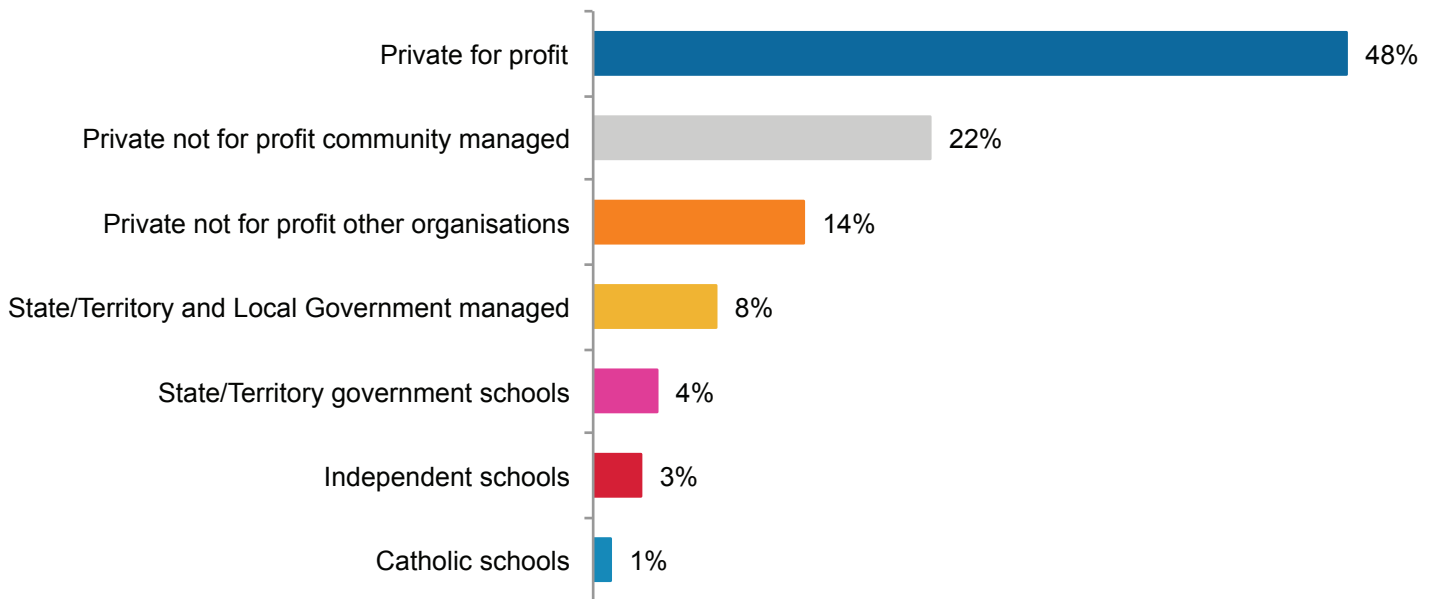


Table 2: Number and proportion of services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7743	48%
Private not for profit community managed	3464	22%
Private not for profit other organisations	2164	14%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1264	8%
State/Territory government schools	658	4%
Independent schools	492	3%
Catholic schools	180	1%
Not stated/Other	14	0%
Total	15,979	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

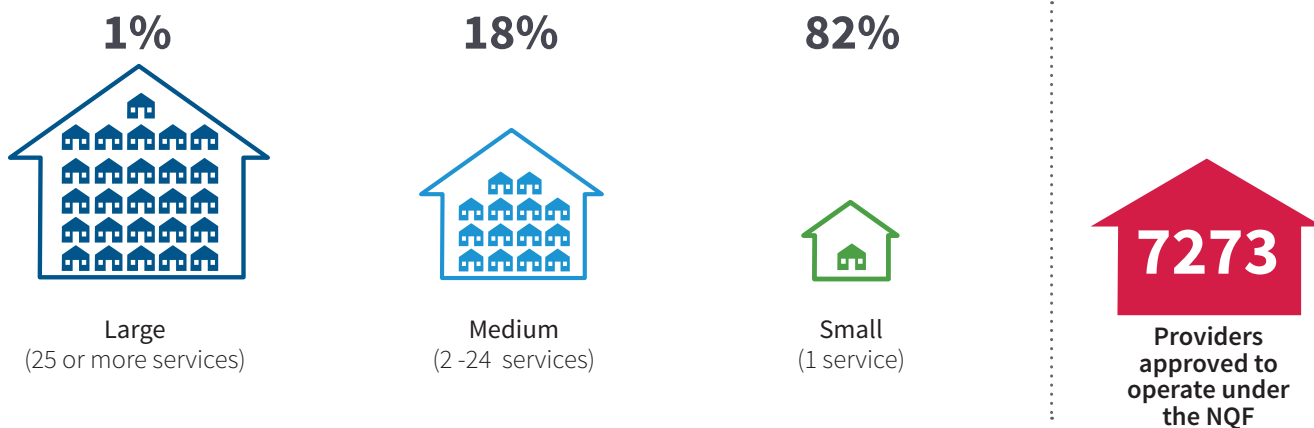
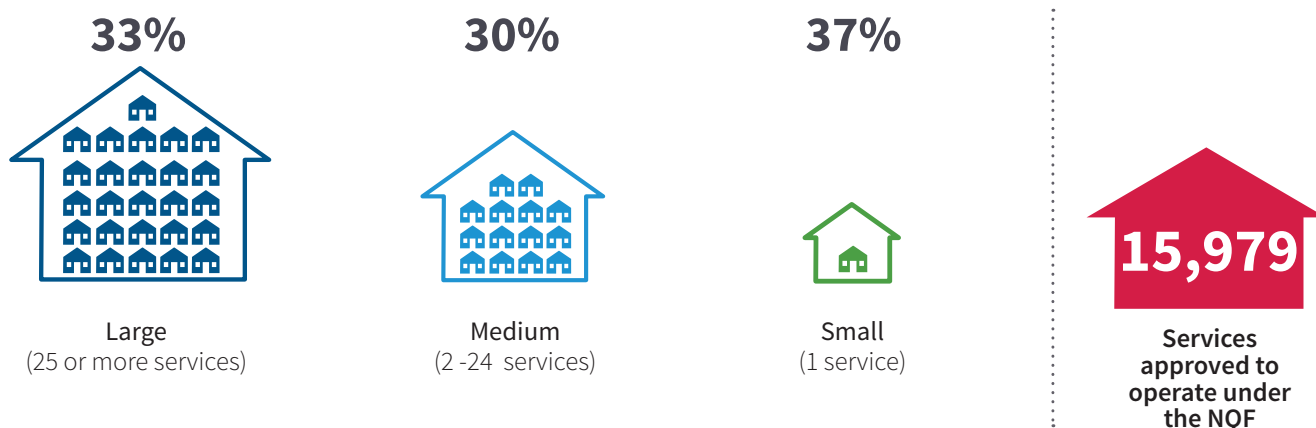


Figure 8 shows that 37% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 33% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

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, state and territory 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%	325	91%
NSW	5534	35%	5161	93%
NT	221	1%	217	98%
QLD	2992	19%	2841	95%
SA	1204	8%	1139	95%
TAS	226	1%	216	96%
VIC	4229	26%	3989	94%
WA	1215	8%	1116	92%
TOTAL	15,979	100%	15,004	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	6	142	89	88	0	325
NSW	164	2977	751	1269	0	5161
NT	4	87	73	51	2	217
QLD	104	1522	496	718	1	2841
SA	12	365	399	363	0	1139
TAS	10	119	0	87	0	216
VIC	154	1499	1163	1173	0	3989
WA	31	639	22	423	1	1116
TOTAL	485	7350	2993	4172	4	15,004

Quality improvement

Table 5 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 2303 services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 1559 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	52	11	0	82
	Working Towards NQS	27	1559	2303	667	4556
	Meeting NQS	3	674	2179	595	3451
	Exceeding NQS	1	216	724	975	1916
	Total	50	2501	5217	2237	10,005

		Rating after reassessment				Improvement rate
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	23%	63%	13%	0%	77%
	Working Towards NQS	1%	34%	51%	15%	65%
	Meeting NQS	0%	20%	63%	17%	17%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	11%	38%	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.

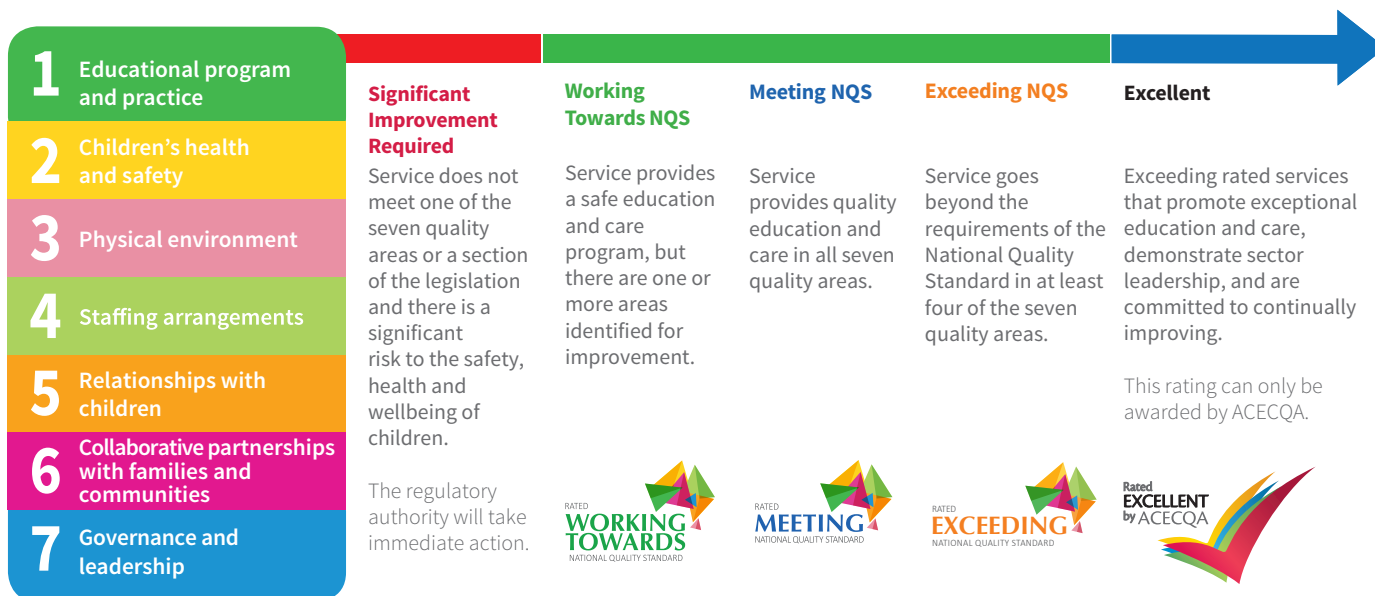


Table 6: Overall quality ratings by jurisdiction

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
ACT	0	76 23%	94 29%	153 47%	2	325
NSW	7	1317 26%	2500 48%	1323 26%	14	5161
NT	0	58 27%	120 55%	38 18%	1	217
QLD	2	402 14%	1577 56%	851 30%	9	2841
SA	0	181 16%	403 35%	546 48%	9	1139
TAS	2	57 26%	86 40%	71 33%	0	216
VIC	0	597 15%	2100 53%	1282 32%	10	3989
WA	0	318 28%	584 52%	214 19%	0	1116
TOTAL	11	3006 20%	7464 50%	4478 30%	45	15,004

Figure 9: Overall quality ratings by service type

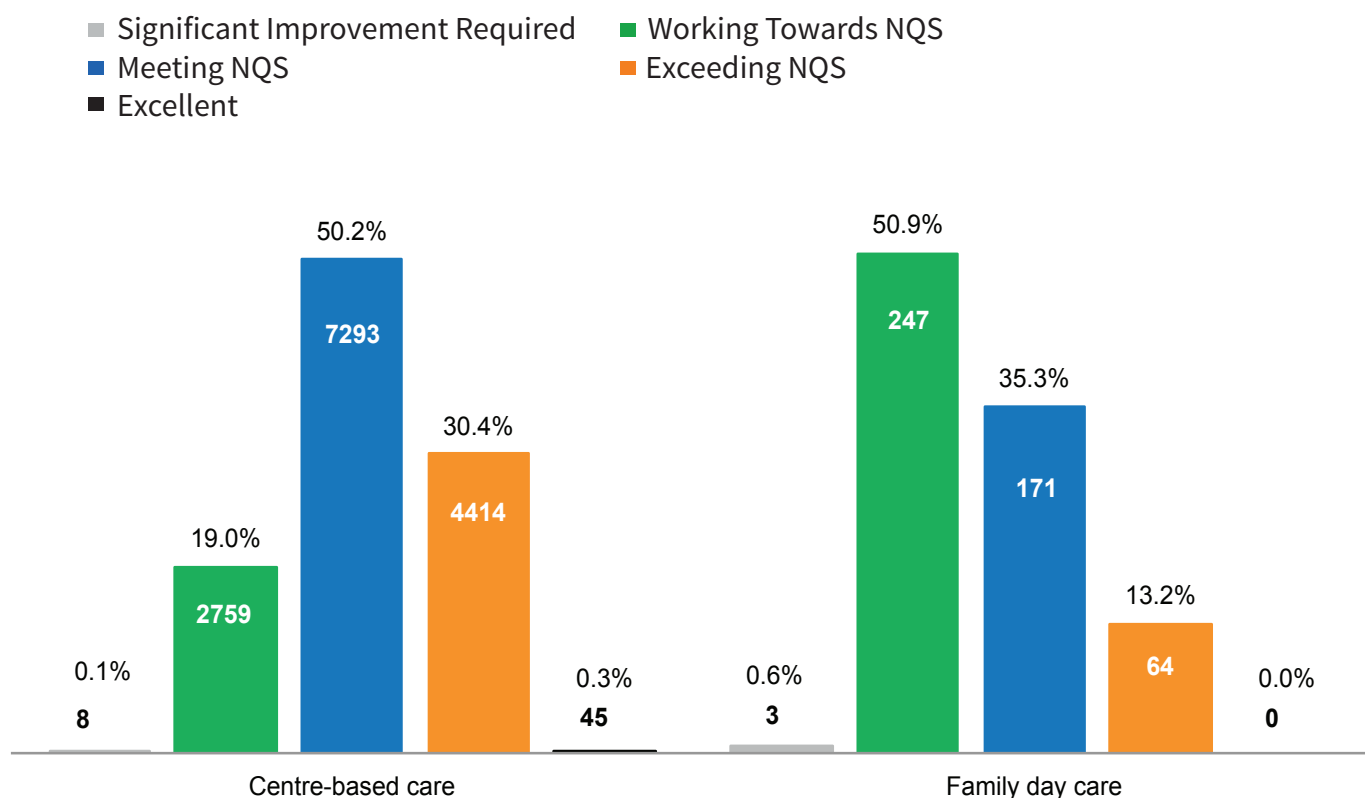


Figure 10: Overall quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

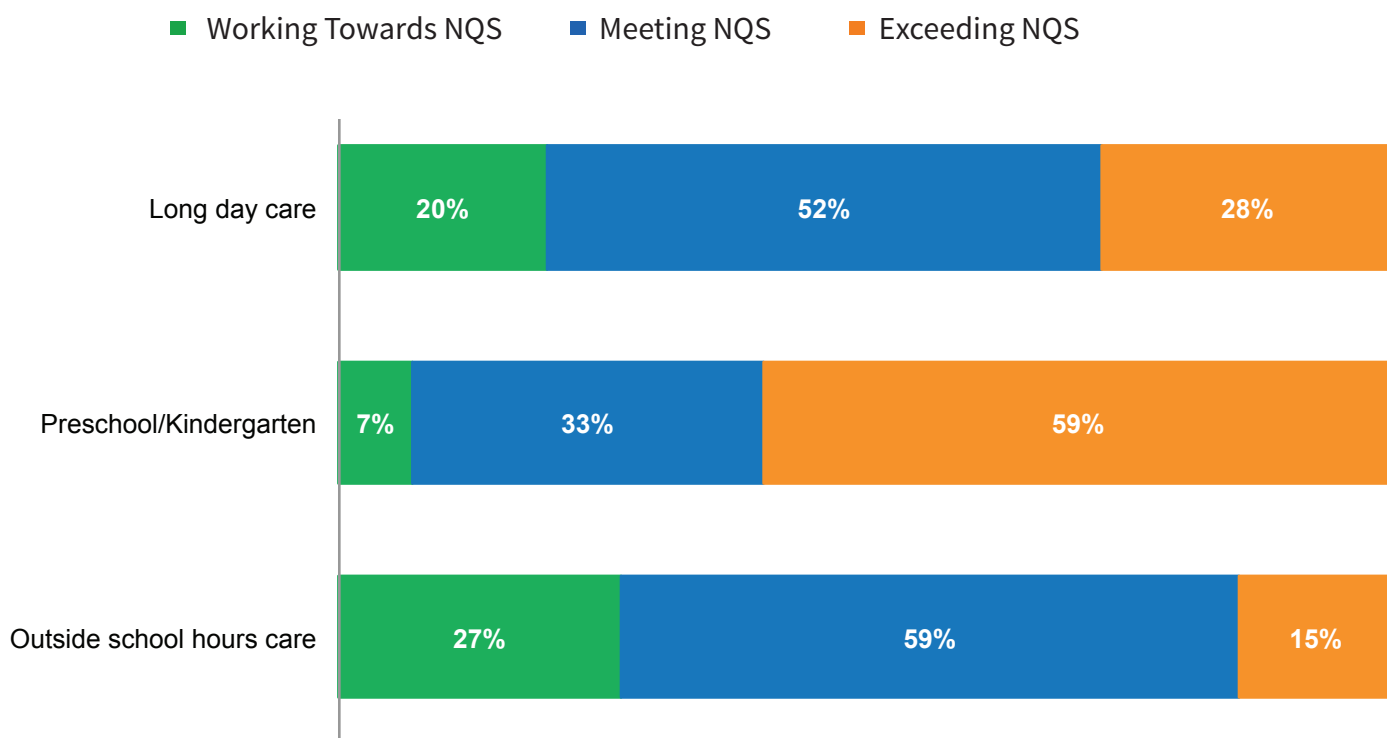
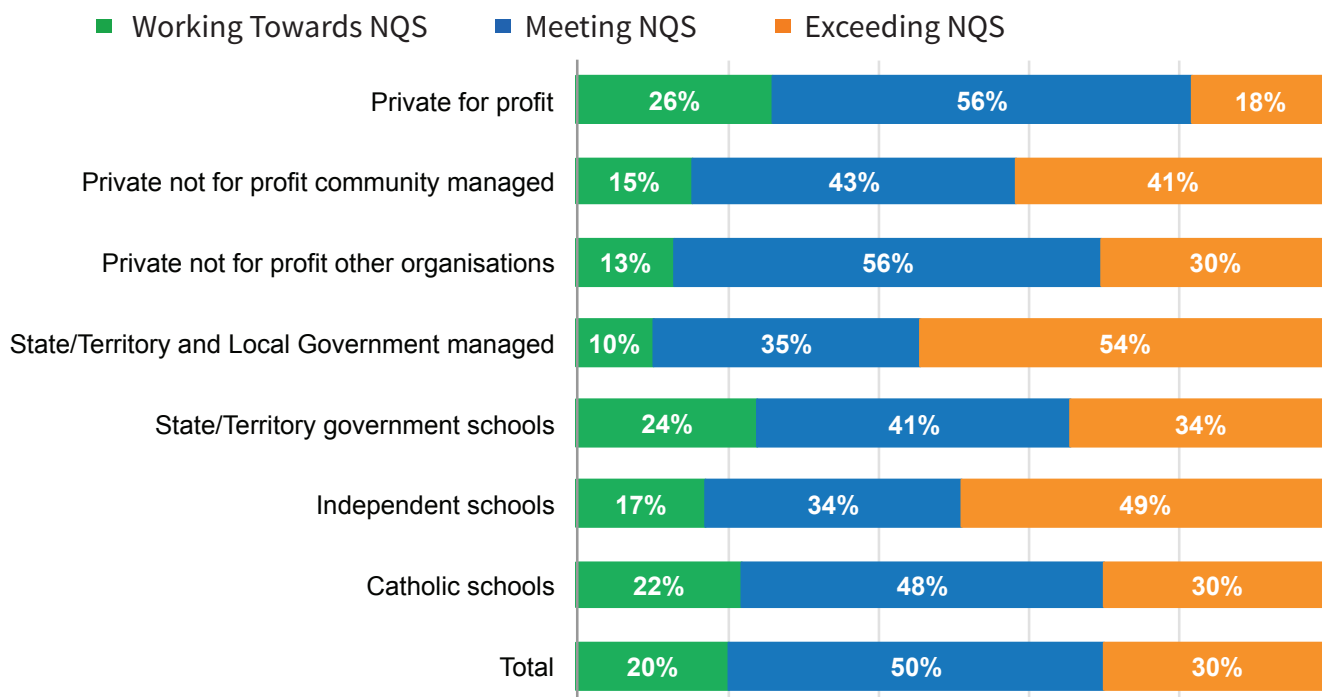


Figure 11 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings between provider management types.

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.

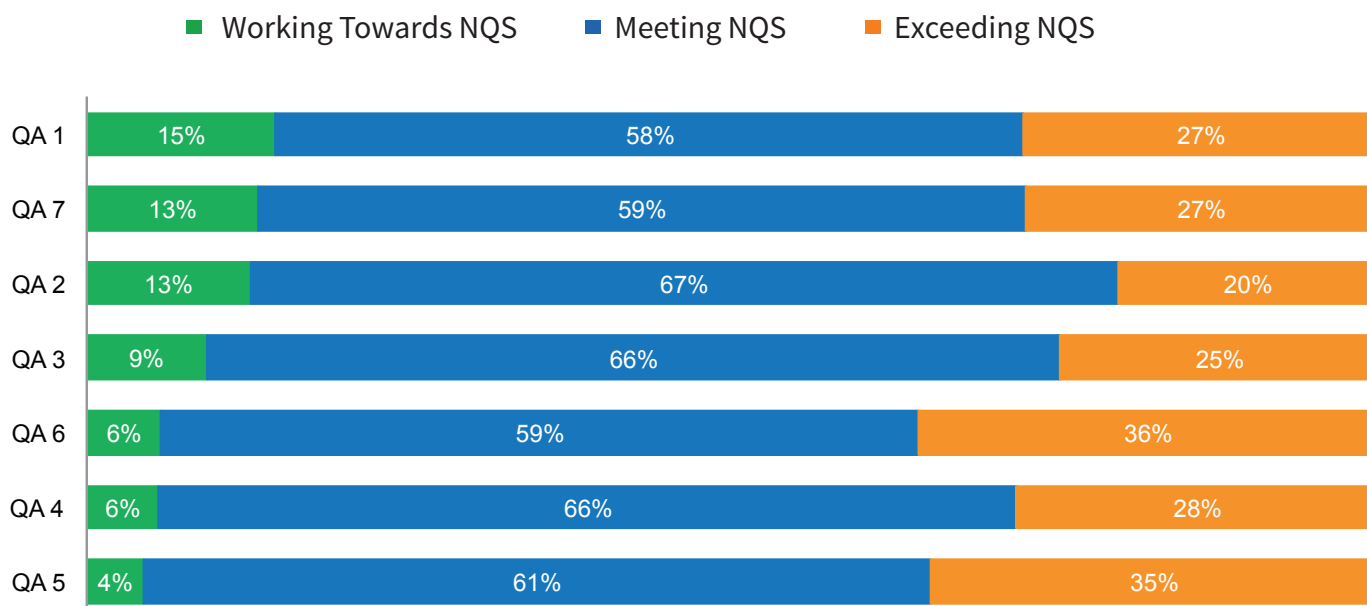
Quality area ratings

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	2201	8694	4109
Quality Area 7 - Governance and leadership	8	2000	8897	4099
Quality Area 2 - Children's health and safety	10	1901	10,071	3022
Quality Area 3 - Physical environment	2	1387	9936	3679
Quality Area 6 - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	0	869	8792	5343
Quality Area 4 - Staffing arrangements	1	844	9964	4195
Quality Area 5 - Relationships with children	0	662	9141	5201

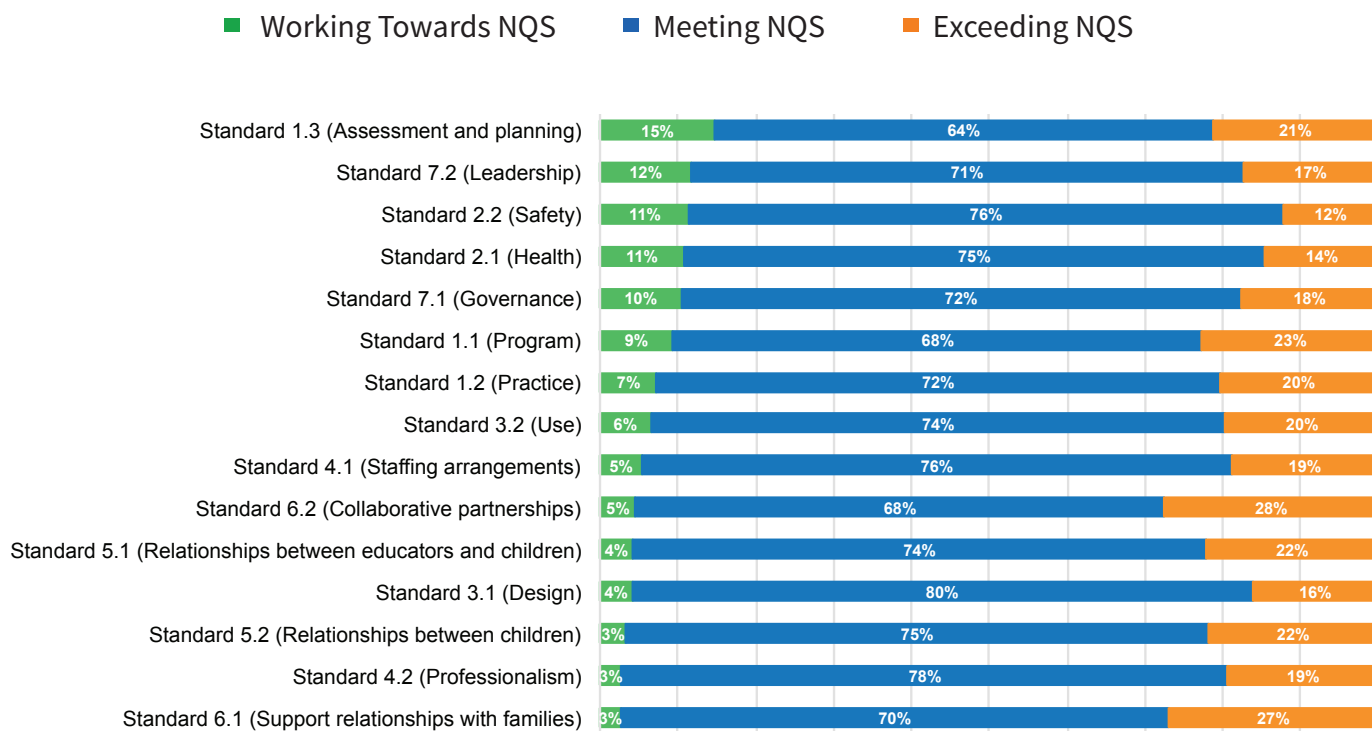
Figure 12: Quality area ratings



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



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.

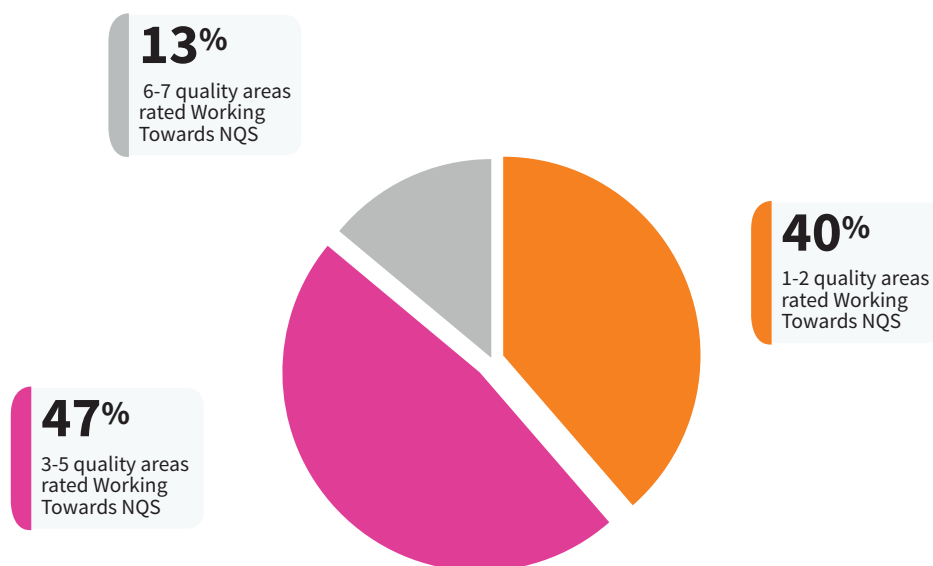
Table 8: Element level results under 2018 NQS

	% Not Met		% Not Met
1.3.1 (Assessment and planning cycle)	12.3%	3.2.1 (Inclusive environment)	3.3%
1.3.2 (Critical reflection)	11.9%	5.1.2 (Dignity and rights of the child)	3.2%
7.1.2 (Management systems)	9.0%	5.2.2 (Self-regulation)	3.1%
2.1.2 (Health practices and procedures)	8.8%	7.1.1 (Service philosophy and purpose)	3.1%
2.2.1 (Supervision)	7.6%	2.1.3 (Healthy lifestyle)	3.1%
7.2.2 (Educational leadership)	7.6%	7.1.3 (Roles and responsibilities)	2.8%
7.2.3 (Development of professionals)	7.3%	3.2.2 (Resources support play-based learning)	2.8%
1.1.3 (Program learning opportunities)	7.0%	2.2.3 (Child protection)	2.5%
2.2.2 (Incident and emergency management)	5.7%	5.1.1 (Positive educator to child interactions)	2.4%
4.1.1 (Organisation of educators)	5.1%	4.2.2 (Professional standards)	2.2%
7.2.1 (Continuous improvement)	4.5%	2.1.1 (Wellbeing and comfort)	2.1%
1.2.2 (Responsive teaching and scaffolding)	4.5%	6.2.2 (Access and participation)	2.0%
1.1.1 (Approved learning framework)	4.4%	3.1.1 (Fit for purpose)	1.7%
1.2.3 (Child directed learning)	4.4%	6.1.3 (Families are supported)	1.6%
3.2.3 (Environmentally responsible)	4.2%	6.2.1 (Transitions)	1.6%
1.1.2 (Child-centred)	4.2%	4.2.1 (Professional collaboration)	1.4%
1.2.1 (Intentional teaching)	3.9%	6.1.1 (Engagement with the service)	1.4%
1.3.3 (Information for families)	3.7%	6.1.2 (Parent views are respected)	1.2%
6.2.3 (Community engagement)	3.3%	5.2.1 (Collaborative learning)	1.1%
3.1.2 (Upkeep)	3.3%	4.1.2 (Continuity of staff)	1.0%

Services rated Working Towards NQS

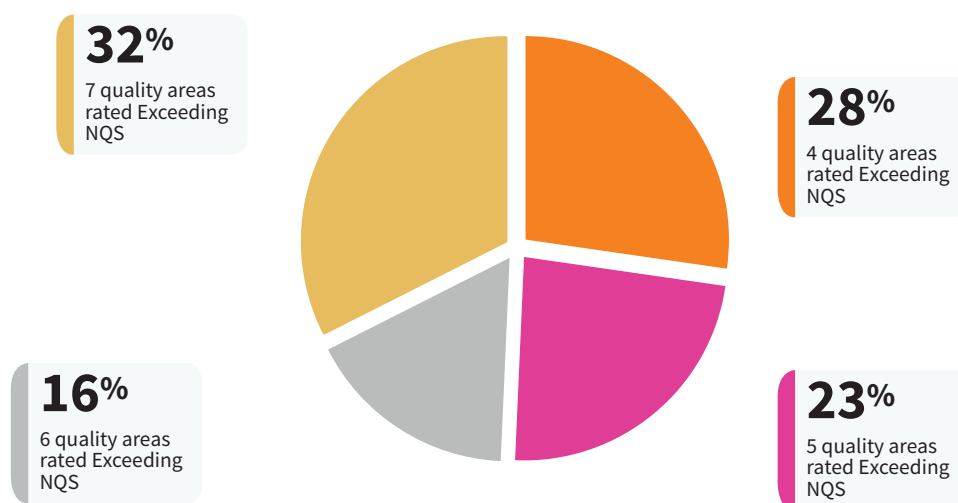
A service receives an overall rating of Working Towards NQS if any of the seven quality areas are rated Working Towards NQS. A quality area is rated Working Towards NQS if any of the standards within that quality area are rated Working Towards NQS.

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

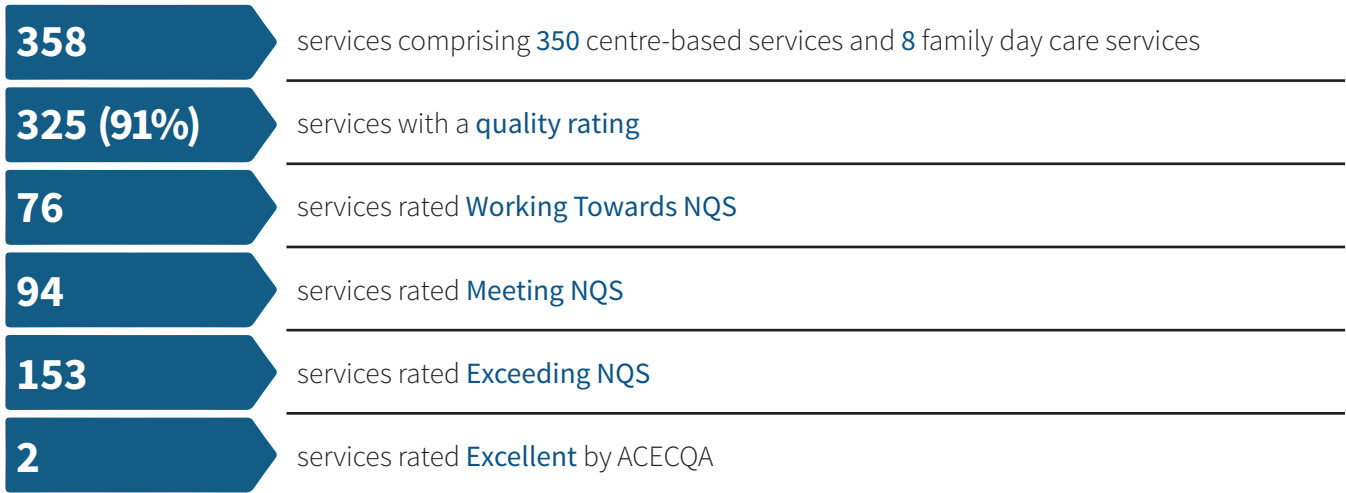
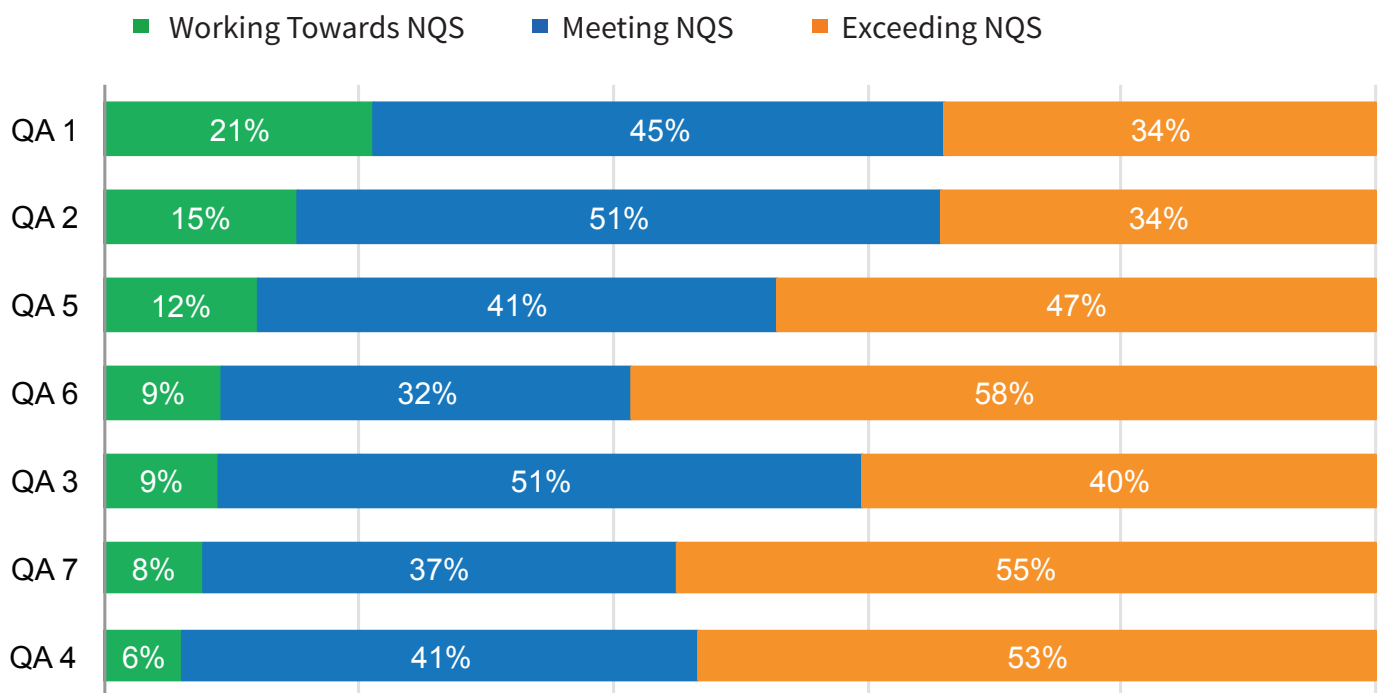


Figure 16 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 16: Quality area ratings



Contact details

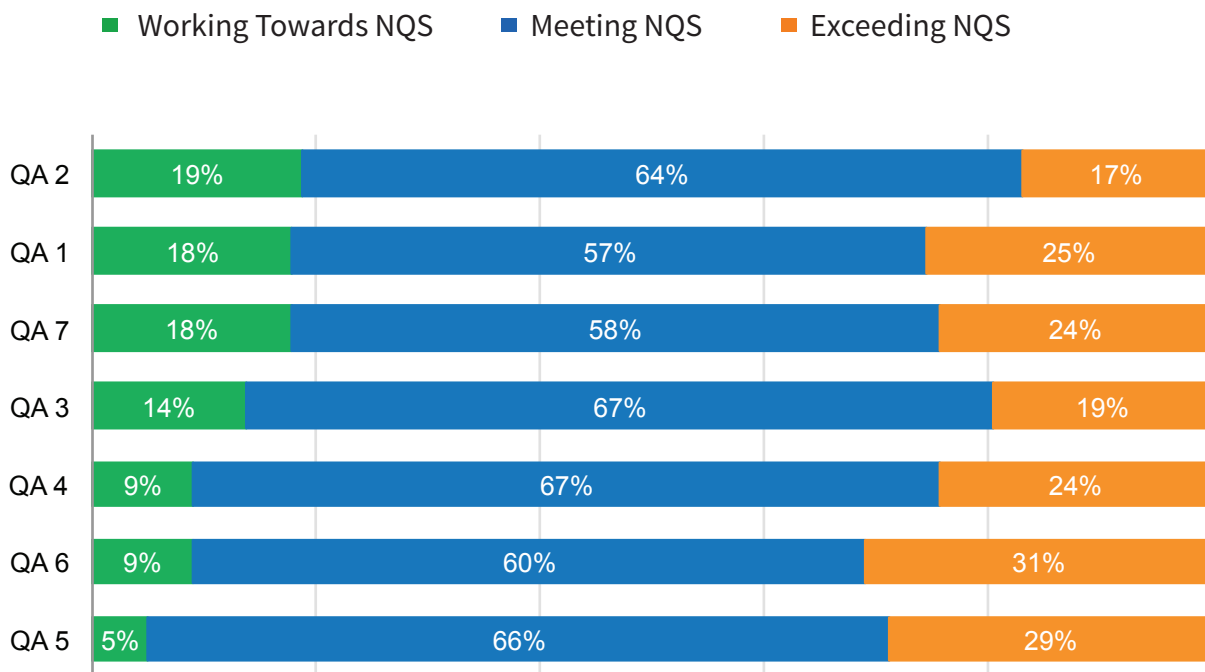
Education Directorate
 Children's Education and Care Assurance
www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood

New South Wales summary

5534	services comprising 5361 centre-based services and 173 family day care services
5161 (93%)	services with a quality rating
7	services rated Significant Improvement Required
1317	services rated Working Towards NQS
2500	services rated Meeting NQS
1323	services rated Exceeding NQS
14	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

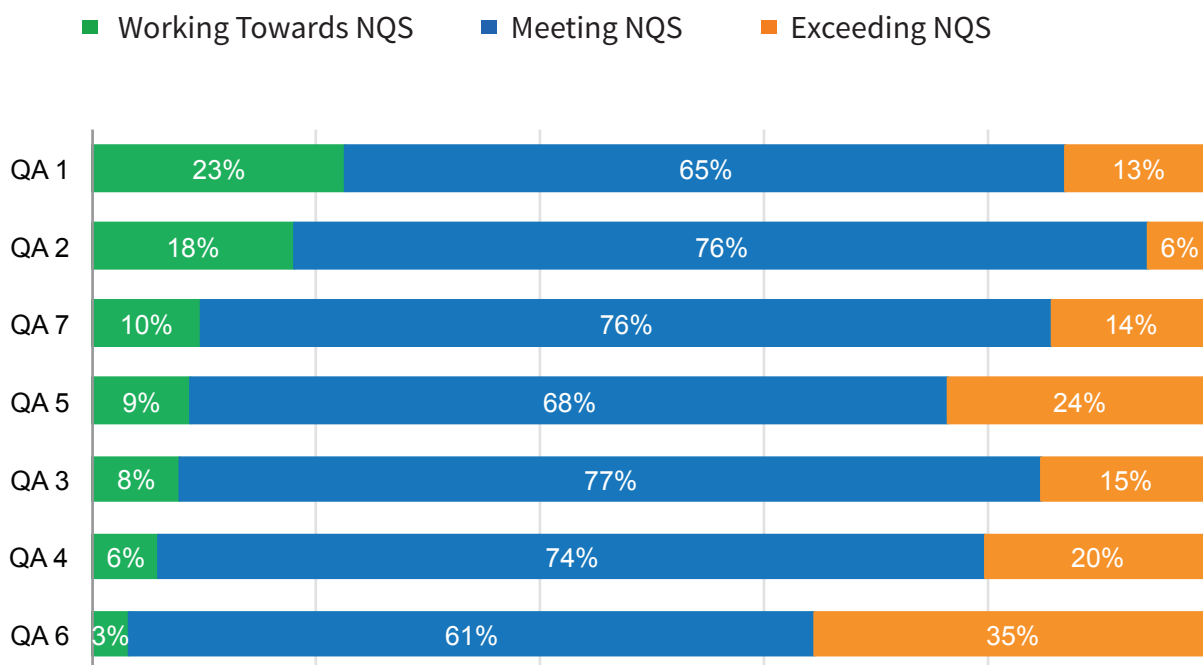
Department of Education
 Early Childhood Education Directorate
www.education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education

Northern Territory summary

221	services comprising 217 centre-based services and four family day care services
217 (98%)	services with a quality rating
58	services rated Working Towards NQS
120	services rated Meeting NQS
38	services rated Exceeding NQS
1	service rated Excellent 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

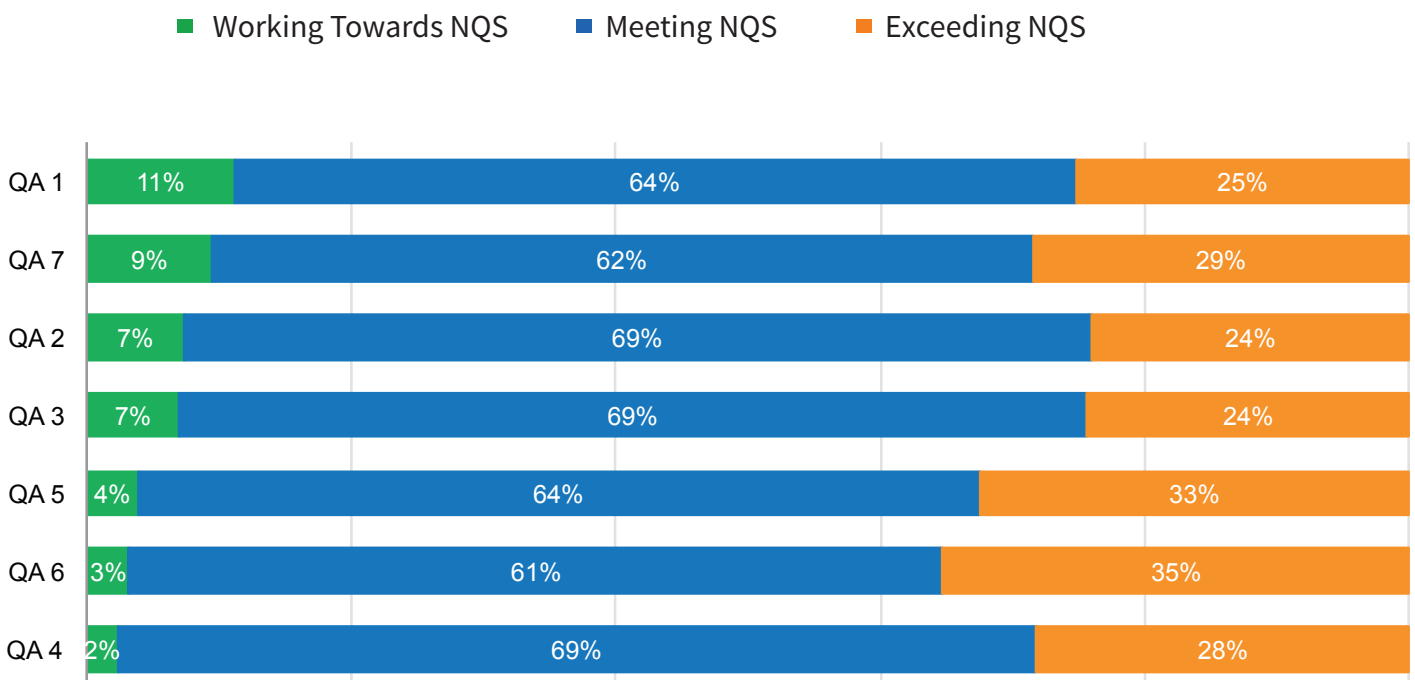
Department of Education
 Quality Education and Care NT
www.nt.gov.au/learning/early-childhood

Queensland summary

2992	services comprising 2878 centre-based services and 114 family day care services
2841 (95%)	services with a quality rating
2	services rated Significant Improvement Required
402	services rated Working Towards NQS
1577	services rated Meeting NQS
851	services rated Exceeding NQS
9	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

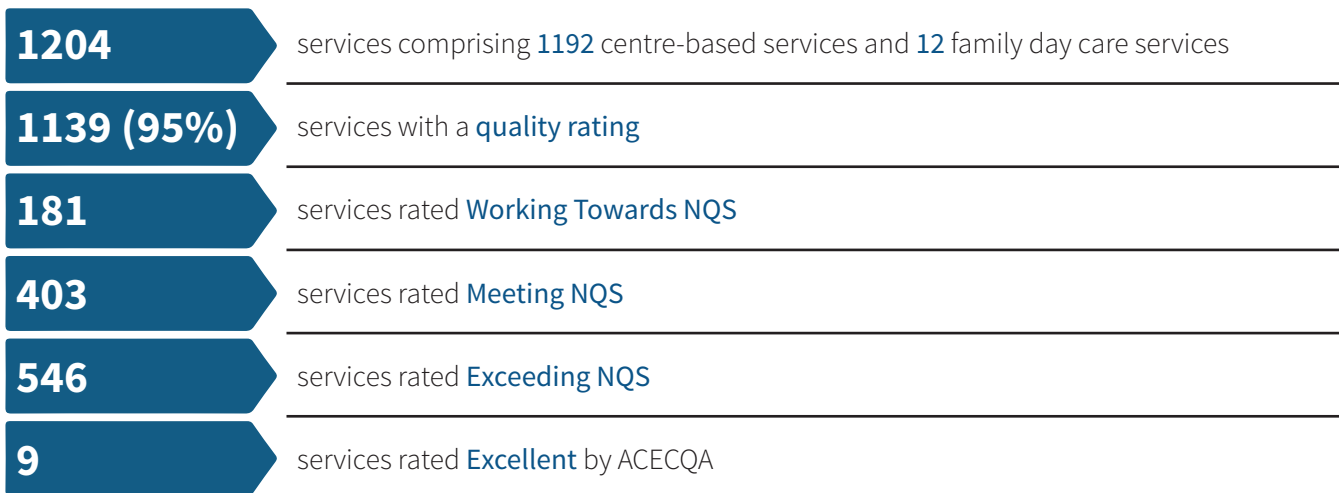
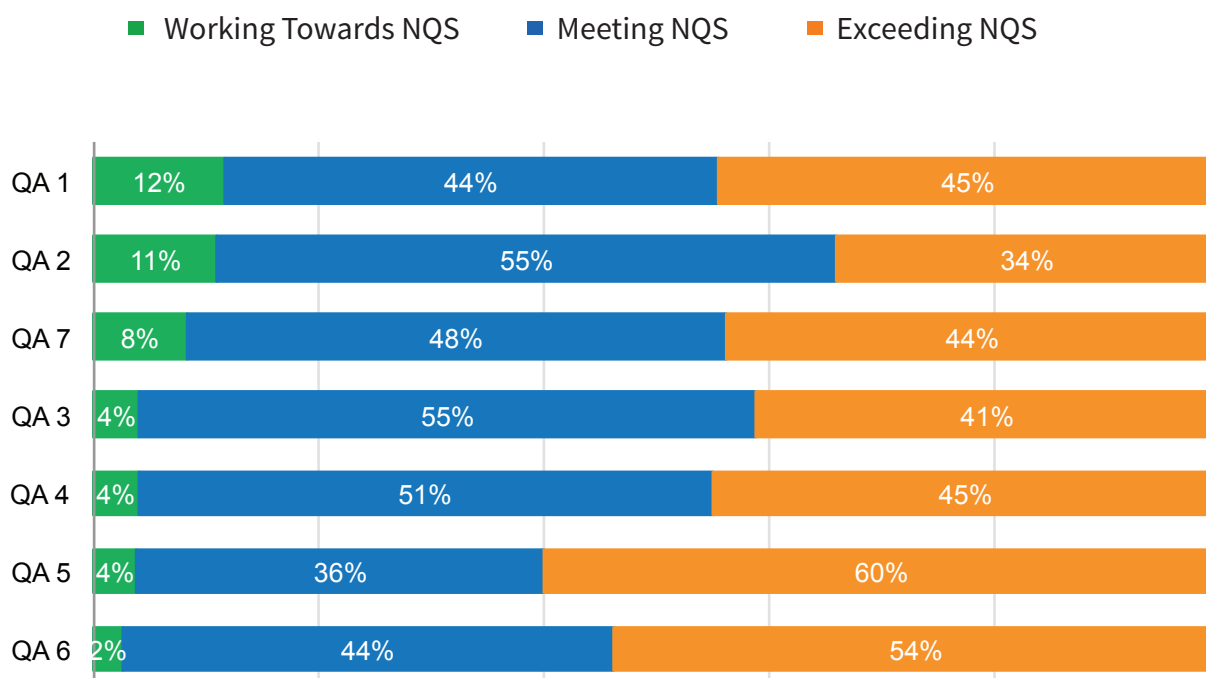


Figure 20 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 20: Quality area ratings



Contact details

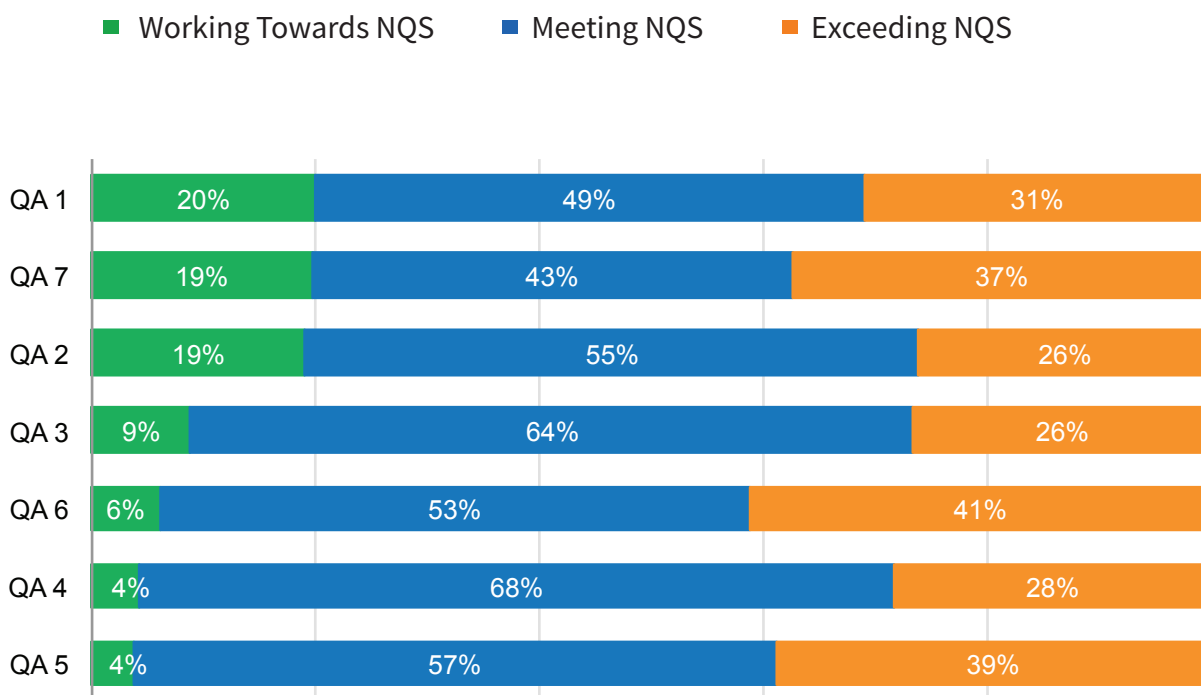
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards
Board of South Australia
www.esb.sa.gov.au/early-childhood

Tasmania summary

226	services comprising 216 centre-based services and 10 family day care services
216 (96%)	services with a quality rating
2	services rated Significant Improvement Required
57	services rated Working Towards NQS
86	services rated Meeting NQS
71	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

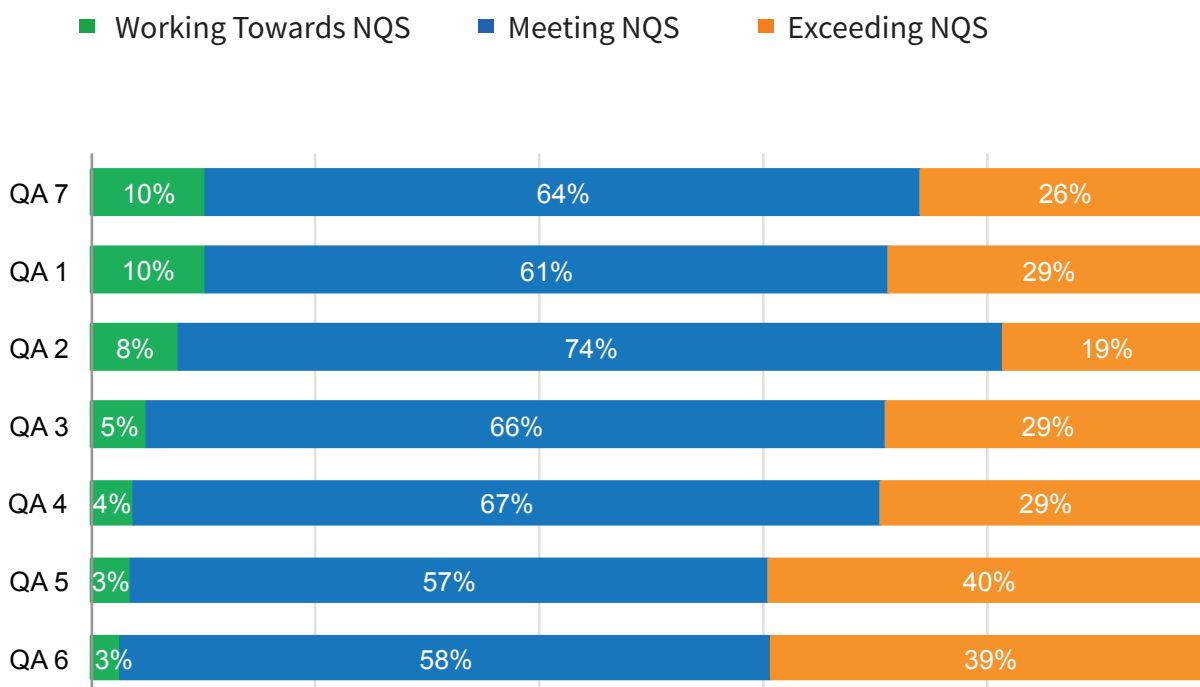
Department of Education
Education and Care Unit
www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au

Victoria summary

4229	services comprising 4043 centre-based services and 186 family day care services
3989 (94%)	services with a quality rating
597	services rated Working Towards NQS
2100	services rated Meeting NQS
1282	services rated Exceeding NQS
10	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

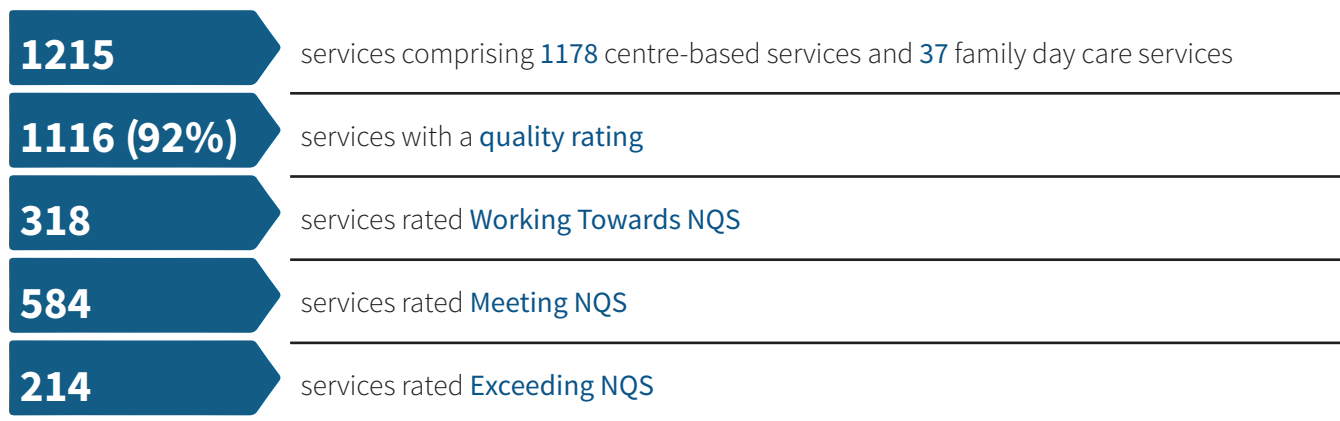
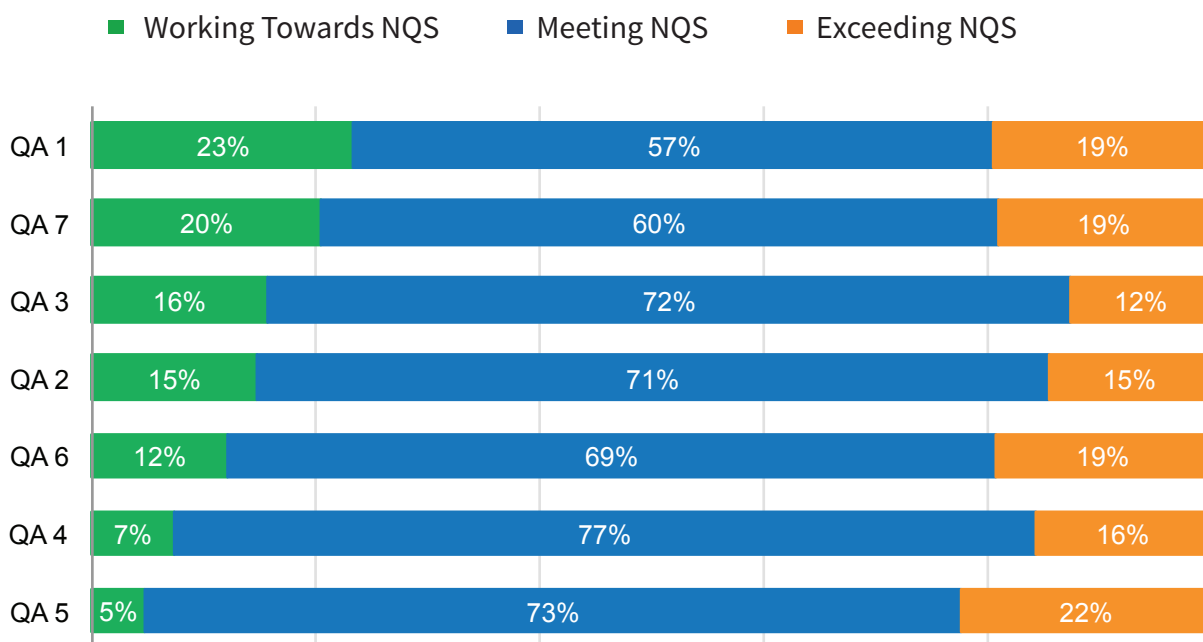


Figure 23 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

Figure 23: Quality area ratings



Contact details

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



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