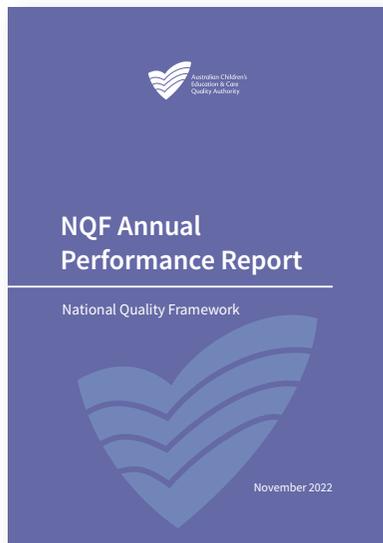


NQF Annual Performance Report Summary 2022



More details available at acecqa.gov.au/apr

The National Quality Framework

The National Quality Framework (NQF) represents a nationwide commitment to quality education and care for young children.

Its objectives include ensuring their health, safety and wellbeing, and improving their educational and developmental outcomes.

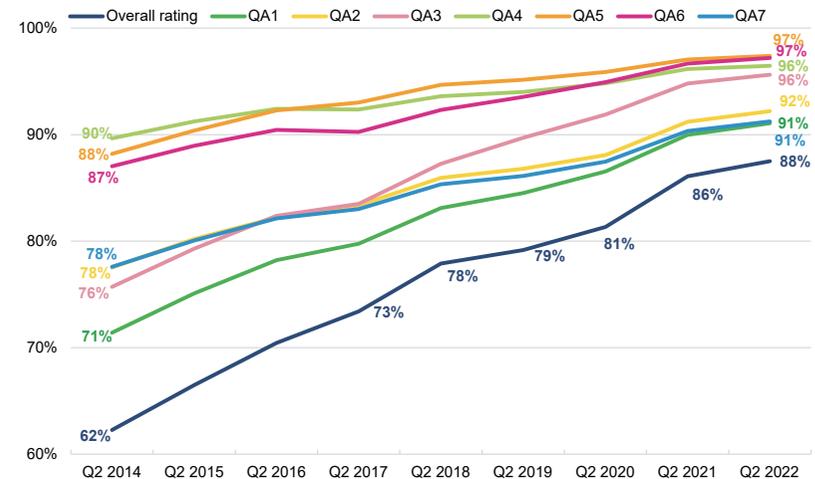
Overview of the sector

As at 30 June 2022:

- almost 17,000 children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF, including:
 - » 8556 long day care services
 - » 4856 outside school hours care services
 - » 3074 preschools/kindergartens
 - » 498 family day care services.

Quality improvement

The proportion of services rated Meeting NQS or above has increased every year since the NQF was introduced, at the overall quality rating level and for each of the seven quality areas.*



* QA1 - Educational program and practice; QA2 - Children's health and safety; QA3 - Physical environment; QA4 - Staffing arrangements; QA5 - Relationships with children; QA6 - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities; QA7 - Governance and leadership



Chapter 1 Children's health and safety

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



Chapter 2 Educational program and practice

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



Chapter 3 Children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds

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



Chapter 4 Workforce

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



Chapter 5 Service provider perceptions of the NQF

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



01

Children's health and safety

- Service providers are responsible for the health and safety of children attending approved services under the NQF.
- The proportion of services rated Meeting NQS or above for children's health and safety continues to increase year on year.
- Almost three-quarters of family day care services are rated Meeting NQS or above for children's health and safety – the highest proportion for more than seven years.



02

Educational program and practice

- The NQF aims to improve educational and developmental outcomes for children attending education and care services.
- Of all 15 standards of the NQS, assessment and planning remains the most challenging, with the two most challenging elements of quality within it:
 - » Assessment and planning cycle
 - » Critical reflection.



03

Children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds

- Children from more disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to be developmentally vulnerable. They also receive the greatest benefits from attending high quality education and care.
- Almost one-third of services in the most advantaged areas are rated Exceeding NQS, compared with less than one-quarter in the most disadvantaged areas.



04

Workforce

- More than one in seven long day care services hold a staffing waiver, mostly relating to temporary issues meeting early childhood teacher staffing requirements.
- In October 2021, Education Ministers approved the publication of *Shaping Our Future: A ten-year strategy to ensure a sustainable, high quality children's education and care workforce*.
- A complementary implementation and evaluation plan was published in September 2022.



05

Service provider perceptions of the NQF

- The NQF aims 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.
- Half of survey respondents in 2022 reported high levels of overall burden.
- Many respondents identified quality assessment and rating visits, and quality improvement plans as highly burdensome.