



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

**OUR
VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Quality improving across more early childhood services

Good news for parents and the early childhood sector as the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) finds more early childhood services achieving and improving quality standards in their latest quarterly report on the *National Quality Framework* (NQF).

Early Childhood Australia CEO Sam Page said, 'It is pleasing to see a significant increase in the number of early childhood services that have been assessed and rated—with three quarters of services now rated under the *National Quality Framework*, up from 52 per cent last year.

'This means that more families can gain a greater insight into the quality of the early childhood service their child is attending.

'Quality early learning amplifies children's development, so we want more services demonstrating the delivery of quality programs led by qualified early childhood educators.

'While many services are still 'Working Towards' the standard (31 per cent), we hope to see this continue to improve over time as services continuously look to improve in the quality areas identified in the NQF and undertake professional development.'

Services were more likely to be 'Working Towards' in Quality Area 1 of the *National Quality Standard* 'Educational program and practice' with 23 per cent of services not meeting the standard.

'Governments and services need to focus more on process quality—the implementation of the curriculum, the interactions between staff and children, and the overall quality of instruction and care', said Ms Page.

Following Closing the Gap Day this week, Ms Page pointed out that Budget Based Funded services, which primarily service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, did not have to meet the *National Quality Standard*.

'It is also no longer acceptable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to have a different quality standard than other Australian children', said Ms Page.

'The states and the Commonwealth need to step up and regulate these services for the benefit of Australia's most vulnerable children.'

The final report from a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) review into the *National Quality Framework* is due to be handed down this year.

View ACECQA's latest Snapshot report here: www.acecqa.gov.au/news-media/news/

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