



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority

ECEC Guidance

BECOME AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PROFESSIONAL

The early years are critical for establishing self-esteem, resilience, healthy growth and capacity to learn. Research shows that quality education and care early in life, shapes a child's future and lays the foundation for success in their development and future learning.

By choosing a career in early childhood education and care you're making a significant and lasting contribution to the lives of children – their wellbeing, development, education and lifelong learning.



QUALITY EDUCATION AND CARE SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S BEST START IN LIFE

Under the National Quality Framework (NQF) all Australian governments are working together to provide better educational and developmental outcomes for children. The growing international research shows this leads to better health, education and employment outcomes in later life.

The NQF includes:

- [National Law and National Regulations](#)
- [National Quality Standard \(NQS\)](#)
- [assessment and quality rating process](#)
- [approved learning frameworks.](#)

The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) is the independent national authority that assists governments in implementing the NQF. State and territory governments regulate, assess and rate almost 16,000 services, attended by over a million children.

CHOOSE A CAREER THAT SUPPORTS YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

As an education and care professional, your career opportunities are vast. The NQF sets out the minimum qualification requirements to work with children in an education and care service, your qualification will also open up opportunities to take on other roles within the sector. Opportunities include being an educational leader, the director or coordinator of a service or policy development officer. Your regulatory authority may also offer opportunities to be engaged as an authorised officer.

If you're thinking of gaining an education and care qualification, you will find a [list of approved qualifications](#), including approved first aid, emergency asthma and anaphylaxis qualifications on ACECQA's website.

Some state and territory specific qualification requirements exist for professionals wishing to work with school age children in outside school hours care services, and you may also need a [teacher registration](#) or accreditation.

OUR NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD DELIVERS IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

The NQS sets a national benchmark for the quality of education and care services and includes seven quality areas that influence the outcomes for children:

- Educational program and practice
- Children's health and safety
- Physical environment
- Staffing arrangements
- Relationships with children
- Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Governance and leadership

Each state and territory government assesses and rates the quality of education and care services under the NQS. Service quality ratings are published on both acecqa.gov.au and our family focused startingblocks.gov.au.

“*From my experience, a career in education and care is very rewarding, knowing that you are making a contribution to quality education and care outcomes for children.*”

Rhonda Livingstone - National Education Leader

OUR APPROVED LEARNING FRAMEWORKS MAXIMISE LEARNING OPPORTUNITES FOR CHILDREN

Services are required to base their educational program and practice on an approved learning framework. The nationally approved frameworks include:

[Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#)

[My Time Our Place: the Framework for School Age Care](#)

IMPORTANT LINKS

- acecqa.gov.au

Free downloads

- [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)
- [Education and Care Services National Law](#)
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#)
- [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#)
- [My Time Our Place: the Framework for School Age Care](#)

Ongoing updates

- [National Education Leader We Hear You Blog](#)
- [ACECQA Newsletter](#)
- [ACECQA educational games](#)
- [ACECQA Information sheets on the NQS](#)

