



NQF Snapshot

Q4 2018



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority™

A quarterly report from
the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority
February 2019

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Overview

NQF Snapshot Q4 2018 is ACECQA's 24th 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 2019 for the period ending 31 December 2018.

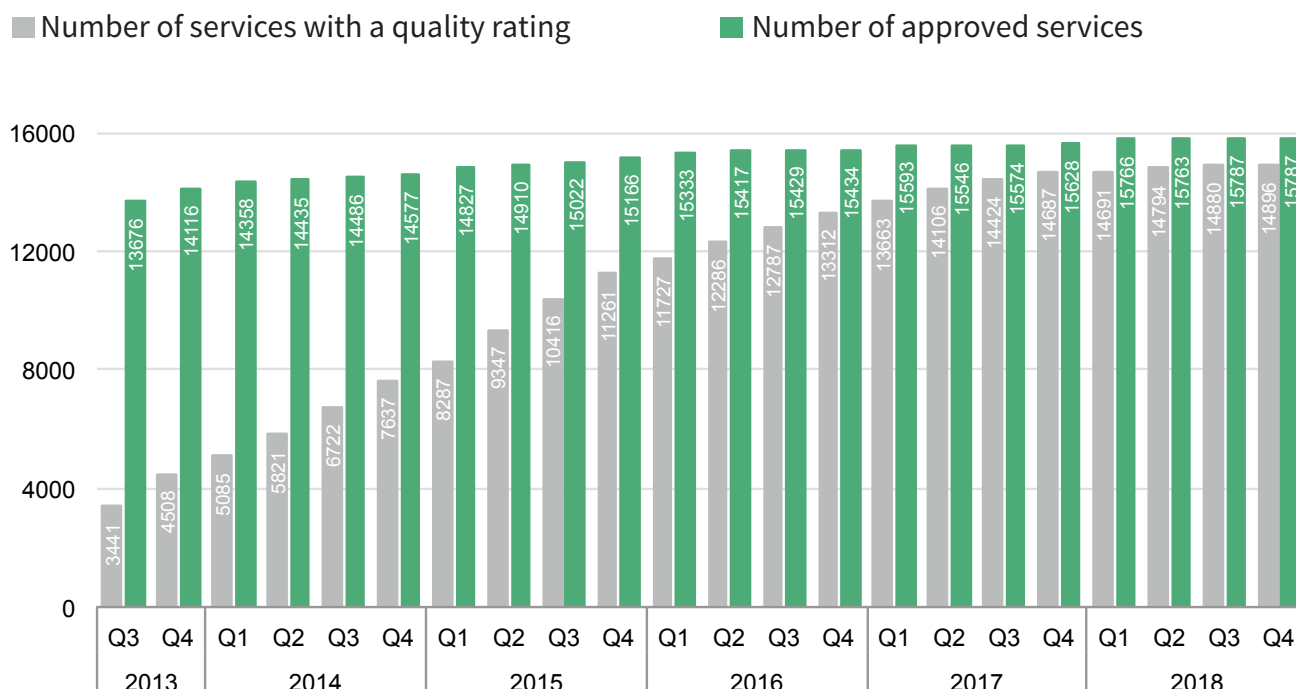
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



Snapshot highlights

15,787	children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF
14,896 (94%)	services with a quality rating
11,741 (79%)	services with a quality rating of Meeting NQS or above
7297	providers approved to operate
5964 (82%)	providers approved to operate only one service
50	services rated Excellent by ACECQA ¹
6646	quality rating reassessments completed
66%	of services rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment
3050 (19%)	services with a quality rating against the 2018 NQS

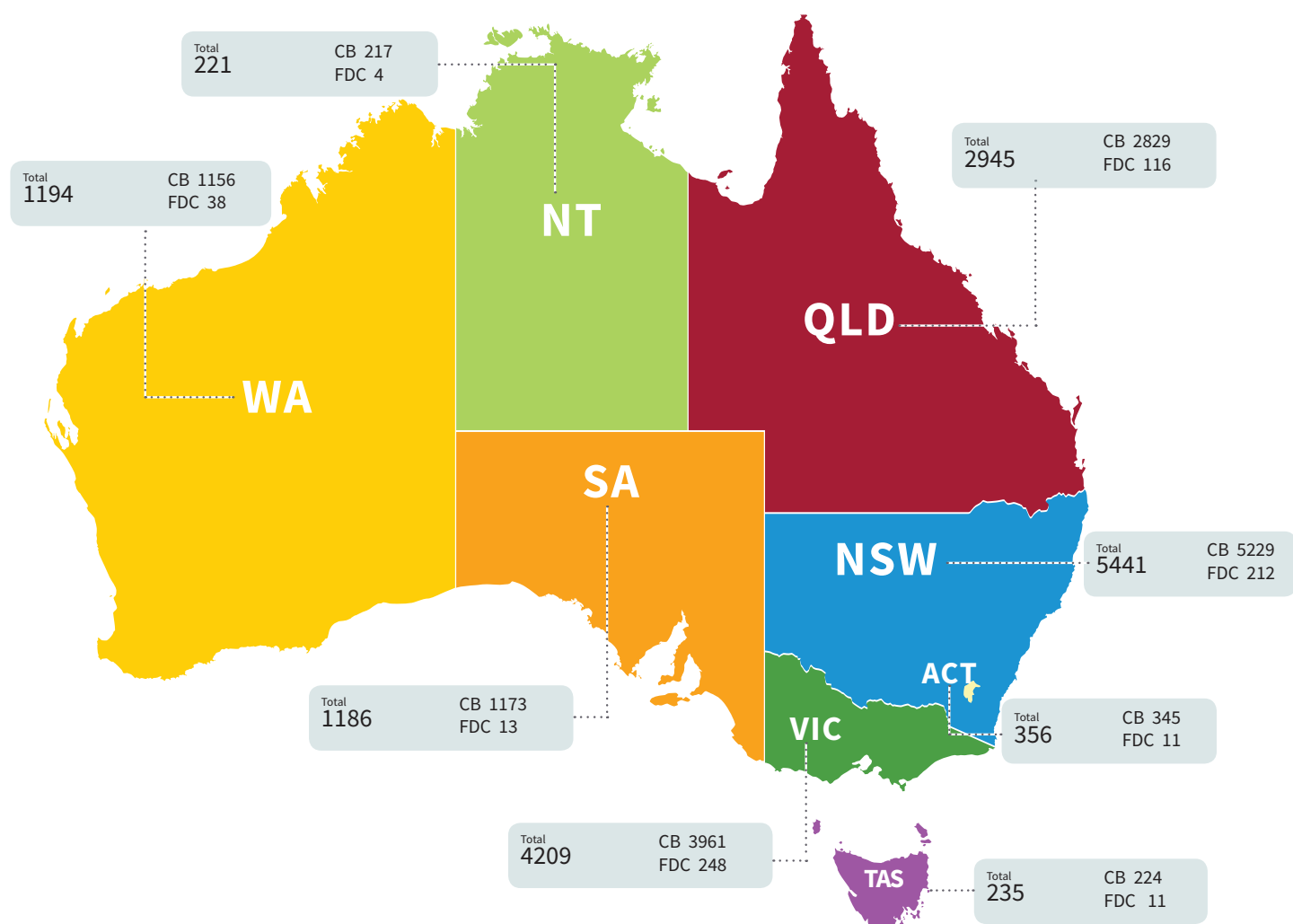
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



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



Total Centre-based (CB) ¹
15,134 (96%)

2%
Increase on Q4 2017

Total Family day care (FDC) ²
653 (4%)

22%
Decrease on Q4 2017

Total
15,787

1%
Increase on Q4 2017

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 by service sub-type and jurisdiction ^{1,2,3,4,5}

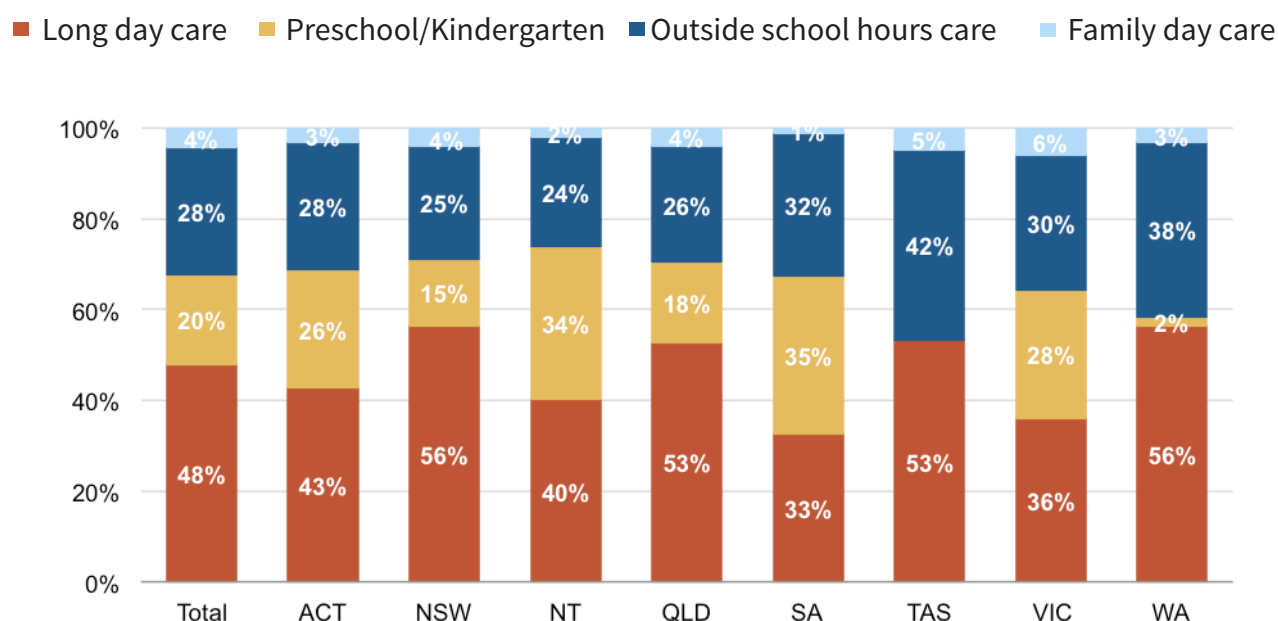


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	11	152	93	100	0	356
NSW	212	3074	796	1359	0	5441
NT	4	88	74	53	2	221
QLD	116	1555	518	754	2	2945
SA	13	388	411	374	0	1186
TAS	11	125	0	99	0	235
VIC	248	1520	1194	1247	0	4209
WA	38	673	25	457	1	1194
TOTAL	653	7575	3111	4443	5	15,787

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 Five services categorised as 'Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

Figure 4: Proportion of services by provider management type ^{1,2,3}

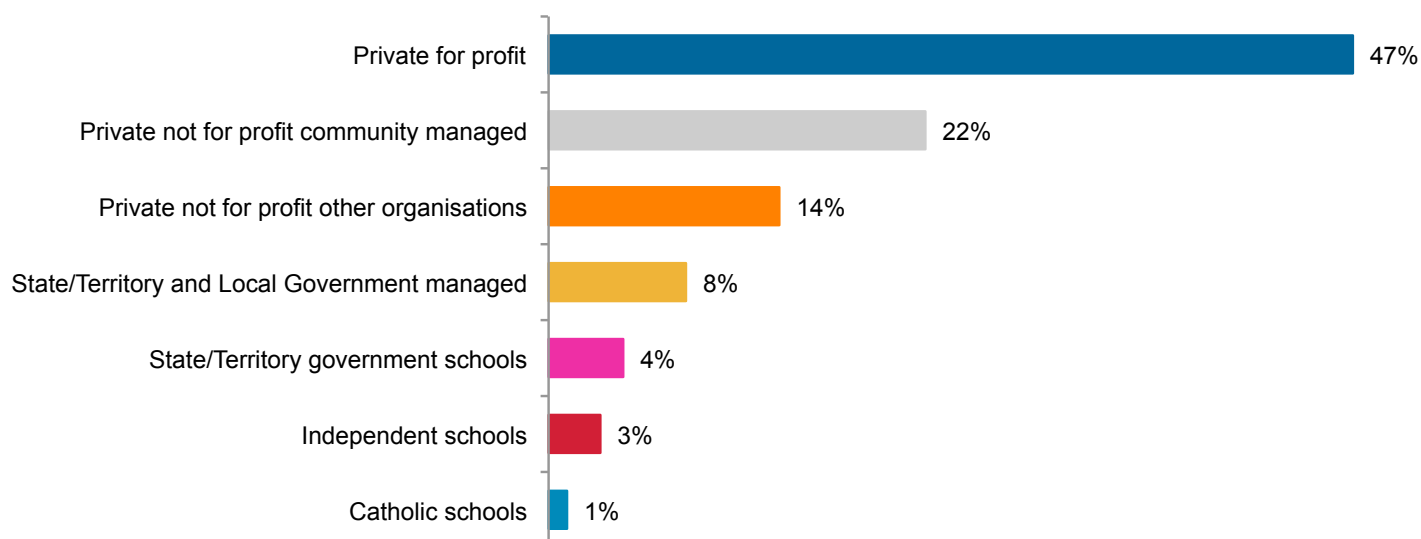


Table 2: Number and proportion of services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7488	47%
Private not for profit community managed	3508	22%
Private not for profit other organisations	2148	14%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1279	8%
State/Territory government schools	695	4%
Independent schools	482	3%
Catholic schools	172	1%
Not stated/Other	15	0%
Total	15,787	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 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provider management type classifications are available at http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup_EDCEFD2FC57CD225CA257C93000D13A7?opendocument

³ 15 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

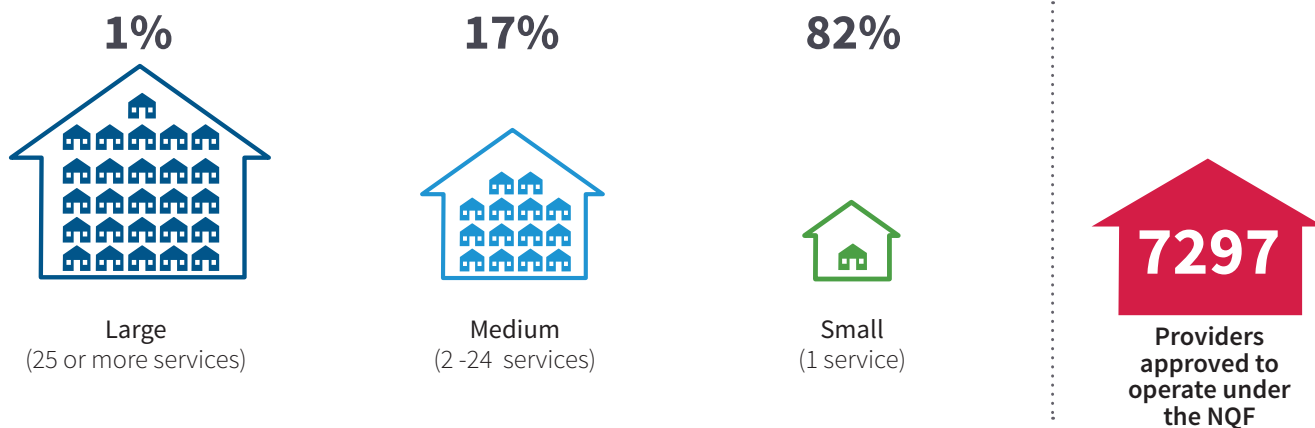
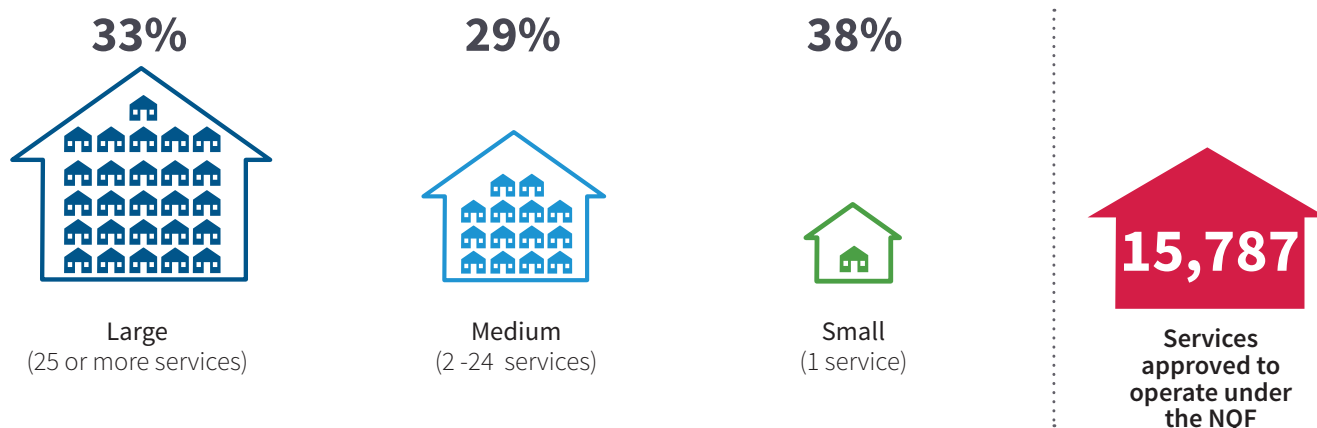


Figure 6 shows that 38% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 33% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

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 99%.

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	356	2%	324	91%
NSW	5441	34%	5191	95%
NT	221	1%	213	96%
QLD	2945	19%	2802	95%
SA	1186	8%	1127	95%
TAS	235	1%	221	94%
VIC	4209	27%	3930	93%
WA	1194	8%	1088	91%
TOTAL	15,787	100%	14,896	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	8	135	92	89	0	324
NSW	197	2927	787	1280	0	5191
NT	4	85	74	48	2	213
QLD	107	1465	507	721	2	2802
SA	12	348	402	365	0	1127
TAS	11	122	0	88	0	221
VIC	198	1412	1168	1152	0	3930
WA	31	625	21	410	1	1088
TOTAL	568	7119	3051	4153	5	14,896

Quality improvement

Table 5 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 1828 services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 1268 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	18	49	9	0	76
	Working Towards NQS	19	1268	1828	631	3746
	Meeting NQS	1	384	1045	391	1821
	Exceeding NQS	0	124	343	536	1003
	Total	38	1825	3225	1558	6646

		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	1%	34%	49%	17%	66%
	Meeting NQS	0%	21%	57%	21%	21%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	12%	34%	53%	-

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.

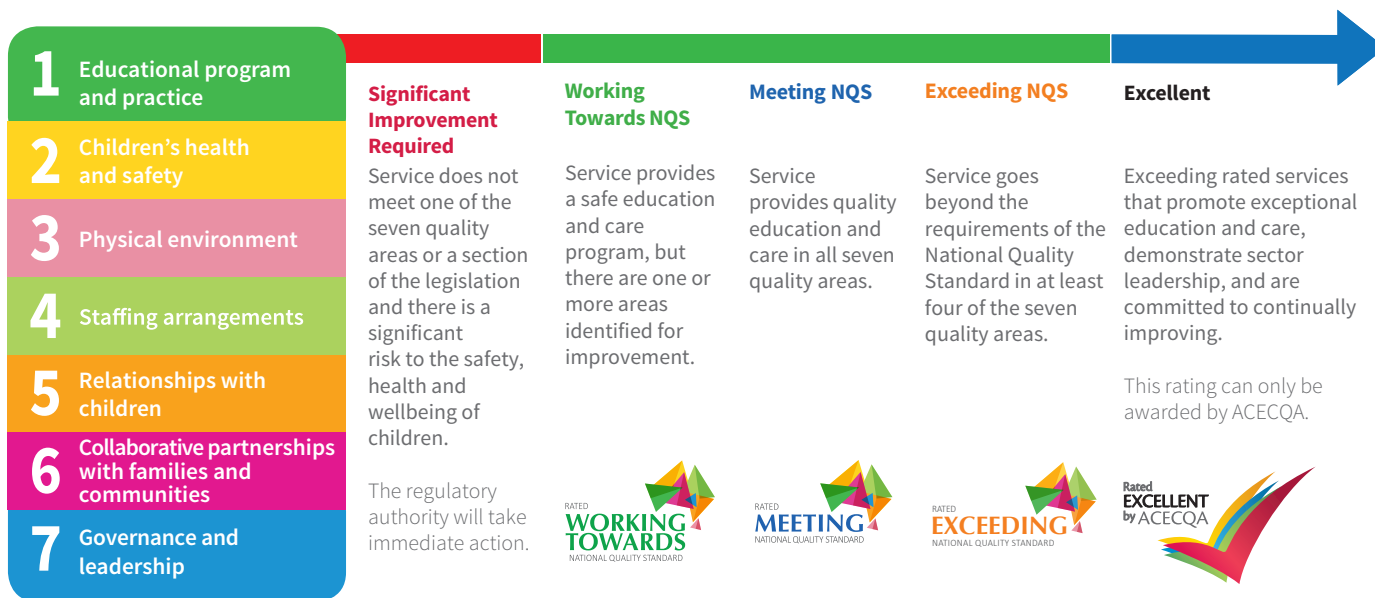


Table 6: Overall quality ratings by jurisdiction

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
ACT	1	80 (25%)	90 (28%)	150 (46%)	3	324
NSW	7	1305 (25%)	2401 (46%)	1461 (28%)	17	5191
NT	0	61 (29%)	114 (54%)	38 (18%)	0	213
QLD	1	469 (17%)	1445 (52%)	875 (31%)	12	2802
SA	0	245 (22%)	334 (30%)	539 (48%)	9	1127
TAS	1	44 (20%)	96 (43%)	80 (36%)	0	221
VIC	1	605 (15%)	2001 (51%)	1314 (33%)	9	3930
WA	0	335 (31%)	482 (44%)	271 (25%)	0	1088
TOTAL	11	3144 (21%)	6963 (47%)	4728 (32%)	50	14,896

Figure 7: Overall quality ratings by service type

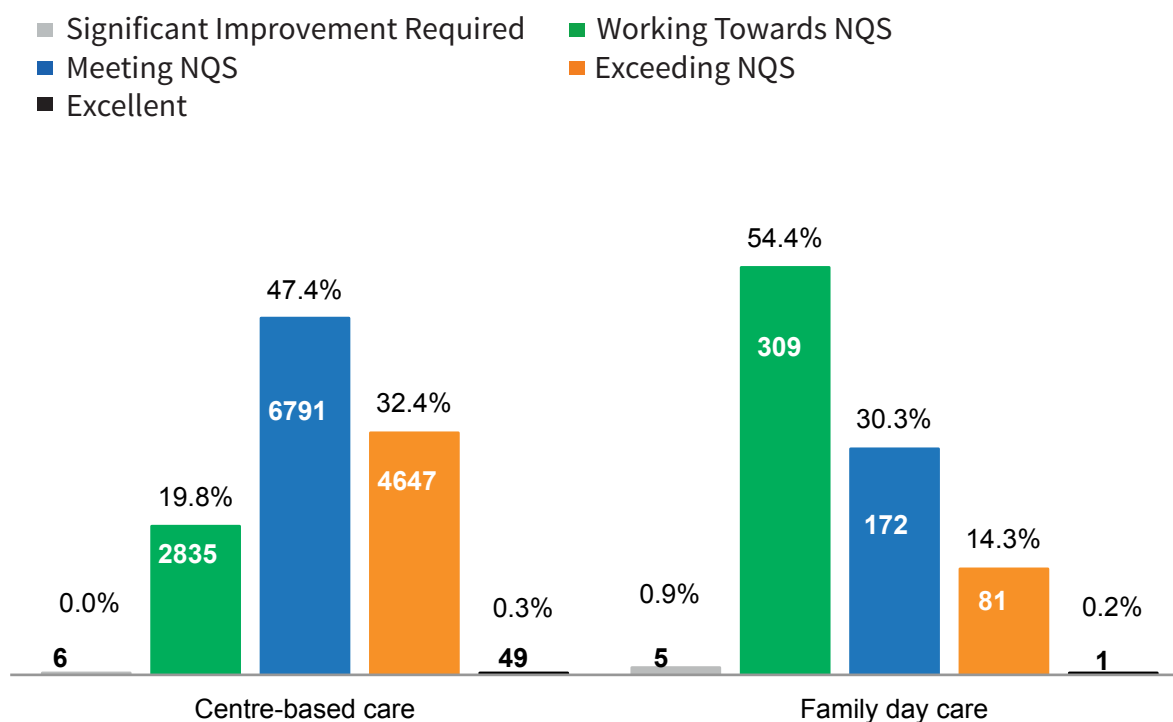


Figure 8: Overall quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

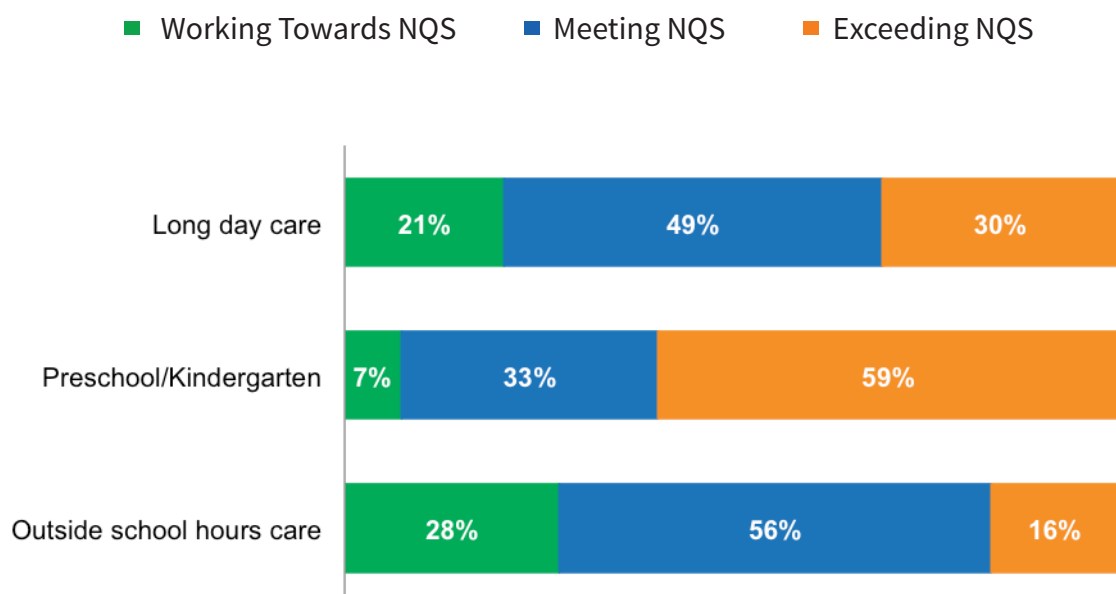
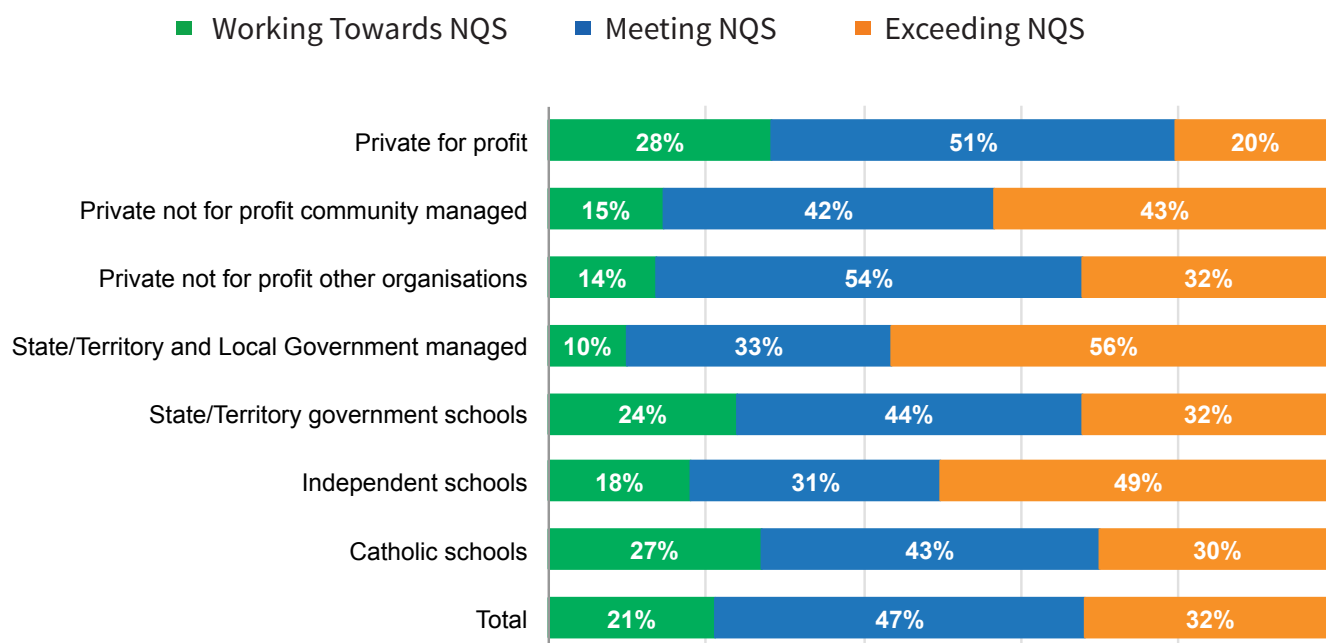


Figure 9 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings between provider management types.

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 type¹



¹ 15 providers categorised as 'Not stated/Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

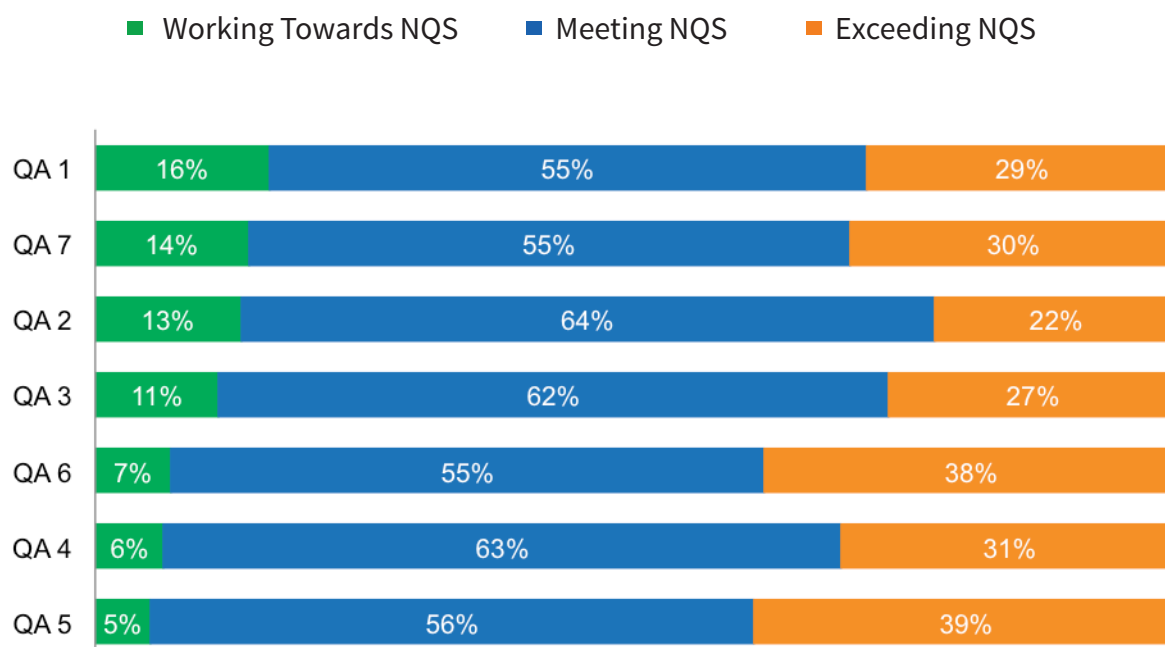
Quality area ratings

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	2,392	8,218	4,286
Quality Area 7 - Governance and leadership	8	2,111	8,260	4,517
Quality Area 2 - Children's health and safety	9	2,005	9,535	3,347
Quality Area 3 - Physical environment	1	1,701	9,208	3,986
Quality Area 6 - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	0	1,043	8,166	5,687
Quality Area 4 - Staffing arrangements	5	946	9,314	4,631
Quality Area 5 - Relationships with children	2	765	8,300	5,829

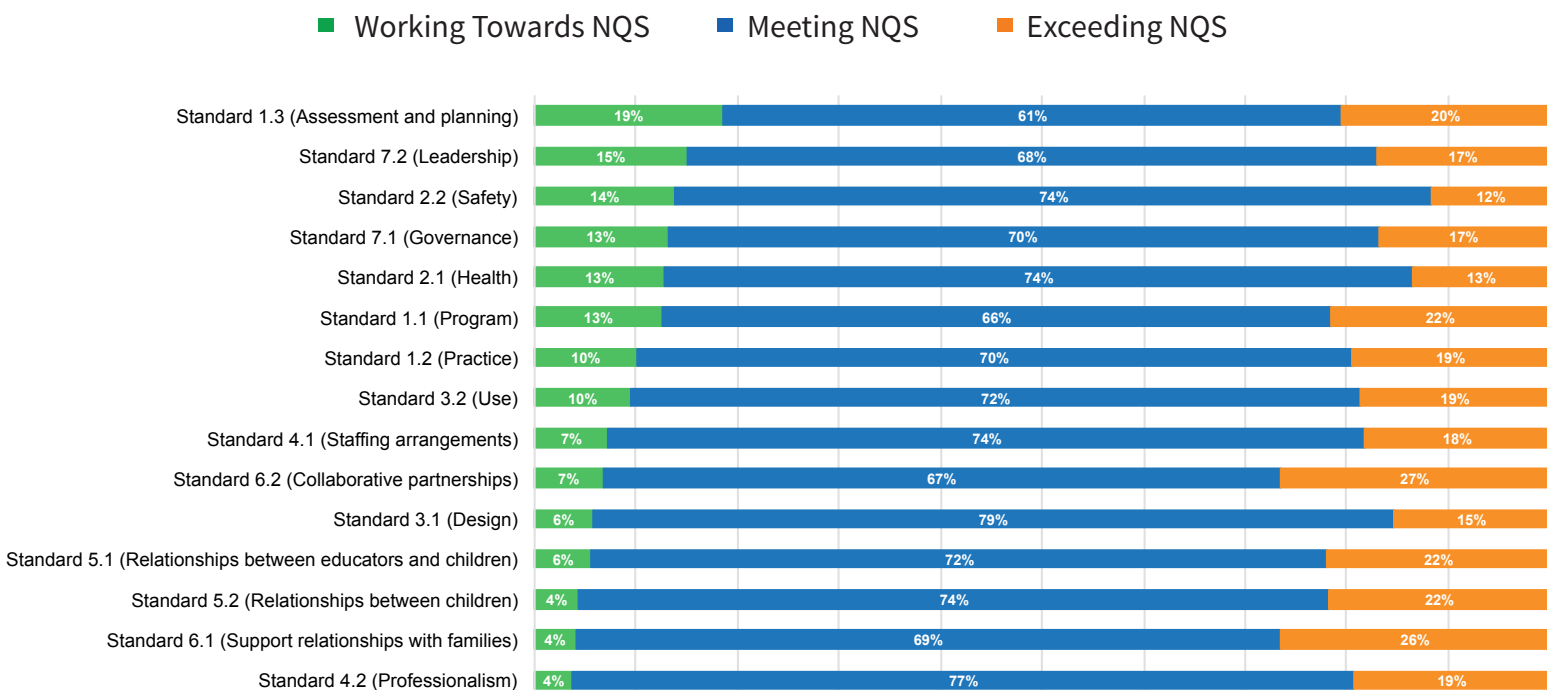
Figure 10: Quality area ratings



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.

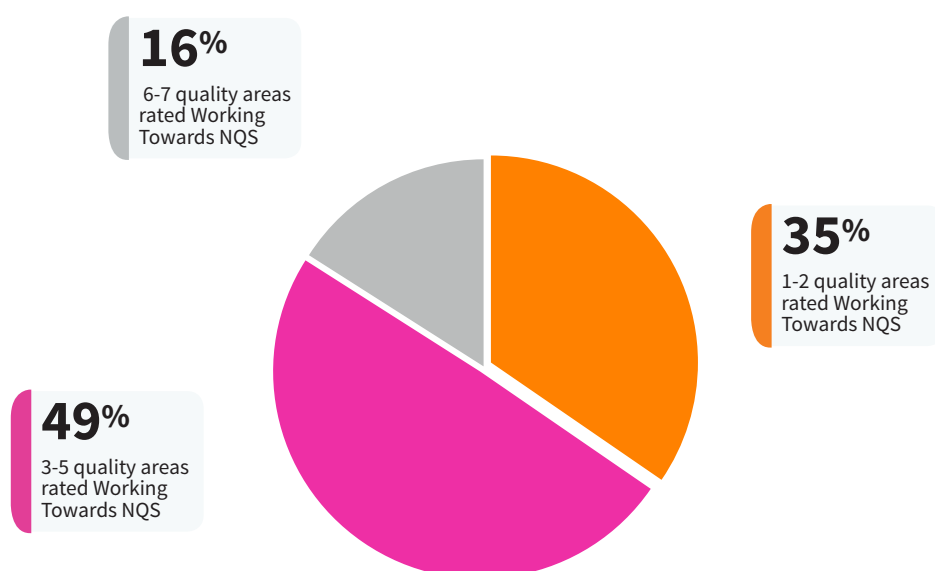
Table 8: Element level results under 2018 NQS

	% Not Met		% Not Met
1.3.2 (Critical reflection)	16%	2.1.3 (Healthy lifestyle)	5%
1.3.1 (Assessment and planning cycle)	15%	7.1.1 (Service philosophy and purpose)	4%
7.1.2 (Management systems)	11%	1.3.3 (Information for families)	4%
2.1.2 (Health practices and procedures)	10%	5.1.2 (Dignity and rights of the child)	4%
7.2.2 (Educational leadership)	10%	5.2.2 (Self-regulation)	4%
1.1.3 (Program learning opportunities)	10%	3.2.2 (Resources support play-base learning)	4%
2.2.1 (Supervision)	9%	7.1.3 (Roles and responsibilities)	4%
7.2.3 (Development of professionals)	9%	2.2.3 (Child protection)	4%
2.2.2 (Incident and emergency management)	7%	5.1.1 (Positive educator to child interactions)	3%
4.1.1 (Organisation of educators)	7%	6.2.2 (Access and participation)	3%
1.1.1 (Approved learning framework)	7%	2.1.1 (Wellbeing and comfort)	3%
3.2.3 (Environmentally responsible)	6%	4.2.2 (Professional standards)	3%
1.2.2 (Responsive teaching and scaffolding)	6%	3.1.1 (Fit for purpose)	3%
1.2.3 (Child directed learning)	6%	6.2.1 (Transitions)	2%
7.2.1 (Continuous improvement)	6%	6.1.3 (Families are supported)	2%
1.1.2 (Child-centred)	6%	6.1.1 (Engagement with the service)	2%
1.2.1 (Intentional teaching)	6%	4.2.1 (Professional collaboration)	2%
3.2.1 (Inclusive environment)	5%	5.2.1 (Collaborative learning)	2%
6.2.3 (Community engagement)	5%	6.1.2 (Parent views are respected)	2%
3.1.2 (Upkeep)	5%	4.1.2 (Continuity of staff)	1%

Services rated Working Towards NQS

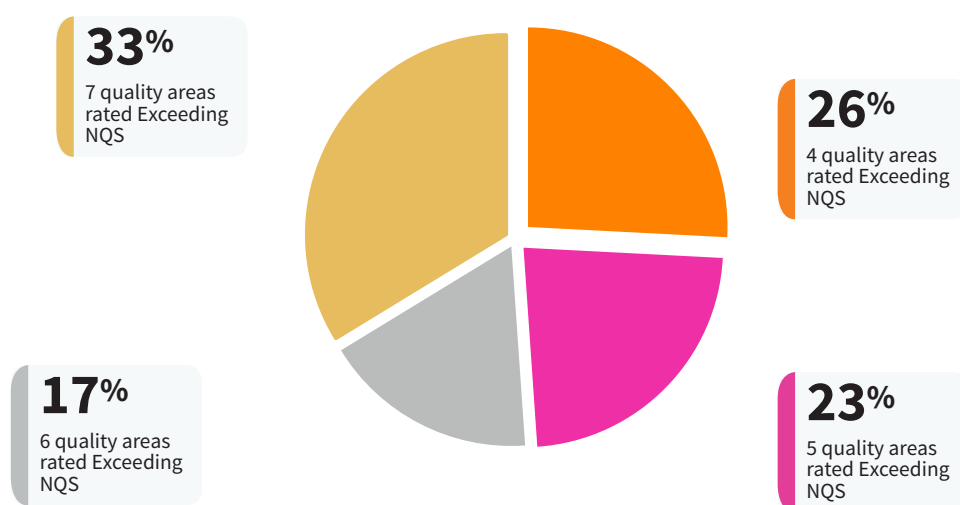
A service receives an overall rating of Working Towards NQS if any of the seven quality areas are rated Working Towards NQS. A quality area is rated Working Towards NQS if any of the standards within that quality area are rated Working Towards NQS.

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

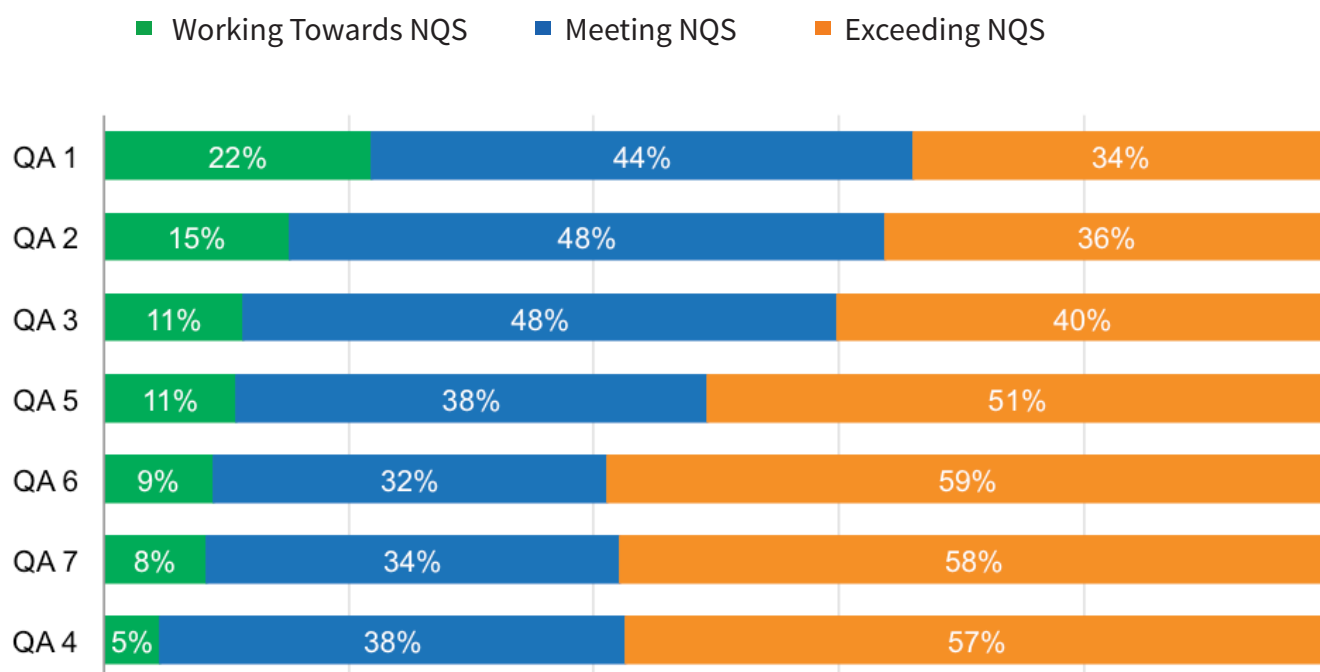


Australian Capital Territory summary

356	services comprising 345 centre-based services and 11 family day care services
324 (91%)	services with a quality rating
1	service rated Significant Improvement Required
80	services rated Working Towards NQS
90	services rated Meeting NQS
150	services rated Exceeding NQS
3	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

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

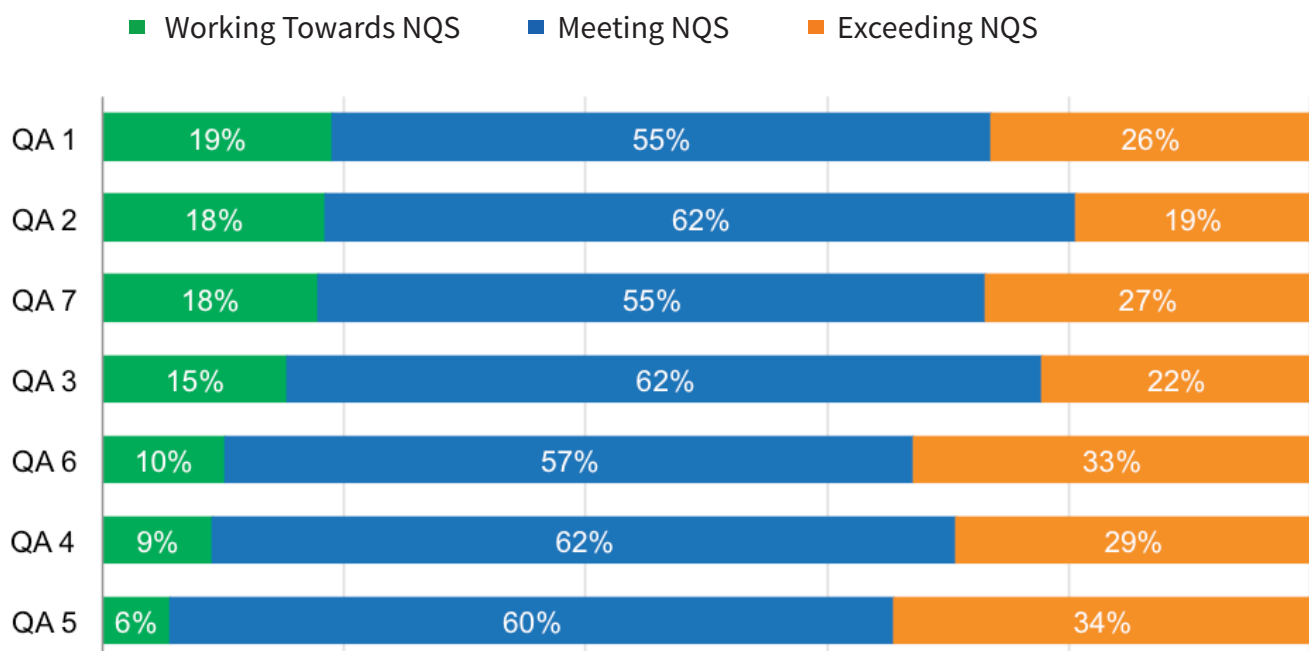
Education Directorate
Children's Education and Care Assurance
www.education.act.gov.au/education-and-care

New South Wales summary

5441	services comprising 5229 centre-based services and 212 family day care services
5191 (95%)	services with a quality rating
7	services rated Significant Improvement Required
1305	services rated Working Towards NQS
2401	services rated Meeting NQS
1461	services rated Exceeding NQS
17	services rated Excellent 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



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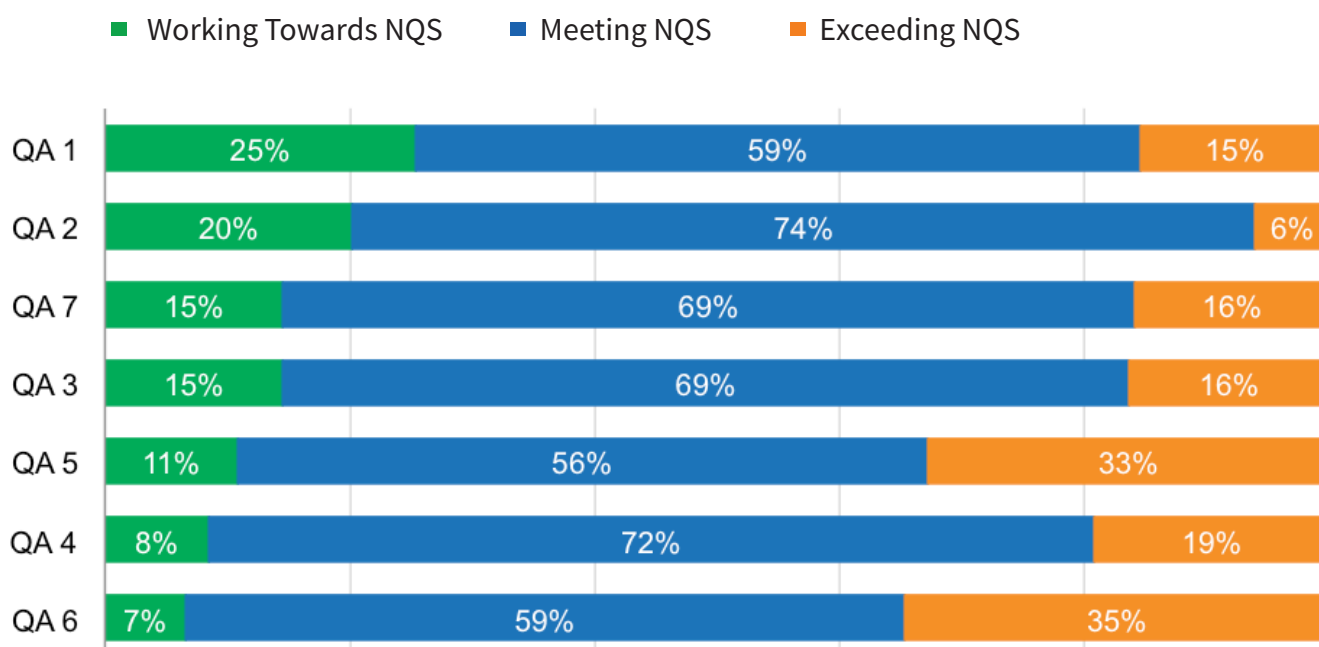
Department of Education
Early Childhood Education Directorate
www.education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education

Northern Territory summary

221	services comprising 217 centre-based services and four family day care services
213 (96%)	services with a quality rating
61	services rated Working Towards NQS
114	services rated Meeting NQS
38	services rated Exceeding NQS

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



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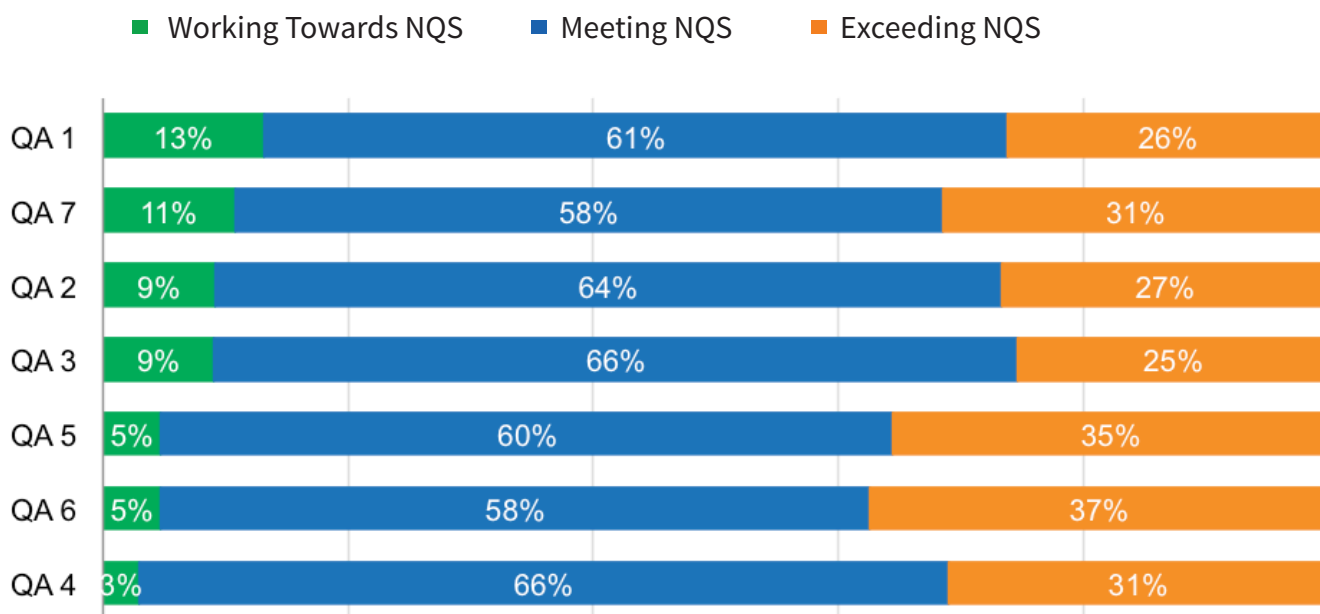
Department of Education
Quality Education and Care NT
www.education.nt.gov.au

Queensland summary

2945	services comprising 2829 centre-based services and 116 family day care services
2802 (95%)	services with a quality rating
1	service rated Significant Improvement Required
469	services rated Working Towards NQS
1445	services rated Meeting NQS
875	services rated Exceeding NQS
12	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

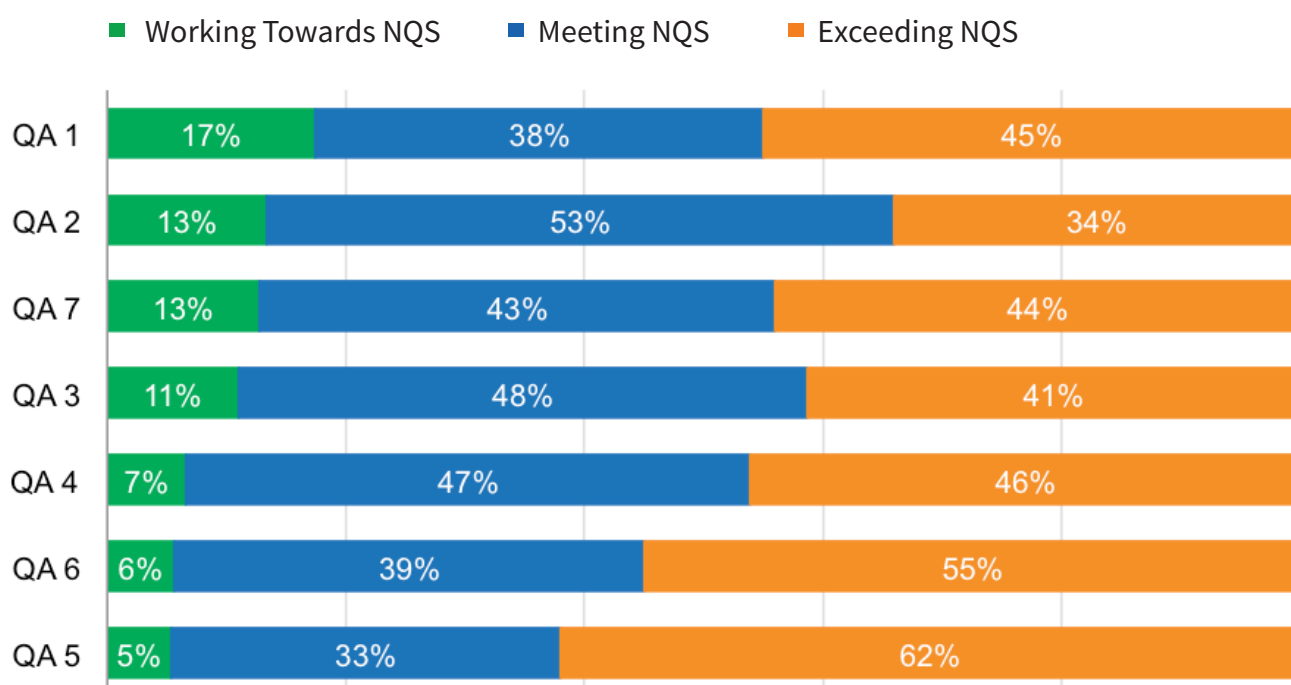
Department of Education
Early Childhood Education and Care
www.qed.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood

South Australia summary

1186	services comprising 1173 centre-based services and 13 family day care services
1127 (95%)	services with a quality rating
245	services rated Working Towards NQS
334	services rated Meeting NQS
539	services rated Exceeding NQS
9	services 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

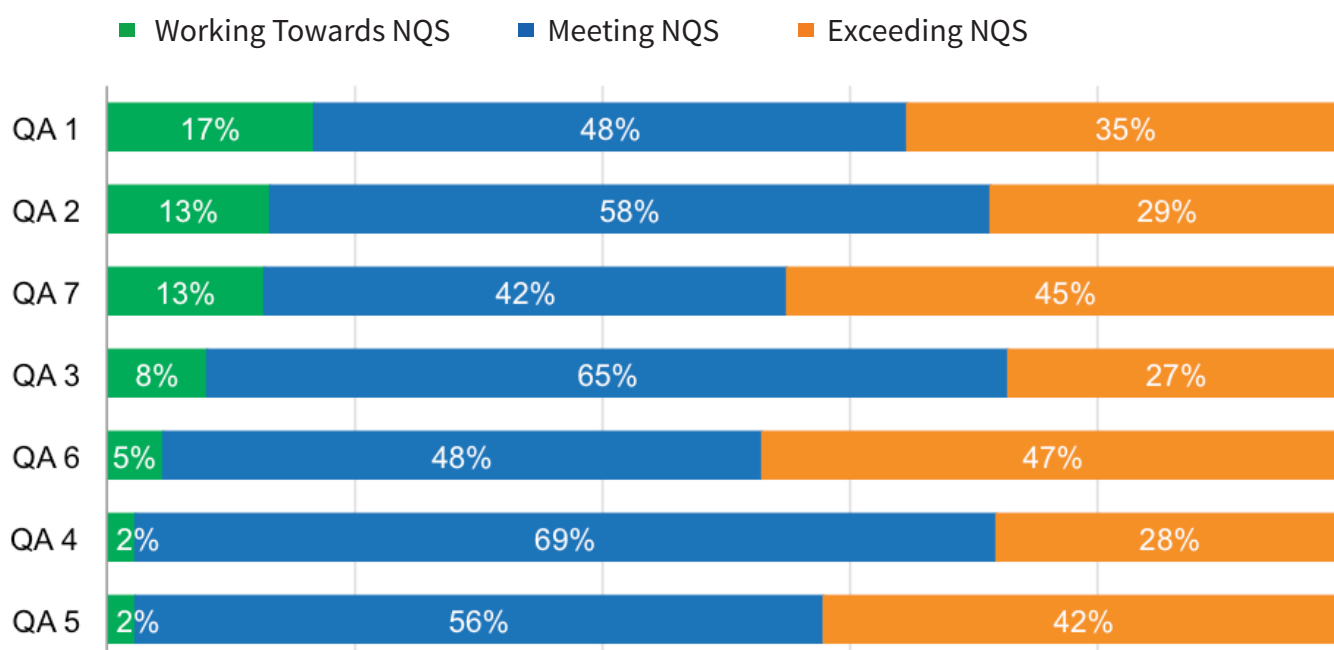
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards
Board of South Australia
www.esb.sa.gov.au

Tasmania summary

235	services comprising 224 centre-based services and 11 family day care services
221 (94%)	services with a quality rating
1	service rated Significant Improvement Required
44	services rated Working Towards NQS
96	services rated Meeting NQS
80	services rated Exceeding NQS

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

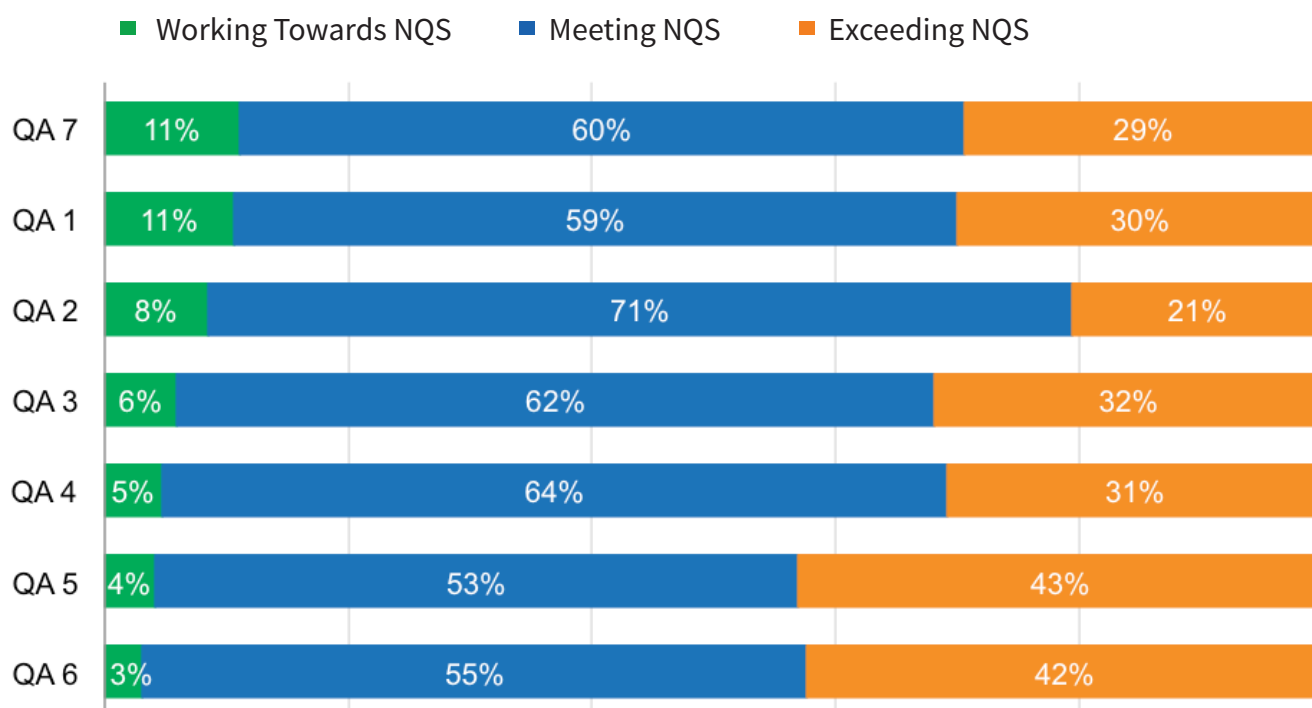
Department of Education
Education and Care Unit
www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au

Victoria summary

4209	services comprising 3961 centre-based services and 248 family day care services
3930 (93%)	services with a quality rating
1	service rated Significant Improvement Required
605	services rated Working Towards NQS
2001	services rated Meeting NQS
1314	services rated Exceeding NQS
9	services rated Excellent 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

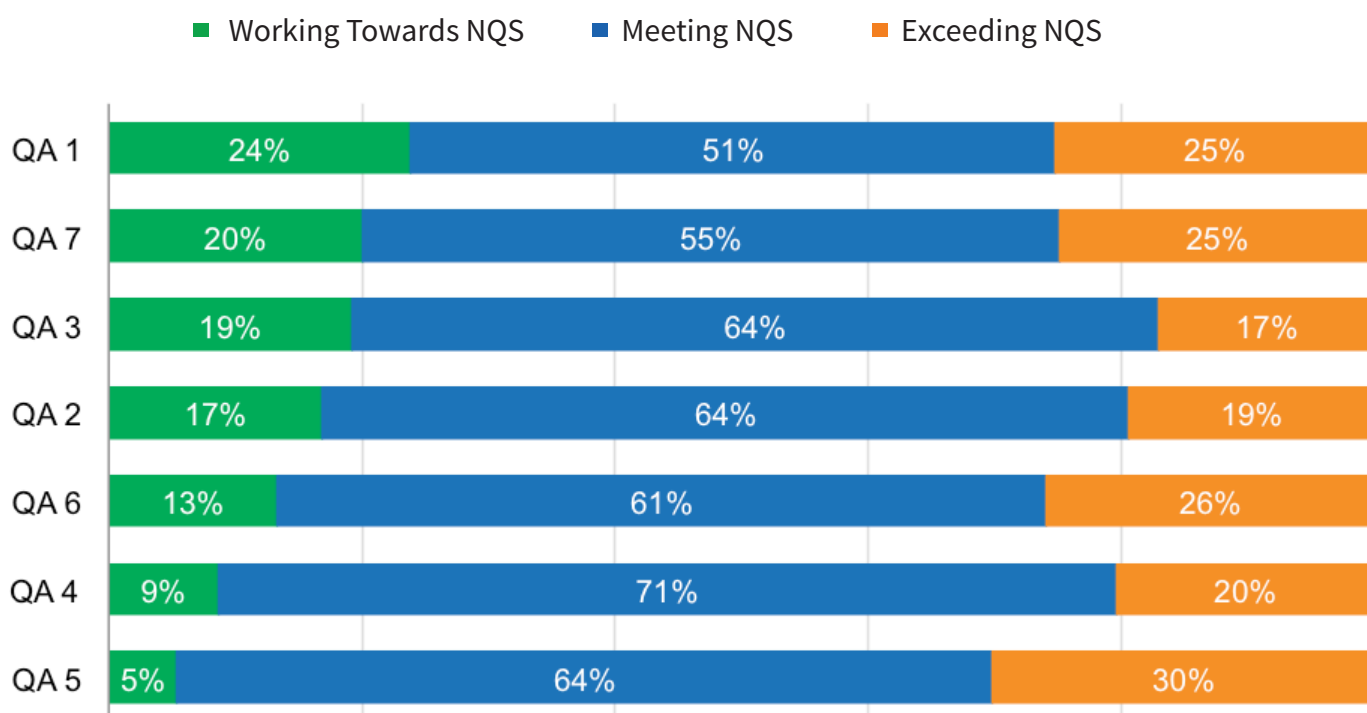
Department of Education and Training
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division
www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation

Western Australia summary

1194	services comprising 1156 centre-based services and 38 family day care services
1088 (91%)	services with a quality rating
335	services rated Working Towards NQS
482	services rated Meeting NQS
271	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 Communities
Education and Care Regulatory Unit
www.communities.wa.gov.au



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