

Our Partners and Stakeholders



ACECQA'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

Chair's foreword

We are now two years into ACECQA's current five-year strategic plan and support for our work as an independent national authority remains strong among our government partners and the sector, as acknowledged in the Education Council's 2019-20 Letter of Expectation.

The overarching principle of ACECQA's strategic objectives has always been to work with governments and the sector to support the delivery of the National Quality Framework (NQF) and in doing so, to champion quality outcomes for children and families.

ACECQA's new funding agreement with the Australian Government, following the conclusion of the National Partnership Agreement, allows ACECQA to continue to use its unique position to guide and support the evolution of the NQF through its next phase, as it moves from implementation to embedding.

Just as the NQF is evolving, ACECQA as an organisation is also growing and maturing, identifying new and innovative ways to enhance its work with governments and services to support ongoing development and growth under the NQF.

The goals and guiding principles of the NQF ask us to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children is paramount in our work, and to always have regard for the following core ideals:

- a transparent, fair, accountable, efficient and effective system
- streamlined governance arrangements and clearly defined accountabilities
- collaboration with jurisdictions in decision making
- a single NQF with consistent implementation of the National Law, to apply to all early childhood education and care services within the system

- consistent application of the National Quality Standard (NQS)
- ongoing investment in research and evaluation, reflecting Education Council priorities and taking into account work underway in jurisdictions, as essential to providing an evidence base for national decision making
- a continuous focus on quality improvement.

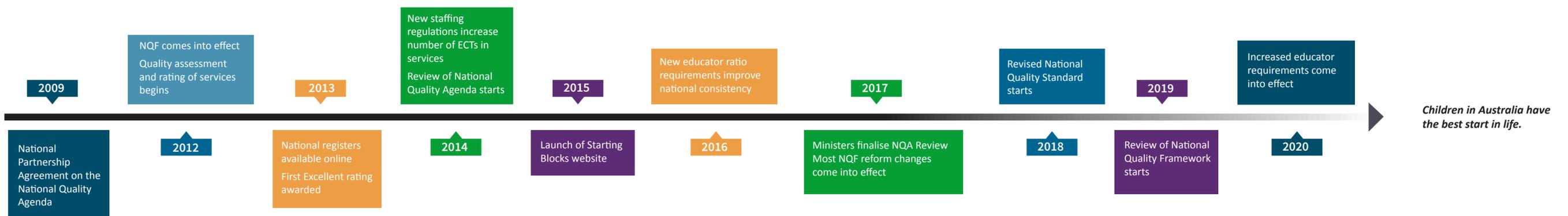
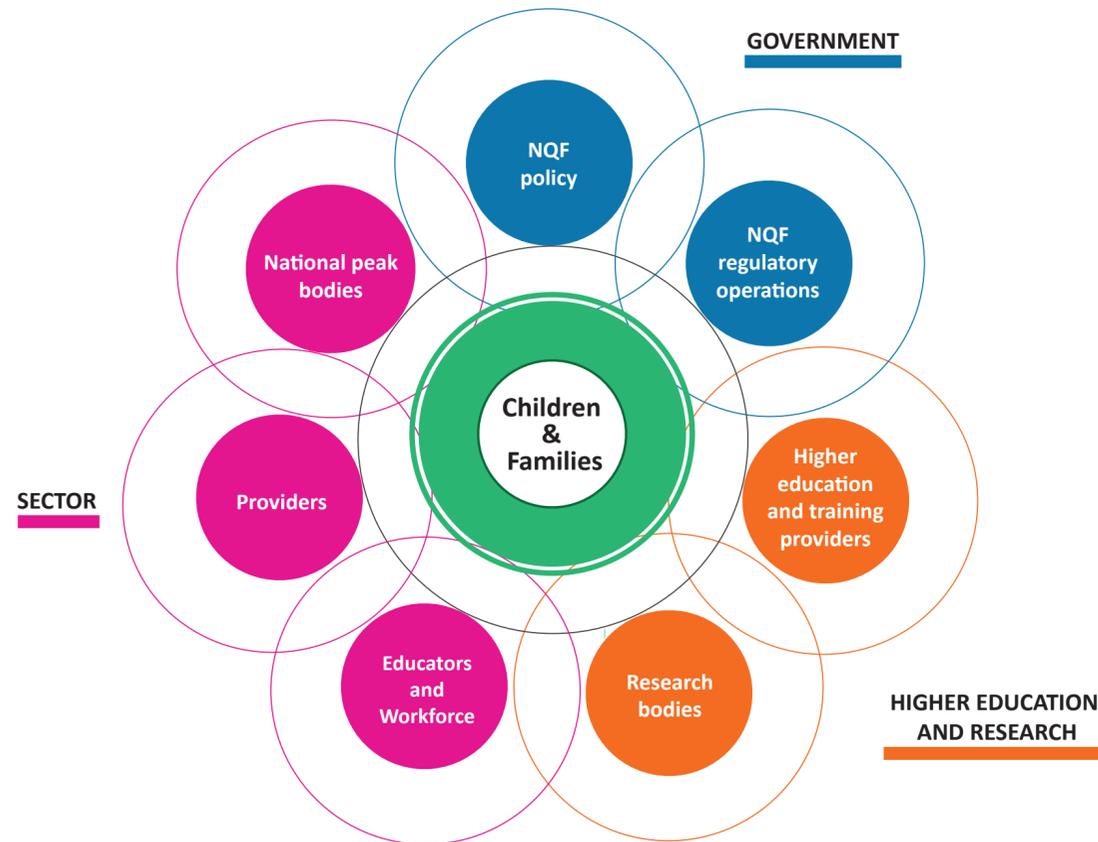
As highlighted in our purpose, priorities and success indicators, our strategic plan demonstrates how ACECQA is working to achieve these ideals, identifying and shaping our vision for ACECQA into the future.

ACECQA remains focused on delivering the highest standard of service to governments, services and families whilst upholding our organisational values of Integrity, Commitment, Respect and Collaboration. We know that support for the NQF is high and continues to grow as the community sees the value of quality education and understands the importance of improving educational outcomes for children.

We also recognise the need to remain open to new possibilities and to ask ourselves "What next?" These are key considerations for any organisation looking to maximise new opportunities, manage unforeseen challenges and remain responsive to the changing needs of governments, services and the sector.

Central to all ACECQA's work, we will continue to facilitate connections among our partners and stakeholders, further developing our shared interest in ensuring the ongoing success of the NQF, for the benefit of all children in Australia.

Judy Hebblethwaite
Judy Hebblethwaite
April 2019



OUR VISION

Children in Australia have the best start in life.

OUR PURPOSE

Through partnerships and services, we will continue to embed the NQF and champion quality in children's education and care with a focus on:

- continuous improvement
- evidence based practice and decision making
- family and community awareness of the importance of the early years
- efficiency and consistency across a coherent and responsive national children's education and care regulatory system.

OUR ROLE

ACECQA is an independent national statutory authority that works with all governments to guide the ongoing implementation of the NQF.

We facilitate the work of, and deliver support services to state and territory regulatory authorities, which have primary responsibility for regulation and quality assessment of children's education and care services.

Our roles include research, education and awareness raising that inform parents and the community, as well as guide and support the sector.

We manage the National Quality Agenda IT System to provide an efficient and effective online business tool for states and territories and the sector.

We also have regulatory functions with respect to educator qualifications, second tier review of quality ratings, and determining applications for the Excellent rating.

OUR PRIORITIES

- Work with government partners to effectively and efficiently administer the NQF, including through system and reporting improvements and support to implement initiatives agreed by governments including through the Education Council.
- Provide advice and information to governments, the sector and the community about the performance of the NQF, based on research, data analysis and evaluation.
- Promote and support regulatory best practice, service quality, compliance and consistency of outcomes.
- Engage and inform families and communities about the importance of quality children's education and care.
- Work with our sector to develop, support and maintain a high quality children's education and care workforce.
- Operate as a high performing and efficient organisation that is innovative and responsive to its partners' needs.

OUR FRAMEWORK

The NQF is an integrated and jointly governed national regulatory system for children's education and care services, which since 2012 has driven continuous improvement in the quality of services.

The NQF is enacted through the Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations.

The NQF recognises that the Australian Government and states and territories have a mutual interest in improving educational and developmental outcomes for children, and need to work together to achieve those outcomes.

OUR STRATEGY

Collaboration and partnerships

We will strive to find new ways to collaborate with our Australian, state and territory government partners and key sector stakeholders.

Evidence based decisions

We will increase our use of data and other evidence to influence, inform and support regulators, policy makers, educators, service providers and families.

Consistency

We will promote national consistency with a focus on continuous improvement and improving outcomes in children's education and care.

Quality

We will recognise, support and promote high quality and quality improvement in children's education and care.

Accountability and responsiveness

We will undertake our statutory functions efficiently, effectively, equitably, responsively and transparently.

Innovation

We will look for new ways to enhance our role and to support ongoing development and improvement of the NQF.



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority

ACECQA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

2017-2021

OUR SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Government partners report satisfaction with ACECQA's services and how they are delivered.
- Regulators are supported with systems, tools and information to support consistency and regulatory best practice.
- Governments, the sector, families and communities receive meaningful information that conveys local and national perspectives on the NQF.
- Regulators and the sector are provided with an efficient and cohesive environment for online business activity through an effective National Quality Agenda IT System.
- Parents and families are well informed about children's education and care and the quality of its provision under the NQF.
- Providers, services and educators receive targeted information and support to improve quality.
- The children's education and care sector is supported to have a professional and highly regarded workforce and be prepared for future workforce requirements.
- ACECQA delivers its services in an efficient and responsive way.
- ACECQA has an engaged and high performing workforce to carry out its priorities and achieve its success indicators.
- ACECQA operates in accordance with statutory requirements, customer service standards and budget.