



The Australian, state and territory education ministers have agreed to changes to the National Quality Framework (NQF).

This fact sheet provides an overview of changes to education and care service fees and offence penalties.

INCREASES TO FEES AND OFFENCE PENALTIES FROM 1 JULY 2023



WHEN DO THE CHANGES START?

Changes to fees will come into effect in the new financial year on 1 July 2023.

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

Visit nqfreview.com.au

Contact your [regulatory authority](#)

INCREASING LEVELS OF PARTIAL COST RECOVERY WITHIN THE NQF

Ministers have agreed to increase a selected number of fees to improve the financial sustainability of the NQF over time. This will benefit all stakeholders within the NQF system by ensuring governments are able to deliver the required regulatory effort that promotes quality education and care outcomes for children. The selected fee increases for ACECQA aim to improve the recovery of costs associated with ACECQA performing some of its functions.

Except for annual indexation, fees have not increased since the introduction of the NQF in 2012. However, the cost of regulating the sector has continued to increase due to the growth in the sector and the increased demand for regulatory services. The fees charged by regulatory authorities are quite small in comparison to comparable regulatory schemes.

Similar to the fees charged by state and territory regulatory authorities, the application fees payable to ACECQA for administering a number of its regulatory functions are low compared to the costs associated with their administration.

FEE CHANGES FROM 1 JULY 2023

Fee changes are being phased in to reduce the impact on providers and their services.

Fees charged by regulatory authorities

Fee increases will apply to:

- annual fees
- application for approved provider
- application for service approval
- notification of intended transfer of service approval.

All other fees will continue as per current arrangements and will only attract annual indexation.

Fee increases will be phased in over three years, with a larger proportion of the fee increase to be made in years 2 and 3, as shown in the table below.

Financial year	2023-24 (Year 1)	2024-25 (Year 2)	2025-26 (Year 3)
% Increase on base rate excluding indexation	5% increase on 2022-23 fees	10% increase on 2023-24 fees	10% increase on 2024-25 fees

Currently, fees are calculated based on the number of approved places (for centre-based services) and the number of engaged educators (for family day care (FDC) services), with services categorised as: small, medium or large.

A new 'extra-large' category will be created for all application and annual fees, with the fee being 25 per cent higher than the fee for the large category, applying to:

- centre-based services with 101 or more places
- FDC services with 61 or more educators.

A fee will also be introduced for applications for amendment to service approval, which is currently free.

Fees charged by ACECQA

Two applications fees charged by ACECQA will also increase according to the table below. These are for a review by the ratings review panel (also known as a 'second tier review'), and assessment of a tertiary education provider's course to be included on the list of qualifications approved by ACECQA under the NQF.

Financial year	2023-24 (Year 1)	2024-25 (Year 2)	2025-26 (Year 3)
% Increase on base rate excluding indexation	6% increase on 2022-23 fees	12% increase on 2023-24 fees	12% increase on 2024-25 fees

All other ACECQA fees will continue as per current arrangements and will only attract annual indexation.

Calculating fees

Changes to fees will commence on 1 July 2023.

When calculating these fees, the amount will be increased by the percentage increase and multiplied by the indexation rate for that year. For example, the annual fee for 2023-24 will be increased by 5% x CPI and the annual fee for 2024-25 will be increased by 10% x CPI.

CPI is calculated each year based on data released in April of the previous financial year. Each year, ACECQA will calculate the CPI increase and publish a schedule of fees before the commencement of the new financial year.

[Visit the ACECQA website for the 2023-24 fees.](#)

Increases to penalties for offences

Offence penalties in the National Law and Regulations have not been updated since the commencement of the NQF in 2012. The maximum penalty for offences will increase in line with inflation by 14.9%, rounding down to the nearest \$100 when further amendments are made to the National Regulations in late-2023.

References and resources

ACECQA [The Guide to the NQF – Section \[2\] Application and Approvals](#)

For information on regulatory authority fees and penalties, contact your regulatory authority

[acecqa.gov.au/contact-your-regulatory-authority](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/contact-your-regulatory-authority).

Acknowledgement

The information in this publication is accurate pending the Australian, state and territory education ministers' agreement of the amended law and regulations.