



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

This information sheet explains the key changes for centre-based services and providers.

KEY NQF CHANGES FOR CENTRE-BASED SERVICES FROM 1 JULY 2023



WHEN DO THE CHANGES START?

Some requirements related to persons with management or control, program documentation and short-term relief of early childhood educators will commence on 1 July 2023.

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

Visit nqfreview.com.au

Contact your [regulatory authority](#)

FROM 1 July 2023

CHANGES TO DEFINITION OF PERSONS WITH MANAGEMENT OR CONTROL

The definition of persons with management or control (PMC) is being expanded to ensure that regulatory authorities can assess the suitability of all persons that have influence, control or authority over the delivery of the approved provider's services.

It is important for every provider to consider who meets the new definition of a PMC in their unique operating context and if the regulatory authority needs to be notified of any new PMCs.

See the information sheets: [Identifying persons with management or control from 1 July 2023 – Existing Providers](#), [New Providers](#) and [Legislative Requirements for family day care providers from 2023](#) to identify who meets the new definition, and the steps approved providers must take to notify of any changes to PMCs.

RESTRICTIONS ON SHORT-TERM RELIEF FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Approved providers will have more flexibility to meet ratio and qualification requirements when a certificate III or diploma level educator is absent for a short period of time in a centre-based service with children preschool age or under.

An educator who holds (or is actively working towards) an approved certificate III or diploma level qualification may be replaced by a person who holds a qualification in primary teaching, when the educator is absent because of short-term illness, leave, resignation, or because they are attending supervised professional experience placements for an approved qualification. Certificate III or diploma level roles may each be replaced for up to 30 days in 12 month period, while still satisfying the ratio and qualification requirements.

Flexibility to cover short-term absences of an early childhood teacher (ECT), second ECT or suitably qualified person will also be extended enabling their role to be replaced by a person who holds an approved diploma level qualification or a qualification in primary teaching when they are absent due to short-term illness, leave, resignation or because they are attending supervised professional experience placements for approved qualifications. ECT or suitably qualified person roles may each be replaced for up to 60 days in any 12-month period. Requirements in NSW differ slightly. These changes will not apply if the service employs or engages ECTs or suitably qualified persons on a full-time or full-time equivalent basis.

New record keeping requirements apply when staff are absent and replaced. See the [Short-term relief of educators at centre-based services](#) fact sheet for more information, including requirements for NSW services.

EDUCATORS WHO ARE 'ACTIVELY WORKING TOWARDS' A QUALIFICATION

There are no changes to the definition of 'actively working towards' a qualification. New guidance has been developed to support providers to ensure staff are making satisfactory progress in their studies.

See the [Educators who are 'actively working towards' a qualification](#) fact sheet for more information.

PROGRAM-LEVEL DOCUMENTATION FOR CHILDREN OVER PRESCHOOL AGE

Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria

Services that educate and care for children over preschool age in Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria will no longer be required to keep documentation about individual children's wellbeing, development and learning. Instead, these services will keep documentation about the development of the program. These changes will take effect on 1 July 2023 for Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria. Changes will come into effect in Western Australia at a later date.

These changes align with existing requirements for services in New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

The Australian Capital Territory has decided to maintain the current position, to ensure the program reflects the individual needs of the specific community of children attending the service, proportionate to each child's attendance, and any disability or behavioural challenges they are experiencing.

See the [Documenting programs for school age services](#) fact sheet for more information.

From late-2023

This information sheet will be updated later in the implementation of the outcomes of the 2019 NQF Review, in relation to recommendations:

- 3.1 – Safety of children during transitions between services (including school)
- 3.2 – Sleep and rest requirements
- 3.4 – Improving children's safety during emergency evacuations from multi-storey buildings
- 4.1 – Embedding the National Child Safe Principles
- 4.2 – Updating record keeping requirements
- 10.3 – Arrangements to transfer a service to another approved provider
- 10.4 – Maintaining current information about service delivery
- 11.7 – Waivers for NQS Elements
- 12.5 – First Aid currency requirements.

Other changes introduced from March 2023

TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN

Changes were introduced for providers that offer, or arrange, regular transportation of children as part of a centre-based education and care service.

Changes relate to approved provider, nominated supervisor, staff and driver responsibilities. A staff member or nominated supervisor (other than the driver) must be present at the service to account for all children as they embark or disembark at the service premises and keep a record of how each child was accounted for.

A staff member or nominated supervisor (other than the driver) must complete a check of the interior of the vehicle at the service premises to ensure no children are left behind. The regulatory authority must be notified when regular transportation starts being provided or arranged by the service, or ceases.

See the information sheets: [Changes to regular transportation of children](#), [Minimising the risk of children left in vehicles](#) and [Guidance for adequate supervision during transportation](#).

Download the [Safe Transportation of Children Safety Checklist and regular transportation record form](#).

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

For additional information see the:

- [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)
- [National Law and National Regulations](#)
- The [NQF Review website](#)