



QUALITY AREA 2

MANAGING AND RESPONDING TO INJURY, TRAUMA AND ILLNESS INCIDENTS

The most important objective of the National Quality Framework (NQF) is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children attending education and care services.

The Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations govern the minimum standards and requirements that all providers must meet, including explicit health and safety requirements.

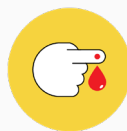


[Quality Area 2](#) of the [National Quality Standard \(NQS\)](#) upholds children's right to be protected and kept safe.

The approved provider, nominated supervisors, coordinators and educators have responsibility for supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of all children. In exercising their responsibilities, they must take reasonable care to protect children from foreseeable risk of harm, injury and infection.

ACECQA uses data from the [National Quality Agenda IT System](#) (NQA ITS) to identify trends in serious incidents that have been notified by approved providers.

THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF INJURY, TRAUMA OR ILLNESS INCIDENTS ARE:



- cuts/open wounds or bleeding



- broken bones/fractures or dislocations (known or suspected)



- head injuries or concussions.

COMMON CAUSES INCLUDE:



- a fall or trip



- child to child interaction



- equipment/furniture or toys.

THE INCIDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN:



- in outdoor play areas



- during mid-morning (around 10-11 am) and mid-afternoon (around 3-4 pm)



- during the middle of the week (from Tuesday to Thursday)



- to children aged 3 and 4 years old



- to male children.



Strategies to reduce these incidents include:

- modifying the service environment e.g. removing equipment, rearranging layout and/or installing safety equipment
- regular audit, quality and risk assessments to identify hazards and rectify issues
- reviewing best practice guidance from recognised authorities e.g. Department of Health
- discussions, reminders and regular communication with children and families about health and safety practices
- training and development of staff in relation to children's health, safety and development needs
- collation and analysis of child incident data to identify trends
- establishing dedicated roles/teams responsible for health, safety and wellbeing.

Legislation and definitions

[Regulation 12](#) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations prescribe incidents and circumstances that are 'serious incidents' for the purposes of the National Law, including:

- any incident involving serious injury or trauma while the child is being educated and cared for by an education and care service:
 - » which a reasonable person would consider required urgent medical attention from a registered medical practitioner; or
 - » for which the child attended or ought reasonably to have attended a hospital (for example, a broken limb)
- any incident involving serious illness of a child while that child is being educated and cared for by a service for which the child attended, or ought reasonably to have attended, a hospital (for example, severe asthma attack, seizure or anaphylaxis reaction).

Approved providers are required to notify their state and territory regulatory authority about any serious incident within 24 hours of the incident, as per [section 174\(2\)\(a\)](#) of the National Law and [Regulation 176\(2\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

Family day care educators must notify the approved provider of the service if a serious incident occurs as per [section 174A](#) of the National Law.

Approved providers must also ensure that the child's parent or carer is notified as soon as practicable and within 24-hours after a serious incident has occurred ([Regulation 86](#)), and a record of the serious incident is kept which includes prescribed information ([Regulation 87](#)).

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

For additional information, please refer to the [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#).

- refer to Section 3 (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety) and Section 4 (2.5 Incidents, injury, trauma and illness) in particular.

Other useful resources:

- [Staying Healthy](#): Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services
- [Red Nose](#)
- [Kidsafe Australia](#)
- [Report on Government Services \(RoGS\)](#) – Part B (3) Early childhood education and care—for national data on serious incidents