



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority

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

**This information sheet explains the legislative changes to the Excellent rating application eligibility and changes to criterion 1 following ACECQA's review.**

## **WHEN DOES THIS CHANGE START?**

This change will take effect with the revised NQS from 1 February 2018 in all states and territories (except Western Australia which will commence by 1 October 2018).

## **WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?**

Visit [acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes)

Visit the Excellent rating page [acecqa.gov.au/educators-and-providers1/excellent-rating](http://acecqa.gov.au/educators-and-providers1/excellent-rating)

# **CHANGES TO THE EXCELLENT RATING ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA**

**FROM 1 FEB 2018**

From 1 February 2018, a number of changes will come into effect for the Excellent rating application eligibility and criteria.

## **KEY CHANGES STARTING 1 FEBRUARY 2018**

- ✓ To be eligible to apply for the Excellent rating, a service must be rated Exceeding National Quality Standard (NQS) in all seven Quality Areas. (In Western Australia, this change will be implemented by 1 October 2018.)
- ✓ There will be no application fee for the Excellent rating.
- ✓ Two of the themes under Criterion One will be combined.

### **Changes to criterion 1**

Following consultation with representatives from the children's education and care sector and an analysis of past applications, ACECQA reviewed the Excellent rating criteria to reduce duplication and clarify the evidence required under criteria themes.

Two themes under criterion 1 will be combined to streamline the application process – 'Positive workplace culture and organisational

values' and 'Sustained commitment to professional development and support of educators'.

The review found past applicants shared similar evidence under the two themes, or were often unsure where to place evidence.

Combining the themes allows services to capture all information about how they support workplace culture, educators and professional development under one theme. This helps clarify what will be assessed under the theme and the information they should provide to demonstrate excellence.

The updated criterion is 'Positive workplace culture, organisational values, support of educators and sustained commitment to professional development'.

Rated  
**EXCELLENT**  
by ACECQA



## EXCELLENT RATING CRITERIA AND THEMES

### **Criterion 1: The service exemplifies and promotes exceptional education and care that improves outcomes for children and families across at least three of the following themes:**

- Collaborative partnerships with professional, community or research organisations.
- Commitment to children that respects, reflects and celebrates culture and diversity, including place of origin.
- Inclusive partnerships with children and families.
- Positive workplace culture, organisational values, support of educators and sustained commitment to professional development.
- Practice and environments that enhance children's learning and growth.

### **Criterion 2: The service demonstrates leadership that contributes to the development of a community, a local area, or the wider education and care sector.**

Leadership is about guiding, influencing and inspiring change. Leadership can be bold and far reaching, or subtle and local, and still be influential. Leadership occurs in many ways and takes different paths, from local networks to new technologies.

A service aspiring to an Excellent rating can be a leader in its community and/or the wider education and care sector. Your application must show how your service takes initiative to develop and model exceptional practice that improves outcomes for children and families, and is willingly shared to inspire and educate others.

### **Criterion 3: The service demonstrates commitment to sustained excellent practice through continuous improvement and comprehensive forward planning.**

A service aspiring to an Excellent rating is not only exceptional across several practice themes; it embraces the responsibility of maintaining excellence and pursuing opportunities for further improvement.

Your application must show how your service will sustain exceptional practice and leadership, and continue to improve outcomes for children and families, over the three year rating period.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES?

More information about the Excellent rating and a number of resources to help you with your application can be found on the ACECQA website, including:

- a presentation that steps you through the Excellent rating, the application process and understanding the criteria
- a handbook of activities and reflective questions
- the Excellent rating application explained using the IDES model:  
[acecqa.gov.au/educators-and-providers1/excellent-rating](http://acecqa.gov.au/educators-and-providers1/excellent-rating)

### **Acknowledgment**

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