



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority

# TRANSITIONING TO THE REVISED NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

## FROM 1 FEB 2018

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

Services will be assessed and rated against the revised National Quality Standard (NQS) from 1 February 2018.

This information sheet supports educators and services as they transition to the revised NQS.

### WHEN DO THE CHANGES START?

The revised NQS and some related changes will commence 1 February 2018.

### WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

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

Visit your regulatory authority website [acecqa.gov.au/contact-your-regulatory-authority](http://acecqa.gov.au/contact-your-regulatory-authority)

From 1 February 2018, services will be assessed and rated against a revised version of the National Quality Standard (NQS).

Under the revised NQS, outcomes for children remain at the centre of everything you do with children, families and your community.

The revised NQS has fewer elements and standards than the current version: 15 standards and 40 elements, compared to 18 standards and 58 elements.

The revised NQS uses clearer language and retains the same focus on quality education and care as the current version.

#### NQS quality concepts

Each standard and element has a corresponding quality concept. Together the concepts provide simple shorthand for navigating the NQS. See the Revised NQS printable poster for the quality concepts:

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

#### Related NQS changes starting 1 February 2018:

There is a new rule for determining the Exceeding NQS rating for quality areas. All standards within a quality area must be rated Exceeding NQS for that quality area to be rated Exceeding NQS.

There is new guidance for services and assessors on determining the Exceeding NQS rating for standards. The guidance unpacks the difference between the Meeting NQS and Exceeding NQS rating levels for standards.

Updated guidance is included in the Guide to the NQF (Part A) published on the ACECQA website.

#### WHAT CAN SERVICES DO TO TRANSITION TO THE REVISED NQS?

##### Get to know the revised NQS

There are changes to the number, wording and placement of elements and standards.

ACECQA has created a resource that maps the elements and standards of the current NQS against the elements and standards of the revised NQS to show what has moved and changed. The mapping resource is on the ACECQA website: [acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes)

## ASSESSMENT AND RATING VISITS

### Before 1 February 2018

If your quality assessment visit will occur before 1 February 2018, the assessment and rating will be completed against the current NQS.

### On or after 1 February 2018

If your quality assessment visit will occur on or after 1 February 2018, the assessment and rating will be completed against the revised NQS.

In the lead up to 1 February 2018, the assessment and rating commencement letter from your regulatory authority will specify whether your assessment visit is scheduled before or after 1 February 2018, and the version of the NQS that will apply.

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLANS

There is no change to the requirement that services review and revise the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) at least annually, or when directed by the regulatory authority.

Your service's current QIP will remain valid on 1 February 2018 and may be requested by the regulatory authority at any time. Your QIP will always be requested as part of the assessment and rating process.

As the QIP is taken into account in determining rating levels, you should consider updating your current QIP to the revised NQS. You should also consider what revisions may be required to align your QIP with the 1 October 2017 changes to the National Law and National Regulations.

### QIPs for new services

As newly approved services have three months to prepare their first QIP, any service approved on or after 1 November 2017 should prepare their first QIP against the revised NQS.

An updated version of the QIP template for the revised NQS is available on the ACECQA website: [acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes/information-sheets-and-resources](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes/information-sheets-and-resources)

## WHAT OTHER TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE?

### Requests for reassessment

Special arrangements are in place for reassessments to support the transition from the current NQS to the revised NQS.

### Partial reassessments

If your service has received a rating against the current NQS, you may only request a partial reassessment against the current NQS until 1 August 2018.

Once your service has received a rating against the revised NQS, you may request a partial reassessment against the revised NQS at any time.

### Full reassessments

After 1 February 2018, all full reassessments will be conducted against the revised NQS.

### How can I find out more information?

ACECQA will continue to publish new resources and templates. Subscribe to the ACECQA newsletter to stay up to date with what's new: [acecqa.gov.au/Subscribe.aspx](http://acecqa.gov.au/Subscribe.aspx)

Take a look at existing resources on the ACECQA website, including:

- a summary of all key changes to the law and regulations
- an information sheet and slide pack about the new guidance on determining the Exceeding NQS rating for standards: [acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes/information-sheets-and-resources](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes/information-sheets-and-resources)

### Acknowledgment

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