



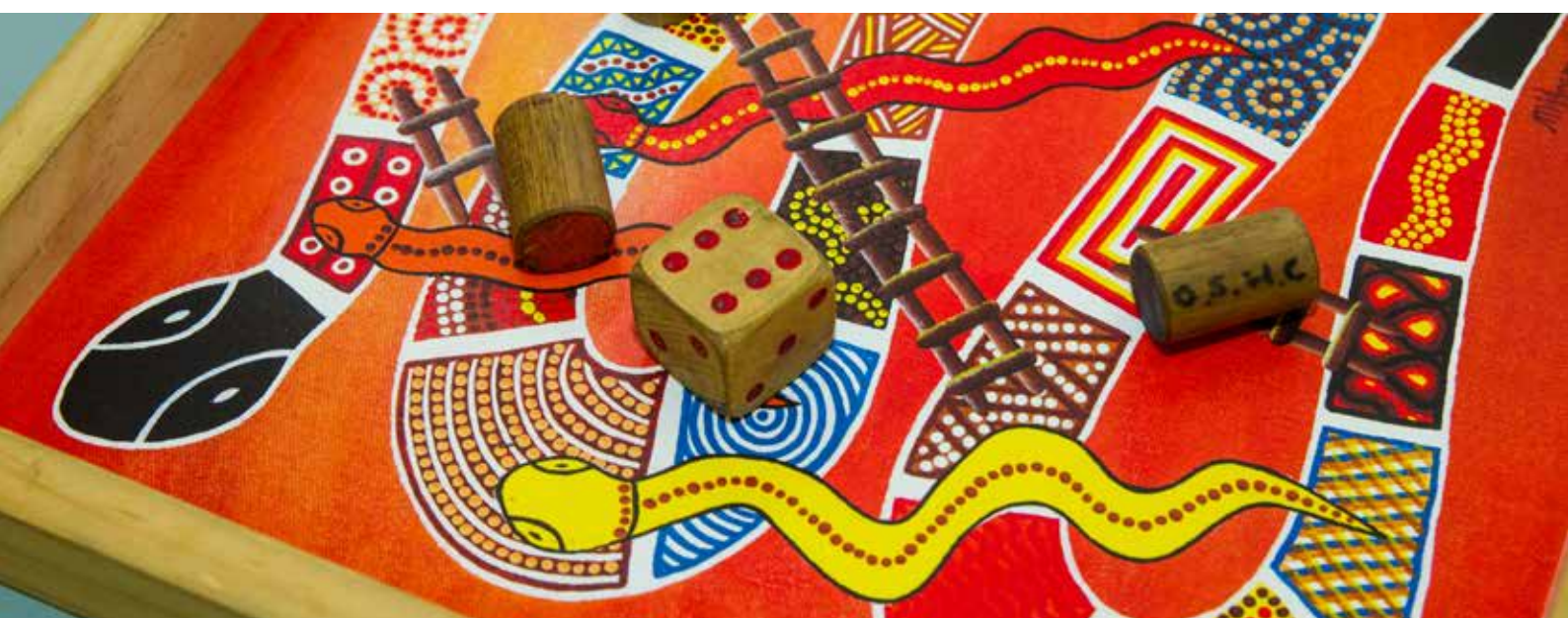
Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority

# NQF Snapshot Q2 2015

A quarterly report from the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority

August 2015

# Table of contents



Snapshot highlights	3
The state of the sector	4
Progress of assessment and rating	5
Overall quality ratings of services	6
Overall quality ratings by service type	7
Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA	7
Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification	8
Quality area ratings	8
Services rated Working Towards NQS	9
Most challenging standards of the NQS	10
Most challenging elements of the NQS	11
Waivers	12
Jurisdiction summaries	13

*NQF Snapshot Q2 2015* is ACECQA's 10th national report on children's education and care services operating under the National Quality Framework.

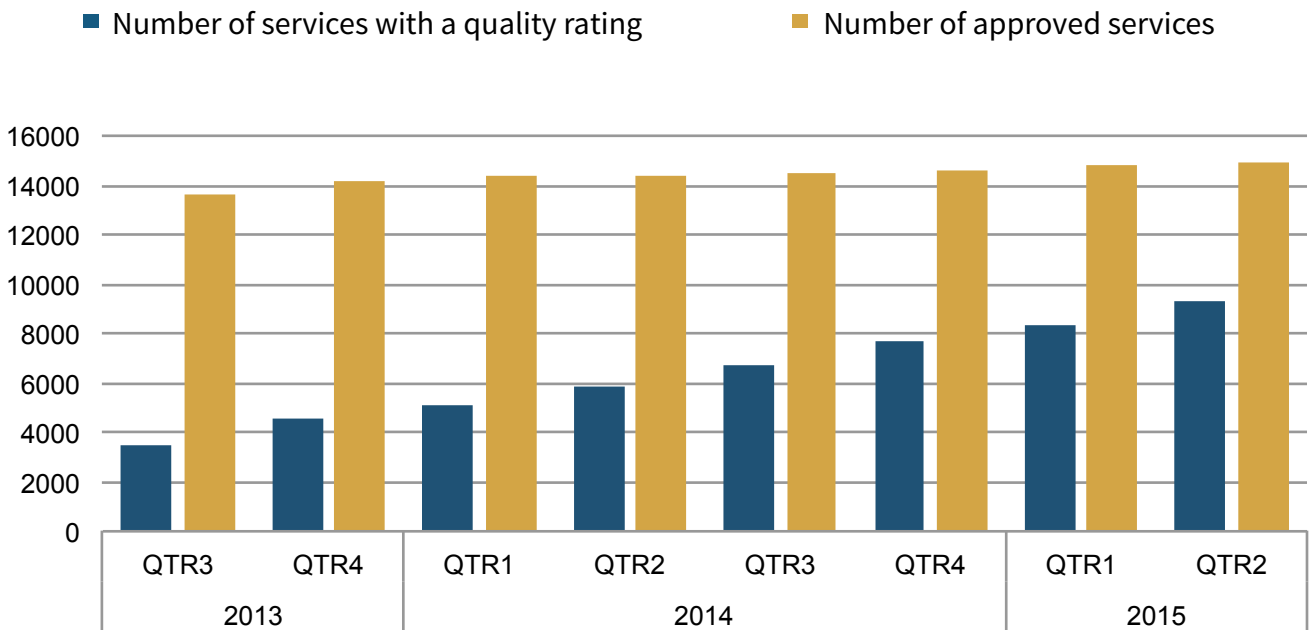
It provides analysis and information on the state of the sector, progress of assessment and rating, quality rating of services and waivers held by services.

The data presented in this Snapshot was taken from the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA ITS) on 1 July 2015 for the quarter ending 30 June 2015.

# Snapshot highlights

<b>14 910</b>	children's education and care services operating across Australia
<b>7298</b>	approved providers operating services
<b>9347 (63%)</b>	services with a quality rating
<b>6179 (66%)</b>	services rated Meeting or Exceeding the National Quality Standard
<b>6059 (83%)</b>	approved providers operating only one children's education and care service
<b>36</b>	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

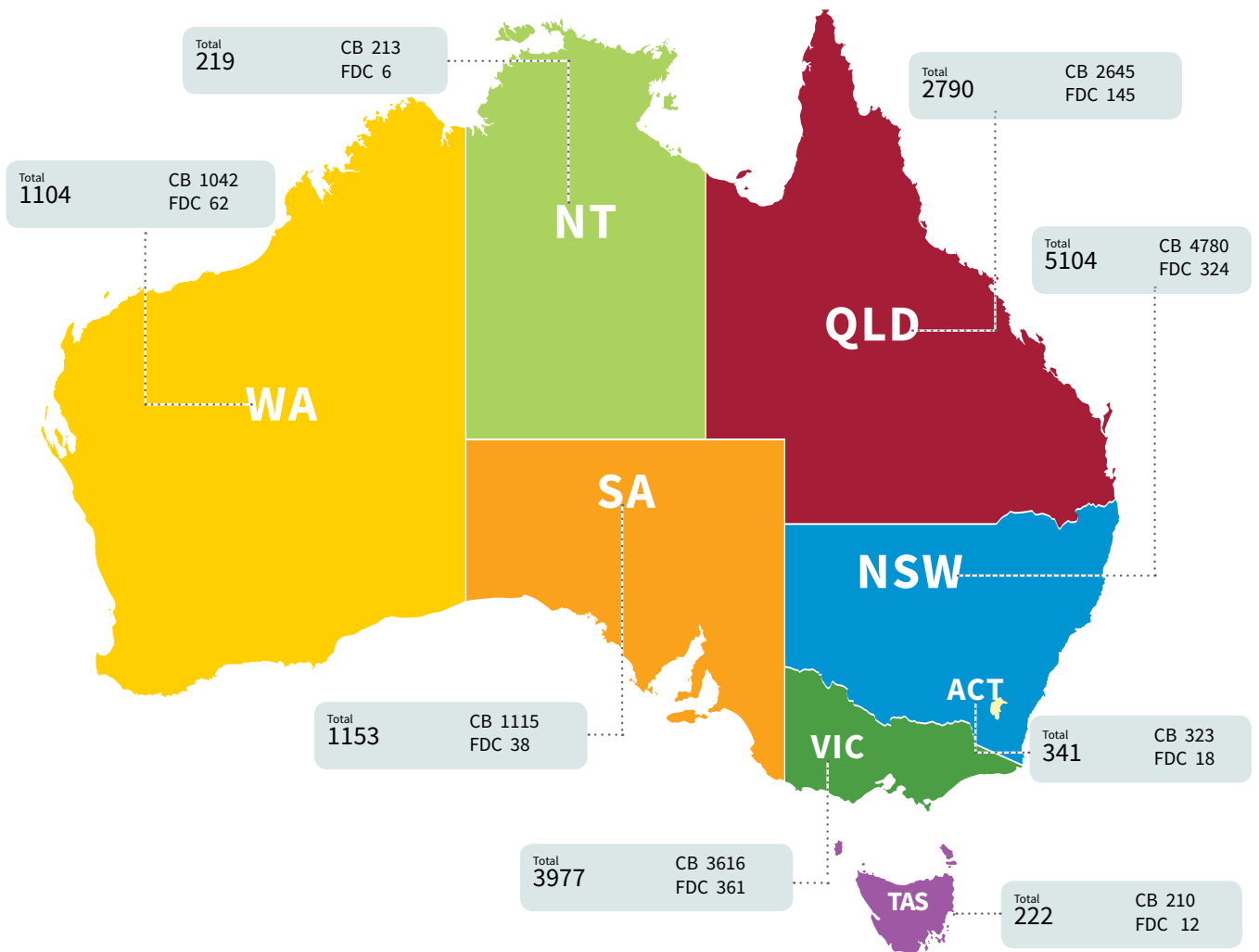
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter on 30 June 2015





# State of the sector

Figure 2: Number of approved services by jurisdiction and service type on 30 June 2015



<p>Total Centre-based (CB) <sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>13 944</b></p> <p>2% Increase on Q2 2014</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) <sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>966</b></p> <p>20%<sup>3</sup> Increase on Q2 2014</p>	<p>Total</p> <p><b>14 910</b></p> <p>3% Increase on Q2 2014</p>
--	--	---

<sup>1</sup>A centre-based service is an education and care service other than a family day care service. This includes most long day care, preschool and outside school hours care services that are delivered at a centre. It does not include preschools in Tasmania or Western Australia out of scope of the NQF.

<sup>2</sup>A family day care service is an education and care service delivered through the use of two or more educators to provide education and care for children in residences, whether or not the service also provides education and care to children at a place other than a residence. They are sometimes known as family day care schemes and they are administered and supported by central coordination units.

<sup>3</sup>From 3 June 2015, changes to Commonwealth Family Assistance Law mean that (for the purposes of CCB funding) FDC services can generally only operate in the jurisdiction where the service approval is held. Before this date FDC services could operate in multiple jurisdictions under one service approval. This means that growth in FDC services in this quarter is partly driven by existing FDC providers gaining separate service approvals in each jurisdiction of operation.

# Progress of assessment and rating

**Table 1: Number and proportion of services with a quality rating by jurisdiction on 30 June 2015**

- Six jurisdictions have rated a higher proportion of services than the national average
- Two-thirds of services with a quality rating are in New South Wales and Victoria
- South Australia and Western Australia have completed the smallest proportion of quality ratings. This can be attributed in part to the delay in the commencement of the National Law in Western Australia (August 2012) and the establishment of a new regulatory authority in South Australia to conduct assessment and ratings

	Number of services	Proportion of approved services	Number of services with a quality rating	Proportion of services with a quality rating
ACT	341	2%	224	66%
NSW	5104	34%	3341	65%
NT	219	1%	161	74%
QLD	2790	19%	1823	65%
SA	1153	8%	384	33%
TAS	222	1%	175	79%
VIC	3977	27%	2868	72%
WA	1104	7%	371	34%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14 910</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9347</b>	<b>63%</b>

**Table 2: Number and proportion of services with a quality rating by service type on 30 June 2015**

	Number of services	Proportion of approved services	Number of services with a quality rating	Proportion of services with a quality rating
Centre-based care	13 944	94%	9006	65%
Family day care	966	6%	341	35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14 910</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9347</b>	<b>63%</b>

*Note: Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100%.*

# Overall quality ratings of services

Authorised officers from state and territory regulatory authorities assess and rate services using the seven quality areas, 18 standards and 58 elements that make up the National Quality Standard. Services are given a rating for each of the seven quality areas and an overall rating.

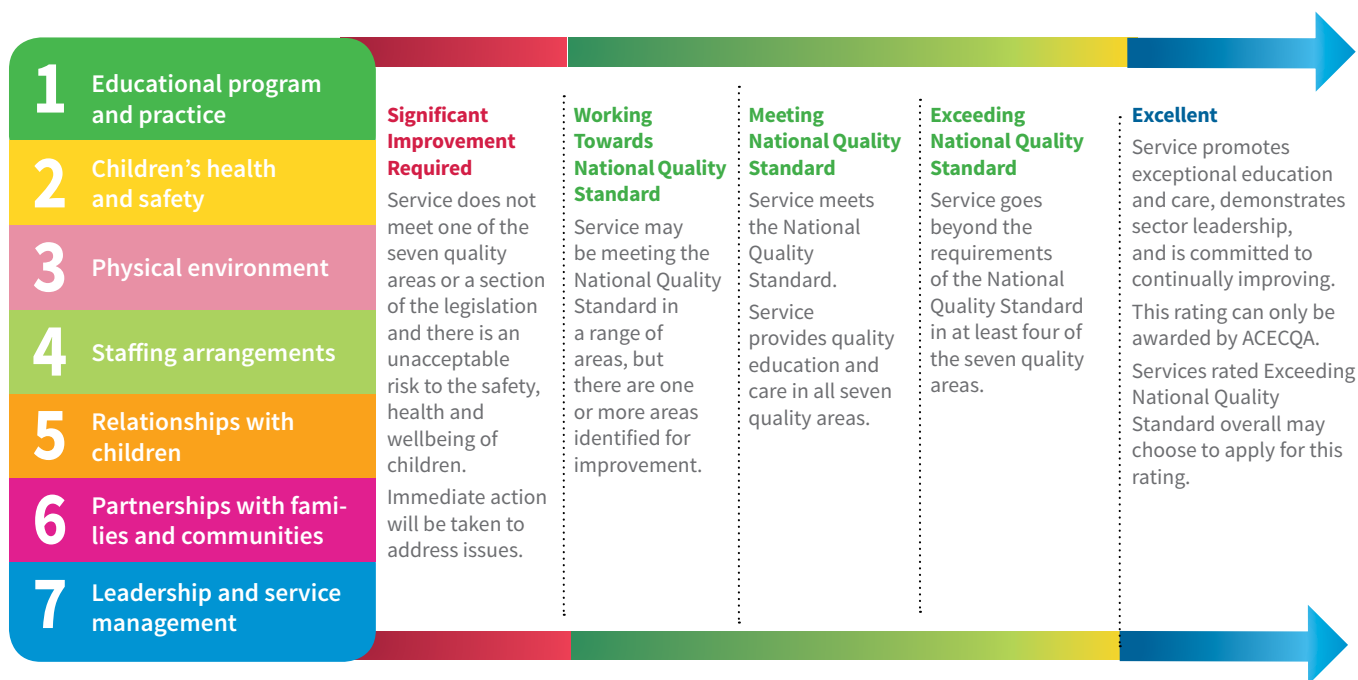


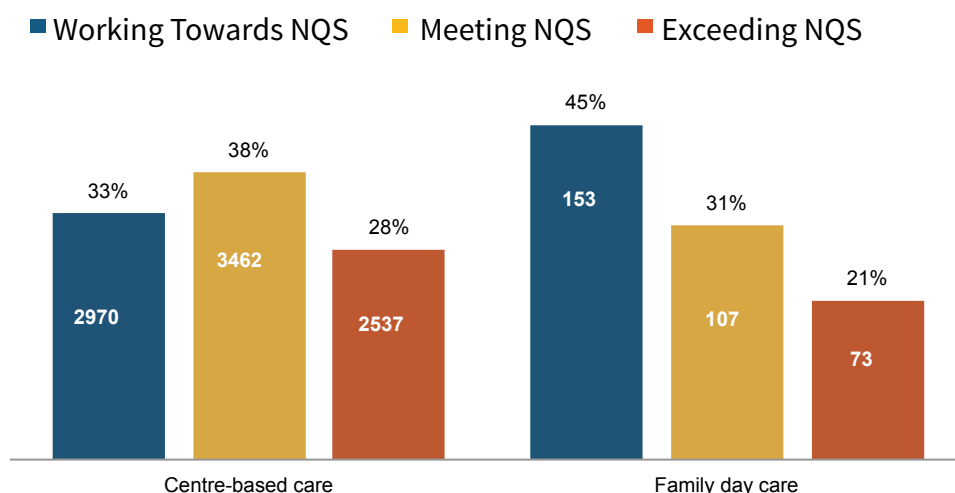
Table 3: Quality ratings by jurisdiction on 30 June 2015

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent rated	TOTAL
ACT	0	119 (53%)	45 (20%)	56 (25%)	4	224
NSW	7	1421 (43%)	1209 (36%)	695 (21%)	9	3341
NT	1	127 (79%)	19 (12%)	13 (8%)	1	161
QLD	1	500 (27%)	705 (39%)	609 (33%)	8	1823
SA	0	110 (29%)	106 (28%)	162 (42%)	6	384
TAS	0	73 (42%)	59 (34%)	43 (25%)	0	175
VIC	0	610 (21%)	1318 (46%)	934 (33%)	6	2868
WA	0	163 (44%)	108 (29%)	98 (26%)	2	371
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3123 (33%)</b>	<b>3569 (38%)</b>	<b>2610 (28%)</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9347</b>

Note: Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100%.

# Overall quality ratings by service type

Figure 3: Number and proportion of services with a quality rating by quality rating level and service type on 30 June 2015

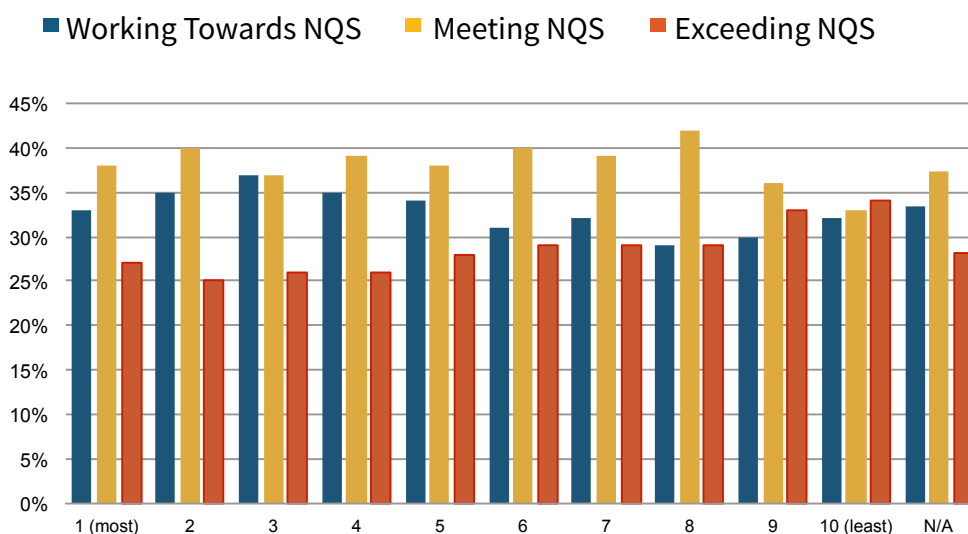


## Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA<sup>1</sup>

Figure 4: Proportion of services by quality rating and SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage on 30 June 2015

SEIFA is a product that ranks areas according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on census data. Variables used cover a number of areas including household income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other indicators of advantage and disadvantage.

- On 30 June 2015, services in less disadvantaged<sup>2</sup> areas were slightly more likely to be rated Meeting or Exceeding NQS (69%) than services in more disadvantaged<sup>3</sup> areas (65%)



<sup>1</sup>The Not Applicable columns include 330 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a SEIFA classification.

<sup>2</sup>Less disadvantaged – average for SEIFA 8 to 10

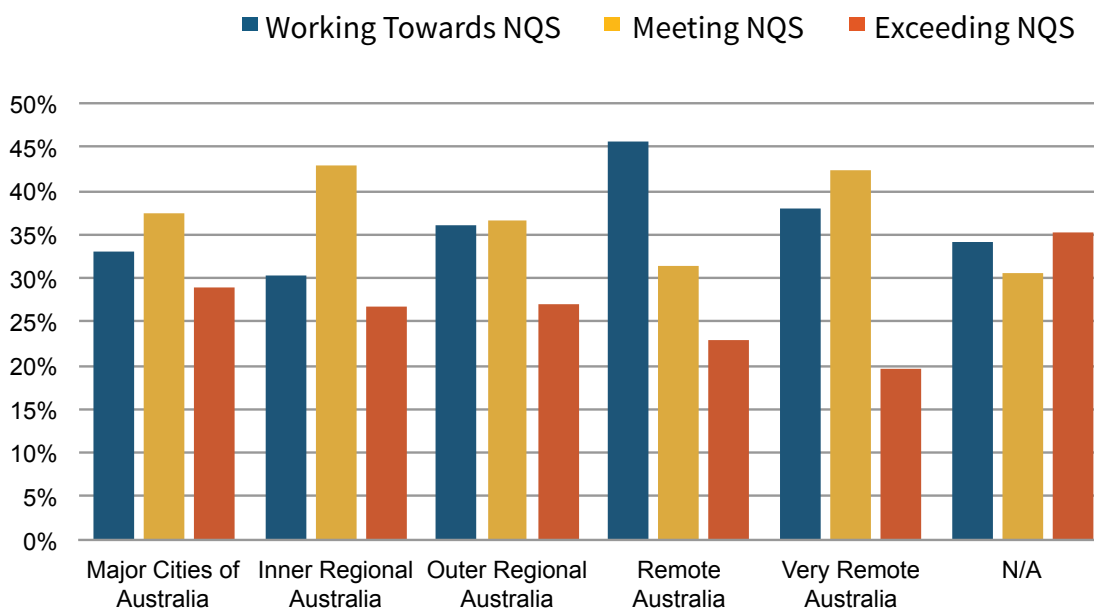
<sup>3</sup>More disadvantaged – average for SEIFA 1 to 3

<sup>4</sup>Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100% in all cases.

# Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification<sup>1</sup>

Figure 5: Proportion of services by quality rating by remoteness classification on 30 June 2015

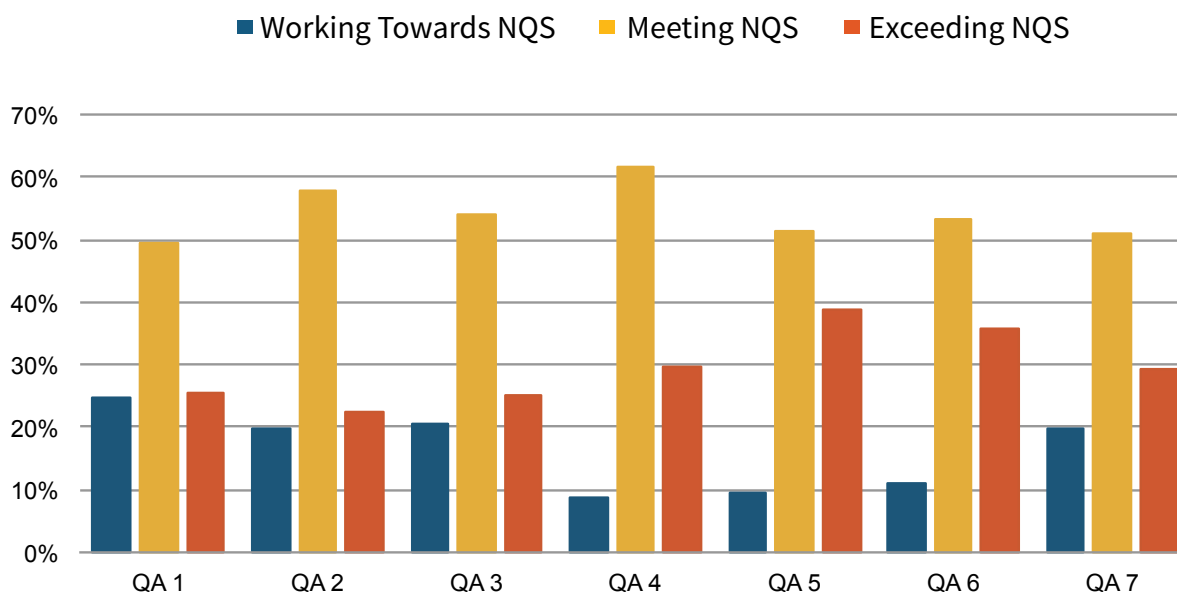
- On 30 June 2015, services in remote and very remote areas were less likely to be rated Meeting or Exceeding NQS than services in major cities or inner regional areas



## Quality area ratings

Figure 6: Proportion of services with a finalised quality rating by quality area nationally on 30 June 2015

- On 30 June 2015, more than a third of services were rated at Exceeding NQS in QA5 (39%) and QA6 (36%), while around a quarter receive that rating in QA2 (22%), QA3 (25%) and QA1 (25%).



<sup>1</sup>The Not Applicable columns include 85 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a remoteness classification.  
<sup>4</sup>Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100% in all cases.



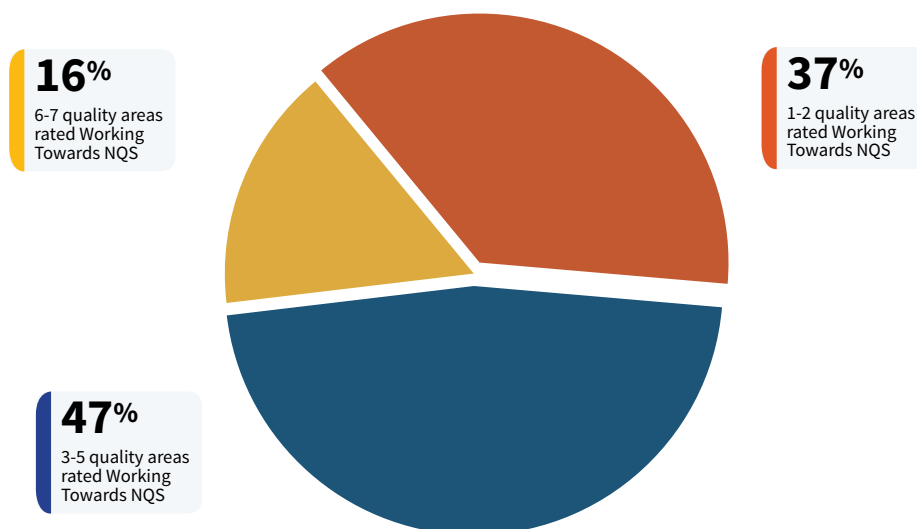
# Services rated Working Towards NQS

A service will receive an overall rating of Working Towards NQS if any of the seven quality areas are rated as Working Towards NQS. A quality area will be rated as Working Towards NQS if any of the standards within that quality area is rated as Working Towards NQS.

This means that a service can receive an overall rating of Working Towards NQS even though they are Meeting or Exceeding NQS in most standards or quality areas.

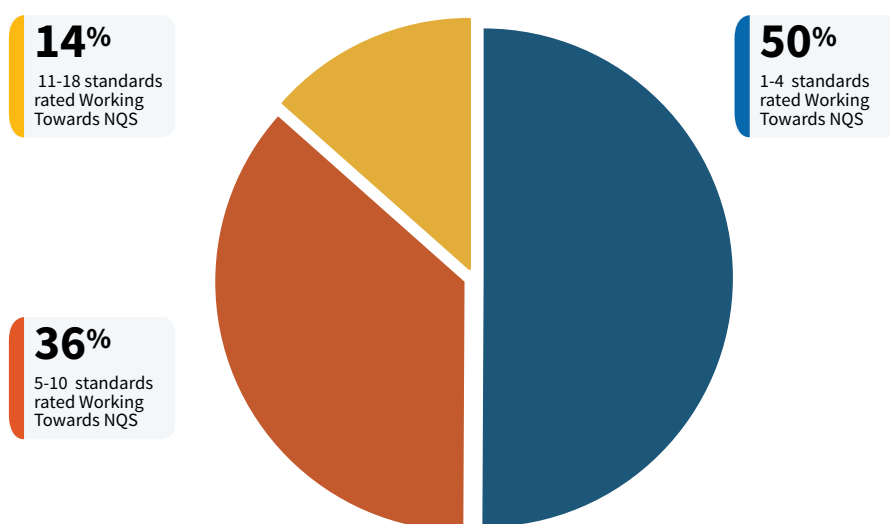
**Figure 7: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of quality areas rated Working Towards on 30 June 2015**

- More than a third of services rated Working Towards NQS (37%) are Meeting or Exceeding NQS for at least five of the seven quality areas



**Figure 8: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of standards rated Working Towards on 30 June 2015**

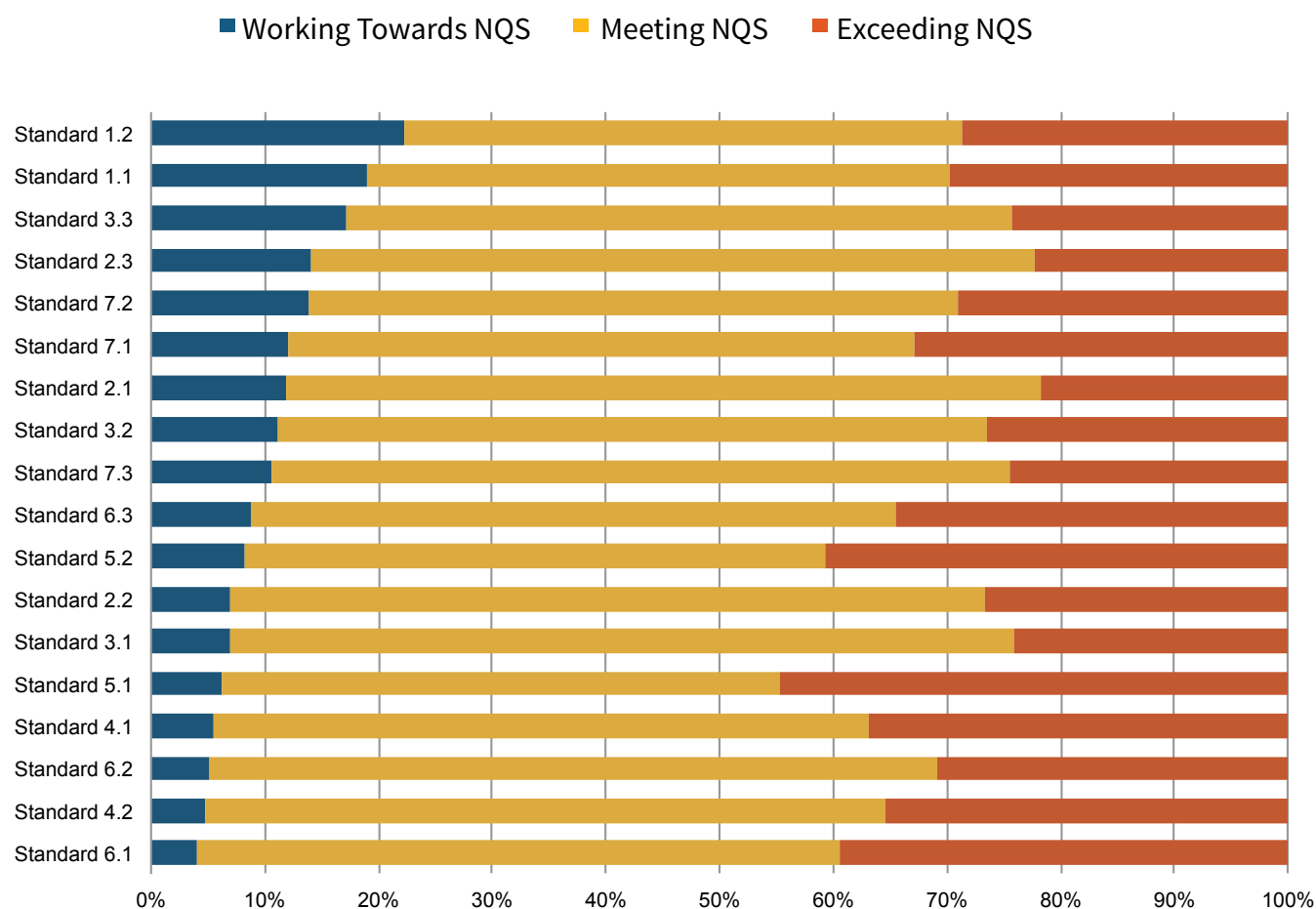
- Half of services rated Working Towards NQS are Meeting or Exceeding NQS for all but four of the 18 standards



# Most challenging standards of the NQS

**Figure 9: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by standards on 30 June 2015**

The graph below ranks the standards in descending order (most challenging on top), based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each standard.

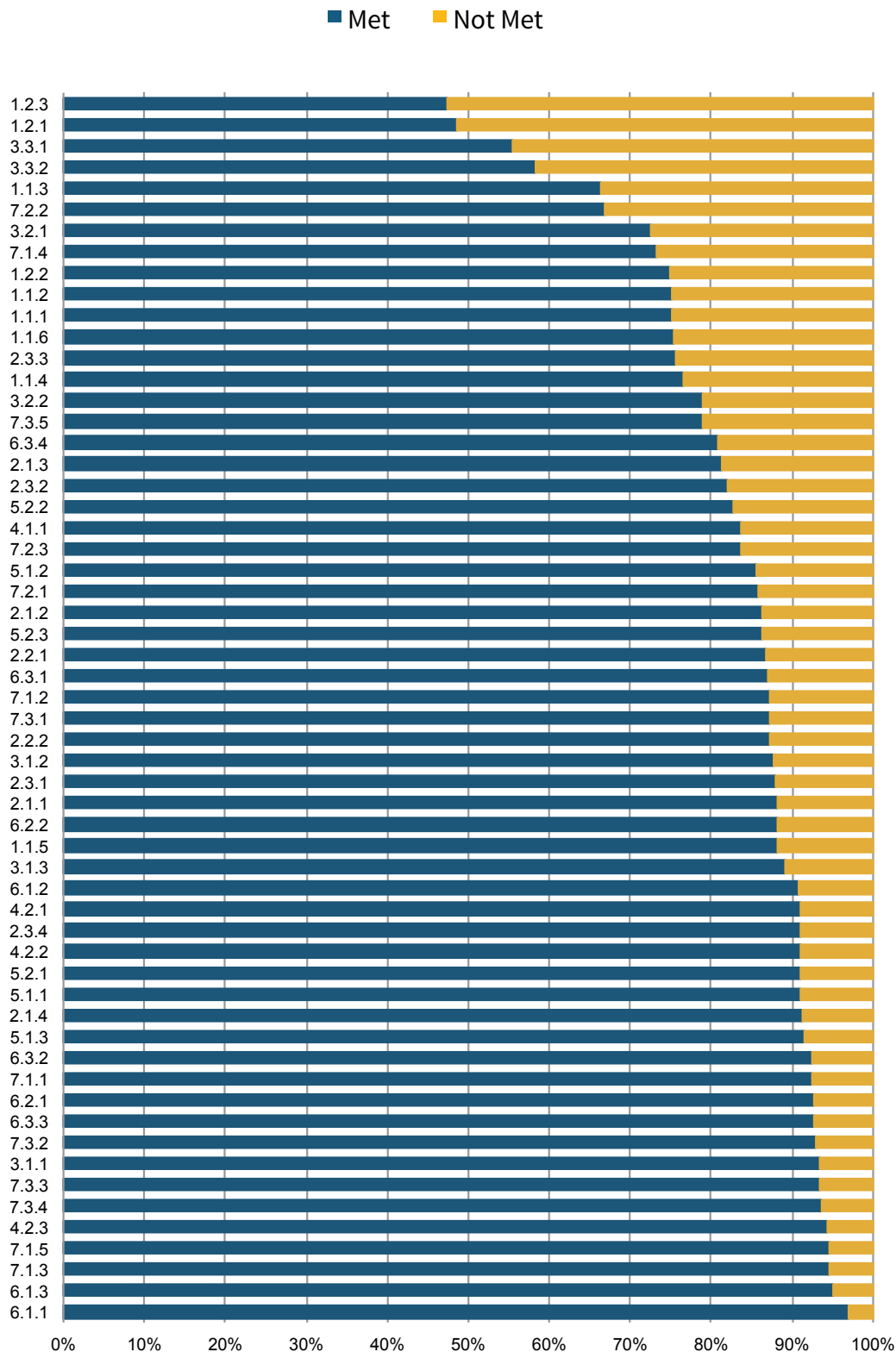


# Most challenging elements of the NQS

**Figure 10: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by elements on 30 June 2015**

The 18 standards of the NQS are high level outcome statements. Under each standard sit elements that describe the outcomes that contribute to the standard being achieved. There are 58 elements in total.

The graph below shows how the 3132 services with a quality rating of Significant Improvement Required or Working Towards NQS have 'Met' or 'Not Met' the elements.



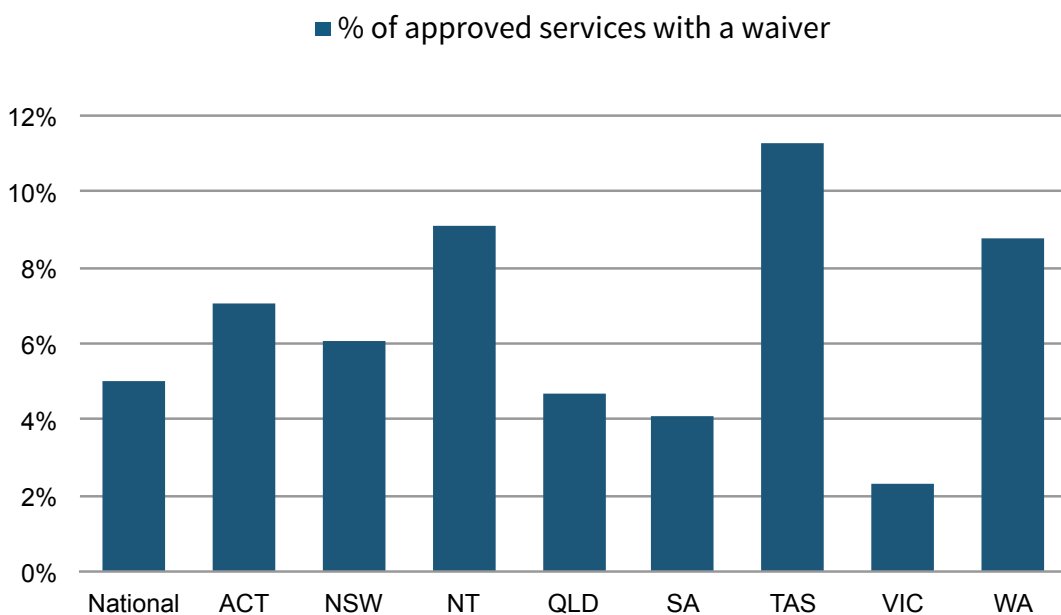
# Waivers

Under the *Education and Care Services National Law*, an approved provider may apply for a service or temporary waiver from a certain requirement of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, or for a prescribed element/s of the National Quality Standard. Waivers are classified under two broad categories and may be granted for certain staffing requirements or physical environment requirements, or both. A provider can apply for a service waiver, which does not have a specific expiry date, or a temporary waiver which is granted for up to 12 months.

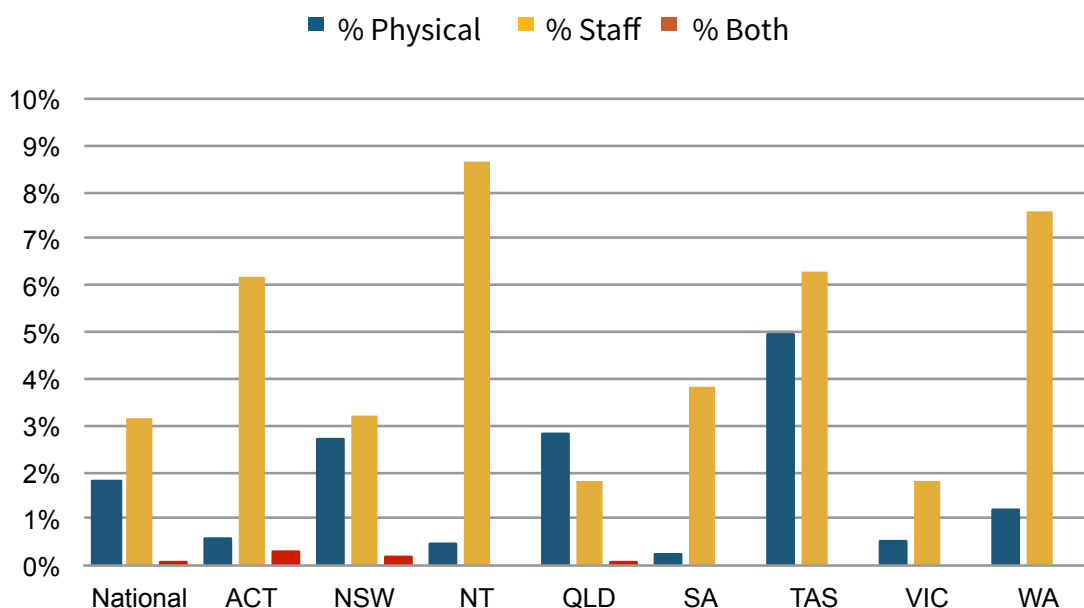
As at 30 June 2015, 5% or 746 education and care services are operating with at least one waiver.

Due to the small number of services in some jurisdictions, small changes in the number of services with a waiver across quarters may translate into large percentage changes.

**Figure 11: Proportion of approved services with a waiver by jurisdiction on 30 June 2015**



**Figure 12: Proportion of approved services with a waiver by jurisdiction and waiver category on 30 June 2015**



# Australian Capital Territory summary

On 30 June 2015 the Australian Capital Territory had:

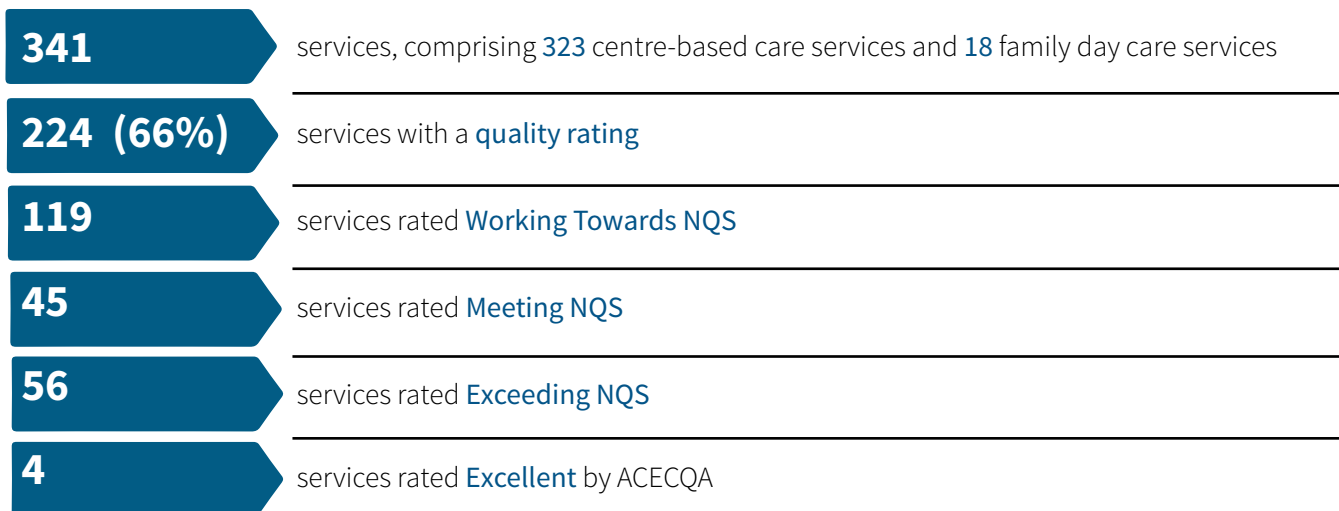
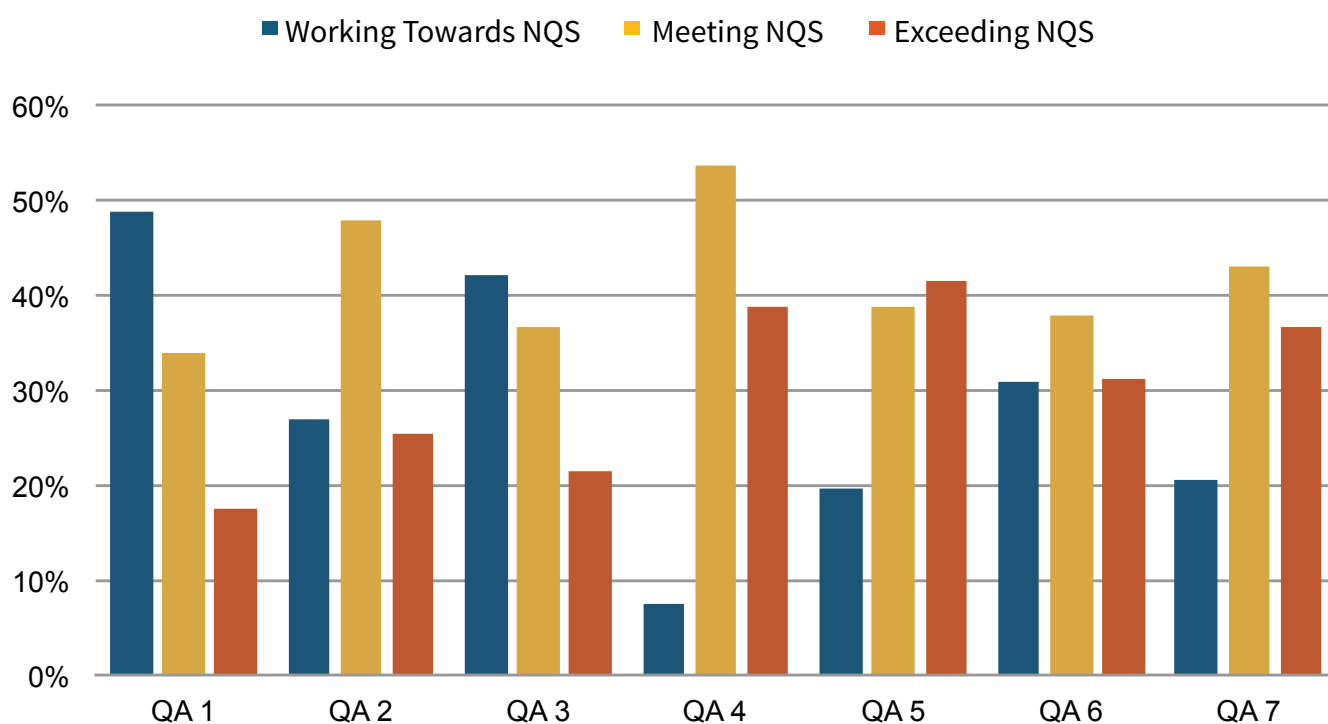


Figure 13: Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015



## Contact details

Education and Training Directorate

Children's Education and Care Assurance

[www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au)

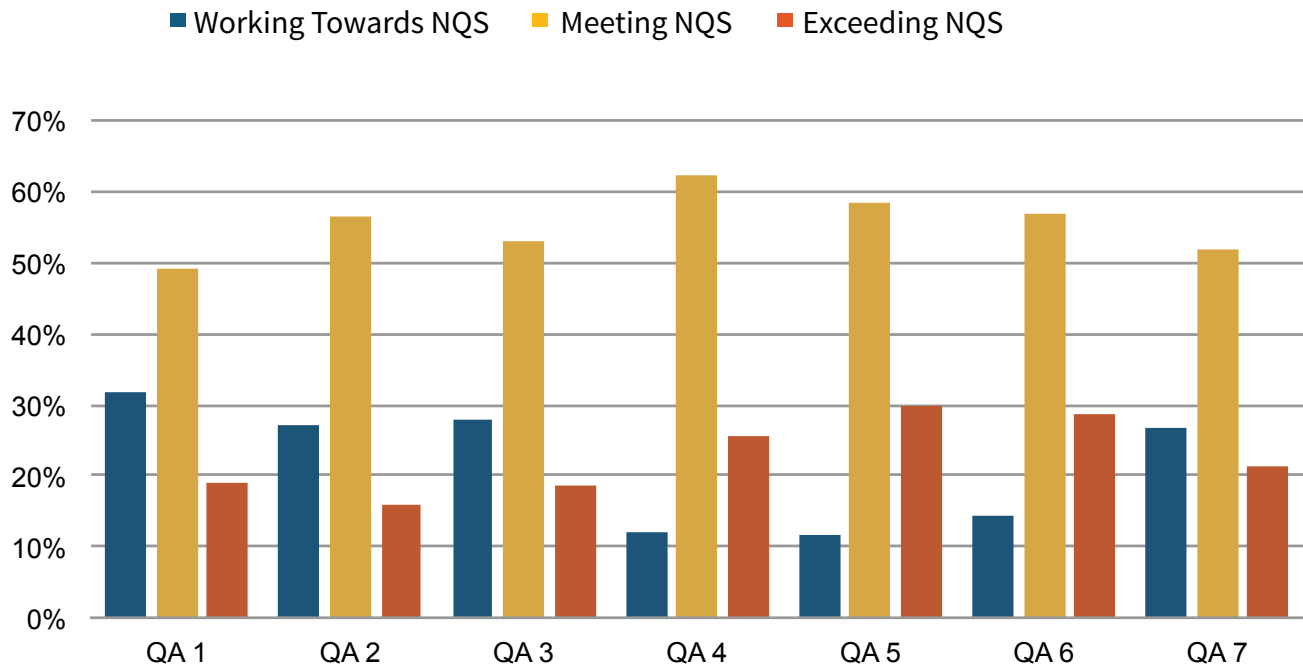


# New South Wales summary

On 30 June 2015 New South Wales had:

<b>5104</b>	services, comprising <b>4780</b> centre-based care services and <b>324</b> family day care services
<b>3341 (65%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>7</b>	services rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>1421</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>1209</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>695</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>9</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

Figure 14: Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015



## Contact details

Department of Education and Communities

Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate

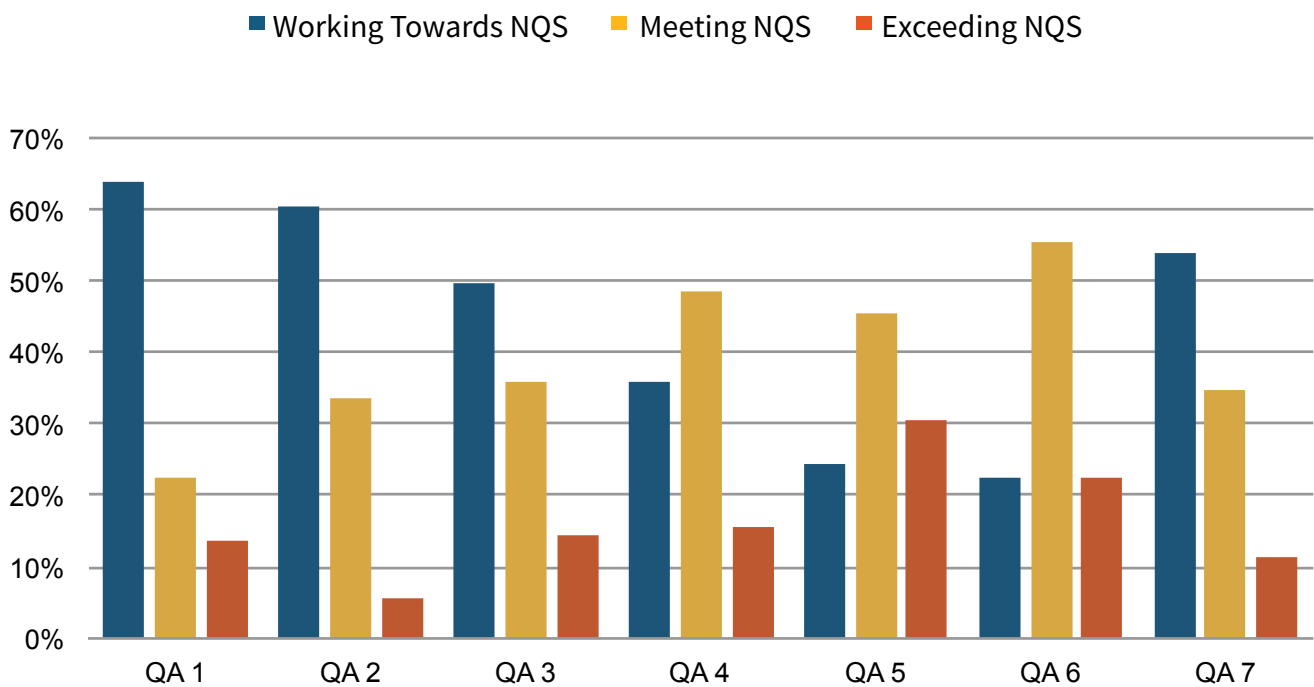
[www.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au)

# Northern Territory summary

On 30 June 2015 the Northern Territory had:

<b>219</b>	services, comprising <b>213</b> centre-based care services and <b>six</b> family day care services
<b>161 (74%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>1</b>	service rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>127</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>19</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>13</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>1</b>	service rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

Figure 15: Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015



## Contact details

Department of Education

Quality Education and Care NT

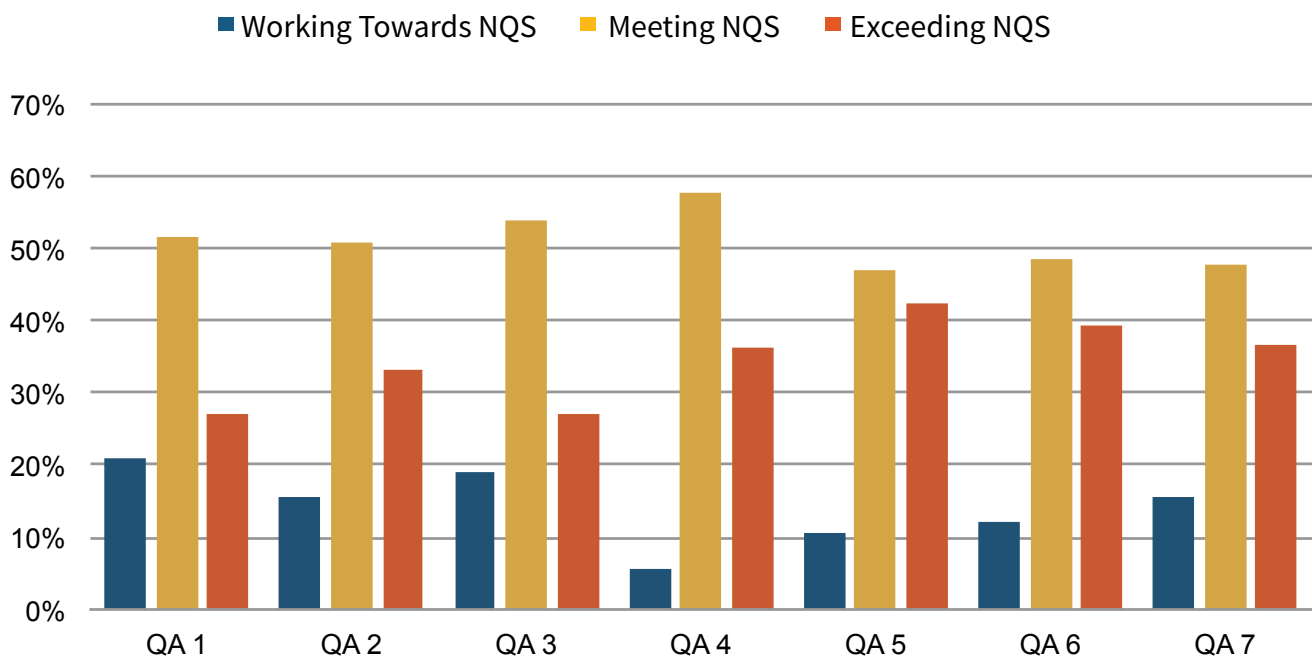
[www.det.nt.edu.au](http://www.det.nt.edu.au)

# Queensland summary

On 30 June 2015 Queensland had:

<b>2790</b>	services, comprising <b>2645</b> centre-based care services and <b>145</b> family day care services
<b>1823 (65%)</b>	services with a quality rating
<b>1</b>	service rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>500</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>705</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>609</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>8</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

## Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015



### Contact details

Department of Education and Training

Early Childhood Education and Care

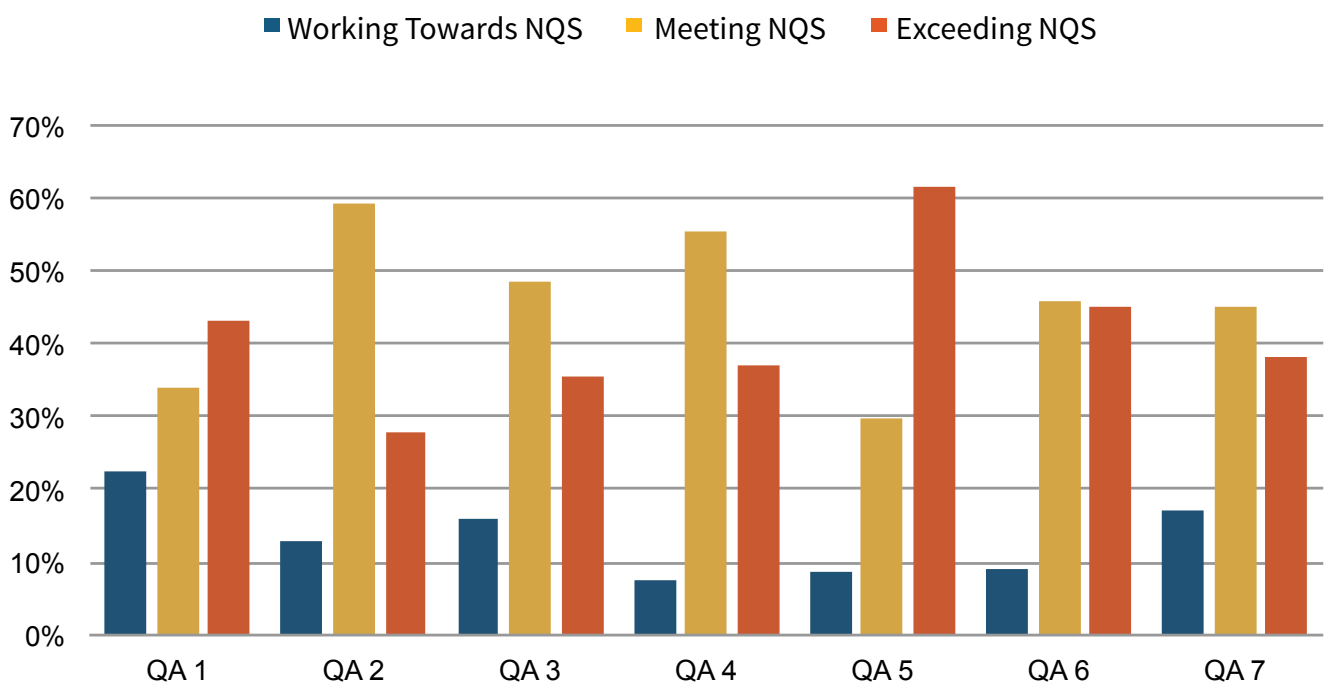
[www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood)

# South Australia summary

On 30 June 2015 South Australia had:

<b>1153</b>	services, comprising <b>1115</b> centre-based care services and <b>38</b> family day care services
<b>384 (33%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>110</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>106</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>162</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>6</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

## Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015



### Contact details

Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of South Australia

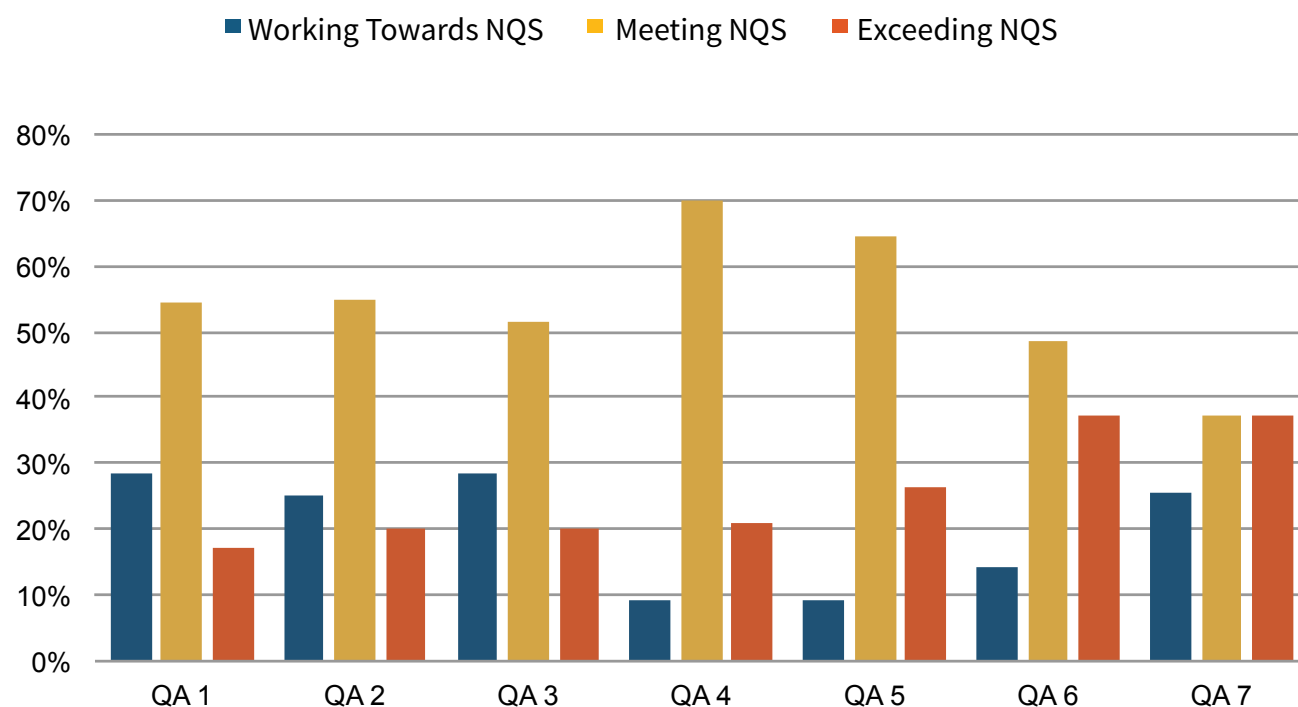
[www.eecrsb.sa.gov.au](http://www.eecrsb.sa.gov.au)

# Tasmania summary

On 30 June 2015 Tasmania had:

<b>222</b>	services, comprising <b>210</b> centre-based care services and <b>12</b> family day care services
<b>175 (79%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>73</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>59</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>43</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>

Figure 16: Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015



## Contact details

Department of Education  
 Education and Care Unit  
[www.education.tas.gov.au](http://www.education.tas.gov.au)

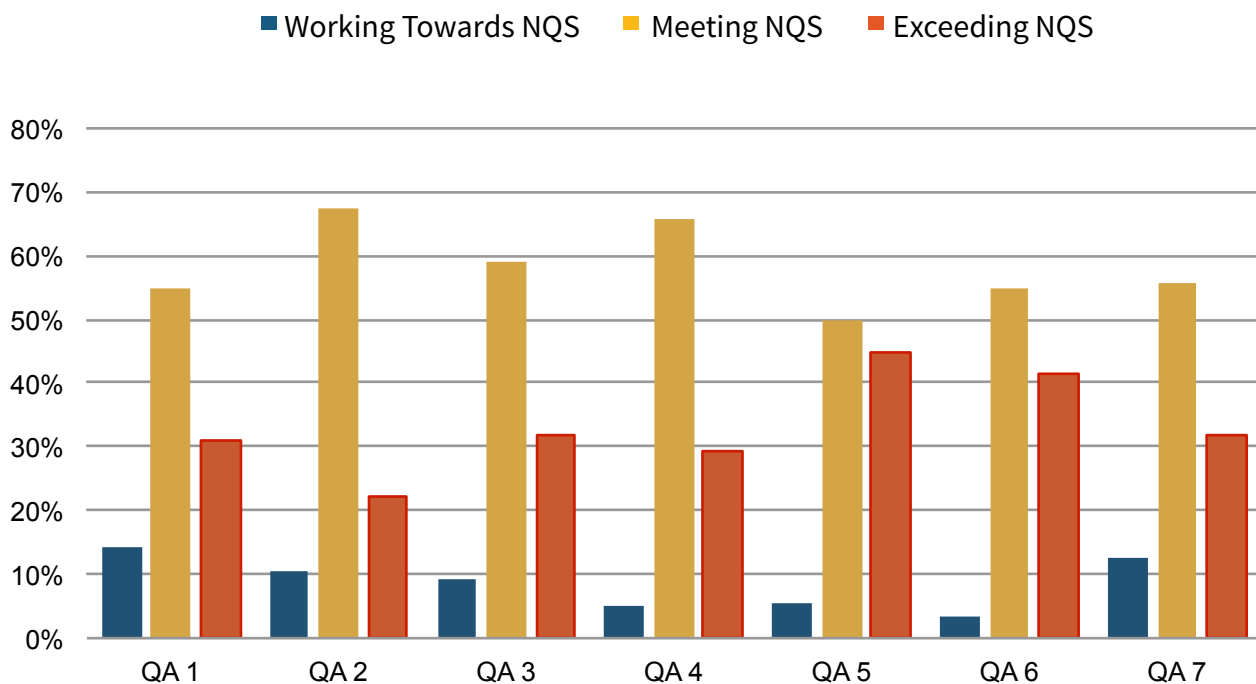


# Victoria summary

On 30 June 2015 Victoria had:

<b>3977</b>	services, comprising <b>3616</b> centre-based care services and <b>361</b> family day care services
<b>2868 (72%)</b>	with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>610</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>1318</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>934</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>6</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

Figure 17: Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015



## Contact details

Department of Education and Training

Quality Assessment and Regulation Division

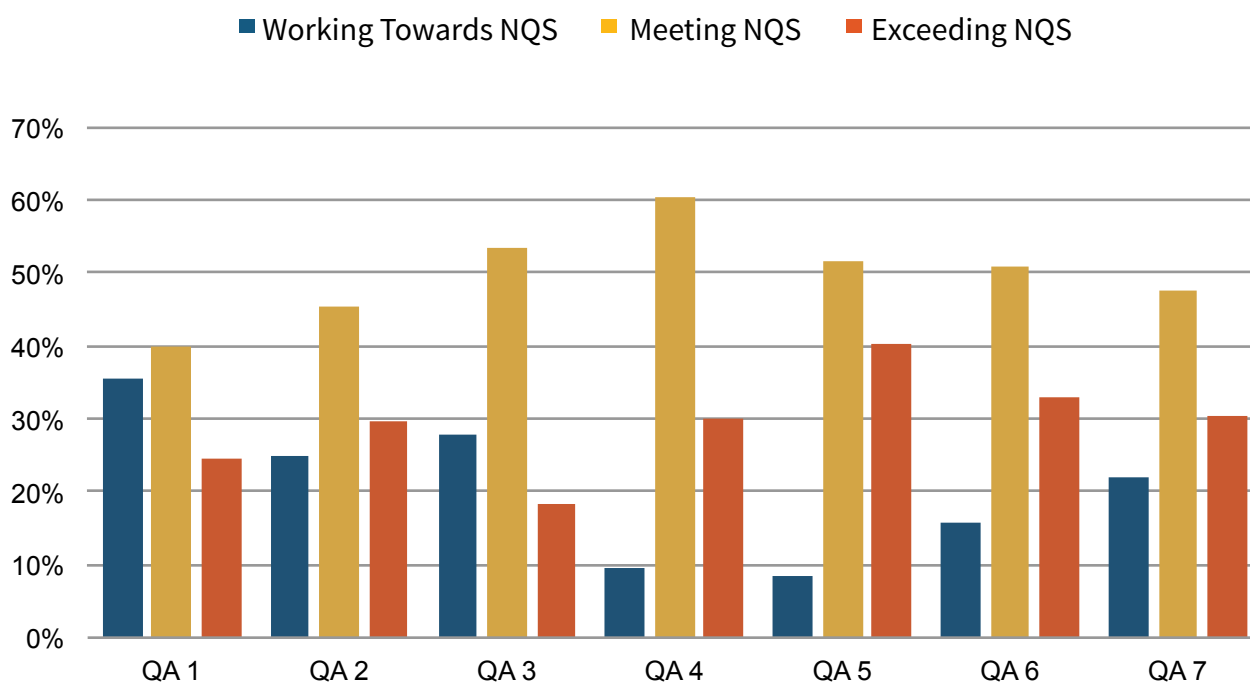
[www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/educareservices](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/educareservices)

# Western Australia summary

On 30 June 2015 Western Australia had:

<b>1104</b>	services, comprising <b>1042</b> centre-based care services and <b>62</b> family day care services
<b>371 (34%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>163</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>108</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>98</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>2</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

Figure 18: Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015



## Contact details

Department of Local Government and Communities  
Education and Care Regulatory Unit

[www.dlhc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlhc.wa.gov.au)



© Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority 2015

This work has been produced by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). Apart from any use permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this publication may be reproduced by any process without written permission from ACECQA.

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcomed and should be forwarded to ACECQA.

Published by ACECQA

ABN 59 372 786 746

Level 15, 255 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Web: [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)

Email: [enquiries@acecqa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@acecqa.gov.au)

Media enquiries: [media@acecqa.gov.au](mailto:media@acecqa.gov.au)



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority