NQF Snapshot Q2 2015

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

August 2015
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*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

**14 910** children’s education and care services operating across Australia

**7298** approved providers operating services

**9347 (63%)** services with a quality rating

**6179 (66%)** services rated Meeting or Exceeding the National Quality Standard

**6059 (83%)** approved providers operating only one children’s education and care service

**36** 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

- Number of services with a quality rating
- Number of approved services
State of the sector

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

1A 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.

2A 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.

3From 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Number of services</th>
<th>Proportion of approved services</th>
<th>Number of services with a quality rating</th>
<th>Proportion of services with a quality rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>5104</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>3341</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>2790</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>1823</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>1153</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>3977</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>2868</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>1104</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>14910</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>9347</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Number of services</th>
<th>Proportion of approved services</th>
<th>Number of services with a quality rating</th>
<th>Proportion of services with a quality rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centre-based care</td>
<td>13944</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>9006</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family day care</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>14910</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>9347</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

*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

- Working Towards NQS
- Meeting NQS
- Exceeding NQS

Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA

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

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

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1The Not Applicable columns include 330 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a SEIFA classification.
2Less disadvantaged – average for SEIFA 8 to 10
3More disadvantaged – average for SEIFA 1 to 3
4Due to rounding, individual values may not add to 100% in all cases.
Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification\(^1\)

**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.

![Graph showing quality ratings by remoteness classification](image)

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

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%).

![Graph showing quality ratings by quality area](image)
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**

![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**

![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:

- 341 services, comprising 323 centre-based care services and 18 family day care services with a quality rating
- 224 (66%) services rated Working Towards NQS
- 119 services rated Meeting NQS
- 45 services rated Exceeding NQS
- 56 services rated Excellent by ACECQA

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
New South Wales summary

On 30 June 2015 New South Wales had:

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QA 1</th>
<th>QA 2</th>
<th>QA 3</th>
<th>QA 4</th>
<th>QA 5</th>
<th>QA 6</th>
<th>QA 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working Towards NQS</td>
<td>Meeting NQS</td>
<td>Exceeding NQS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact details**
Department of Education and Communities
Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
www.det.nsw.edu.au
Northern Territory summary

On 30 June 2015 the Northern Territory had:

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

On 30 June 2015 Queensland had:

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

Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015

- Working Towards NQS
- Meeting NQS
- Exceeding NQS

Contact details
Department of Education and Training
Early Childhood Education and Care
www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood

ACECQA
South Australia summary

On 30 June 2015 South Australia had:

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

Quality ratings by quality area on 30 June 2015

![Graph of quality ratings by quality area](image)

Contact details

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

Tasmania summary

On 30 June 2015 Tasmania had:

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

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
Victoria summary

On 30 June 2015 Victoria had:

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

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

Contact details
Department of Education and Training
Quality Assessment and Regulation Division
Western Australia summary

On 30 June 2015 Western Australia had:

- **1104** services, comprising **1042** centre-based care services and **62** family day care services
- **371 (34%)** services with a quality rating
- **163** services rated Working Towards NQS
- **108** services rated Meeting NQS
- **98** services rated Exceeding NQS
- **2** services rated Excellent 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.dlgc.wa.gov.au