



Changes to the National Quality Framework

The Australian, state and territory education Ministers have agreed to changes to the National Quality Framework following a review of the National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care.

TIMELINE

1 October 2017

National Law and Regulation changes commence in all states and territories, except Western Australia where changes will commence by 1 October 2018

1 February 2018

Revised National Quality Standard commences in all states and territories, including Western Australia

Changes to the NQF

The NQS, assessment and rating, and rating levels



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Changes to the NQF

NQS and assessment

Revised NQS reduces conceptual overlap between elements and standards, clarifies language and reduces the standards from 18 to 15, and reduces the elements from 58 to 40.

Change the definition of 'Significant Improvement Required' to replace 'unacceptable risk' with 'significant risk'.

Broaden the Minor Adjustments policy to address minor issues identified during assessment and rating before the rating level is finalised.



Changes to the NQF

NQS and assessment (continued)

- To be rated Exceeding NQS in a Quality Area, all standards in that Quality Area must be rated Exceeding NQS.
- There are no changes to the way in which the overall rating for Exceeding NQS is calculated. To be rated Exceeding NQS overall, all quality areas must be at least Meeting NQS, and four or more quality areas must be Exceeding NQS, with at least two of these being quality areas 1, 5, 6, or 7.

Remove the fee for Excellent rating applications and limit applications to services rated Exceeding NQS in all seven quality areas.

A 60 day extension of time will be allowed for first tier reviews where the RA considers there are special circumstances.



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Changes to the NQF

Quality Area 1

Educational Program and Practice

- **Revised NQS**

- **1.1 Program**

- 1.1.1 Approved learning framework
- 1.1.2 Child-centred
- 1.1.3 Program learning opportunities

Currently

Two standards
Nine elements

- **1.2 Practice**

- 1.2.1 Intentional teaching
- 1.2.2 Responsive teaching and scaffolding
- 1.2.3 Child directed learning

- **1.3 Assessment and planning**

- 1.3.1 Assessment and planning cycle
- 1.3.2 Critical reflection
- 1.3.3 Information for families



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Changes to the NQF

Quality Area 2

Children's health and safety

- **Revised NQS**

Currently

- **2.1 Health**

Three standards

- 2.1.1 Wellbeing and comfort

Ten elements

- 2.1.2 Health practices and procedures

- 2.1.3 Healthy lifestyle

- **2.2 Safety**

- 2.2.1 Supervision

- 2.2.2 Incident and emergency management

- 2.2.3 Child protection



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Changes to the NQF

Quality Area 3

Physical environment

- **Revised NQS**

Currently

- **3.1 Design**

- 3.1.1 Fit for purpose
- 3.1.2 Upkeep

Three
standards
Seven
elements

- **3.2 Use**

- 3.2.1 Inclusive environment
- 3.2.2 Resources support play-based learning
- 3.2.3 Environmentally responsible

Changes to the NQF

Quality Area 4

Staffing arrangements

- **Revised NQS**

Currently

- **4.1 Staffing arrangements**

Two standards

- 4.1.1 Organisation of educators

Four elements

- 4.1.2 Continuity of staff

- **4.2 Professionalism**

- 4.1.1 Professional collaboration

- 4.1.2 Professional standards

Changes to the NQF

Quality Area 5

Relationships with children

Revised NQS

5.1 Relationships between educators and children

5.1.1 Positive educator to child interactions

5.1.2 Dignity and rights of the child

5.2 Relationships between children

5.2.1 Collaborative learning

5.2.2 Self-regulation

Currently

Two standards

Six elements

Changes to the NQF

Quality Area 6

Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Revised NQS

6.1 Supportive relationships with families

- 6.1.1 Engagement with the service
- 6.1.2 Parent views are respected
- 6.1.3 Families are supported

6.2 Collaborative partnerships

- 6.2.1 Transitions
- 6.2.2 Access and participation
- 6.2.3 Community engagement

Currently

Three standards
Nine elements



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Changes to the NQF

Quality Area 7

Governance and Leadership

Revised NQS

7.1 Governance

- 7.1.1 Service philosophy and purpose
- 7.1.2 Management systems
- 7.1.3 Roles and responsibilities

7.2 Leadership

- 7.2.1 Continuous improvement
- 7.2.2 Educational leadership
- 7.2.3 Development of professionals

Currently

Three standards
Thirteen elements



Changes to the NQF

Requirements for family day care services

Changes to the NQF

Family day care services

Approved FDC providers must hold a service approval in each jurisdiction where their educators operate and have a principal office

Ensure a minimum FDC coordinator to educator ratio of:

1:15 for the first 12 months of operation, and any other time at the discretion of the RA

1:25 after the first 12 months of operation



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Changes to the NQF

Family day care services (continued)

Approved providers must notify their RA of a change to the location of the principal office of a FDC service at least 14 days before the change, and provide proof of the new address.

A FDC service may be provided at a venue only in exceptional circumstances and if approved by the RA.

FDC services may not operate at a new venue until the RA amends the service approval through a condition.

Changes to the NQF

Family day care services (continued)

Approved providers must keep information on the register of FDC educators about FDC educator assistants and coordinators (in addition to information about FDC educators).

A risk assessment must be completed for all regular outings at least once a year.

Authorised officers may enter a FDC residence if the register indicates they are operating or if they reasonably believe that a service is operating.



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Changes to the NQF

Family day care services (continued)

FDC educator assistants should only stand in place of a FDC educator in the event of unforeseen or exceptional circumstances.

FDC educators must notify the approved provider of:

A serious incident

Any complaint alleging a serious incident has occurred or is occurring or a breach of the Law or Regulations

Any renovations or changes to the FDC residence or venue which pose or could pose a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of children

Any changes in the persons aged 18 and over residing at the residence.



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Changes to the NQF

Jurisdiction-specific changes

Nominated supervisors and persons in day-to-day charge of a service must have undertaken child protection training if it is required within their jurisdiction.



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Changes to the NQF

**Other changes that relate to
service operations**

Other changes

A fee for an application to extend a temporary waiver will be introduced.

Any staff member or nominated supervisor is permitted to be the person immediately available who holds an approved first aid, anaphylaxis and emergency asthma management qualification.

Providers are only required to notify the RA of a complaint that alleges a serious incident has occurred or is occurring, or that the National Law or National Regulations have been contravened.

Other changes (continued)

Approved providers must have in place policies and procedures about sleep and rest for children and infants.



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Other changes

New prescribed matters requiring notification to RA include:

Any incident where the approved provider reasonably believes that physical and/or sexual abuse of a child has occurred, or is occurring, while a child is being educated and cared for by a service.

An allegation that sexual or physical abuse of a child has occurred, or is occurring, while a child is being educated and cared for at a service.

TIMELINE

- **1 October 2017**

- National Law and Regulations changes commence in all states and territories, except Western Australia where changes will commence by 1 October 2018.*

1 February 2018

Revised National Quality Standard commences in all states and territories, including Western Australia*

*Subject to the passage of legislation.

Changes to the NQF

**What guidance RAs and ACECQA
will provide**

Who does what?

Australian Government

Funding – child care benefit and child care rebate

Assessing and granting funding approvals to enable eligible families to access child care

Monitoring and enforcement (funding)

Regulatory Authorities

Day-to-day contact with services and providers

Assessing and rating services

Granting approvals

Monitoring and enforcement

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ACECQA

Publishes national guidance and resources

Approves educational qualifications

Training authorised officers

Hosts the NQA IT System

Changes to the NQF

Where to go for more information

acecqa.gov.au/decisionris

Subscribe to the ACECQA newsletter
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