

National Quality Framework

What do I need to know?

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has committed to reforming the early childhood sector in order to improve learning outcomes for children and to enable families to better access to information that will assist them in determining what education and care arrangements may best suit their individual family's needs.

This fact sheet contains information that can enable services to keep up to date with sector changes and to continue to improve their own practices.

PSCTas is committed to keeping the Tasmanian early childhood education and care sector informed about changes to practices and the operation of services. PSCTas does this through fact sheets, newsletters, emails, workshops and other professional learning events. At any given time, the most up to date and thorough information available, concerning all types of services across the sector, can be found on the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) web site below:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood>



What is the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care and what will it mean for our service?

Research tells us that the first five years of a person's life impact greatly on the eventual life outcomes they can be expected to achieve. All State and Territory governments acknowledge this and the COAG have committed to improving the quality of care and education experienced by children across the country. To provide guidance and support to services in achieving better outcomes, two main documents have been created/or in the process of development:

The Early Years Learning Framework— It's purpose is to guide educators as they seek to enrich and extend children's learning from birth through to five years inclusive of the transition to school.

National Quality Standards—to be made available to the sector shortly.

What is the National Quality Standards?

The DEEWR website concisely discusses how the Quality Standards will benefit children and families in the following way:

The National Quality Standard will improve quality through:

- **improved staff to child ratios** to ensure each child gets more individual care and attention
- **new staff qualification requirements** to ensure staff have the skills to help children learn and develop
- **a new quality rating system** to ensure Australian families have access to transparent information relating to the quality of early childhood education and care services
- the establishment of a **new National Body** to ensure early childhood education and care is of a high quality.

The new National Quality Framework will **cover long day care, family day care, outside school hours care and preschools.**

More detailed information can be found on the DEEWR website, including the timelines for implementation.

New Rating System:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Documents/NewRatingSystem.pdf

The full range of programs and how they relate to early childhood services can be found through the DEEWR website and a comprehensive list can be viewed at the address below:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Policy_Agenda/Pages/home.aspx