

NQF

2 THE WHEN

What dates does my service need to be aware of?

Disclaimer: As the national Regulations are still in draft form, the content of this fact sheet is subject to change.

THE NEW NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK (NQF) COMMENCES FROM THE BEGINNING OF 2012.

This fact sheet, the second of a series produced for children's services by the Professional Support Co-ordinator's Alliance, summarises the basics that services need to know about the NQF.

THE NQF HAS BEEN DESIGNED SO THAT THE CHANGES ARE GRADUAL. NOT EVERYTHING FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES WILL CHANGE AT ONCE, AT THE BEGINNING OF 2012.

CHANGE	NEW MEASURE	AFFECTED SERVICES	WHEN
Start date of National Quality Framework	New framework for regulating and rating children's services.	Preschools/Kindergartens and Long Day Care Centres, Family Day Care Schemes and Outside School Hours Services	January 1, 2012
Changes to Ratios/ New Measure ¹	1:4 for birth to 24 months	Preschools/Kindergartens and Long Day Care Centres	January 2012 ⁵
	1:5 for 25 to 35 months ²		January 2016
	1:11 for 36 months to preschool ^{3, 4}		January 2016
	1:7, with no more than four children pre-school age or under	Family Day Care Schemes	January 2014
Changes to Qualifications * ACECQA will determine qualifications for educators in early childhood	Certificate III	Family Day Carers, all educators in Long Day Care and Preschools/Kindergartens unless they have higher qualifications	Have or working towards by January 2014
	Diploma	50% of educators in each preschool and long day care	Have or working towards by January 2014
	Diploma	All Family Day Care Co-ordinators	Have by January 2014
	Access to an early childhood teacher	Preschools/Kindergartens and Long Day Care with less than 25 children	January 2014
	Teacher in attendance ⁶	Preschools/Kindergartens and Long Day Care with between 25 and 59 children	January 2014
	2nd early childhood teacher in attendance ⁶	Preschools/Kindergartens and Long Day Care with over 60 or more children	January 2020
Start date of new regulations and laws	New Regulations and laws covering children's services	All services (ie Family Day Care, Long Day Care, Preschools/Kindergartens and Outside School Hours services)	January 2012

CHANGE	NEW MEASURE	AFFECTED SERVICES	WHEN
Implementing Learning Frameworks ⁷	Implementation within Services of the Early Years Learning Framework and/or Framework for School Age Care	All services	From now
Changes to licensing procedures	Provider Approvals (services already licensed by state or territory may be given Provider Approvals)	All services	January 2012
	Service Approvals (services already licensed by state or territory may be given automatic service approvals).	All services	January 2012
Annual Fees	Payment of annual fee as an approved service	All services	From 2012
Certified Supervisor/s	Services must have a certified supervisor in charge at all times (or an approved provider)	All services	From January 2012
Nominated Supervisor	Need to have one certified supervisor as nominated supervisor – all people currently in a similar position may be granted nominated supervisor status.	All services	January 2012
Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)	Preparation of QIP.	All services	2012 and annually from then on
Assessment (rating) against the National Quality Standard	Assessment and rating by state/territory regulator.	All services	Progressively from January 2012

¹ Queensland services may have differing ratios. See Part 17 of the Draft Regulations. (Schedule 8)

² 1:4 in Victoria.

³ 1:10 in NSW, TAS and WA.

⁴ Several states/territories require higher ratios for this group.

⁵ 1:4 currently in place for services in NSW and Victoria.

⁶ NSW services require more teachers.

⁷ Tasmania, Victoria, ACT and WA have certain state-based learning frameworks that can be used in place of the EYLF and My Time, Our Place. For more information see Part 17 of the Draft Regulations.

N.B. In quality services, educators and co-ordinators hold or are supported to work towards qualifications that are higher than the minimum.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TIMEFRAMES FOR THE NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK?

GO TO: www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Policy_Agenda
or www.pscalliance.org.au

The PSC Alliance has prepared a series of NQF Fact Sheets as well as newsletters and e-tips which your service can receive

by email. To find out more or to get copies please contact your state or territory Professional Support Co-ordinator.

