



NQF Snapshot

Q3 2016



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority™

A quarterly report from
the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority
November 2016

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Overview

NQF Snapshot Q3 2016 is ACECQA's 15th national report on children's education and care services operating under the National Quality Framework.

It provides analysis and information on the profile of the sector, progress of assessment and rating and the quality rating of services including by provider management type and service sub-type.

An interactive online version of the Snapshot is available on the ACECQA website.

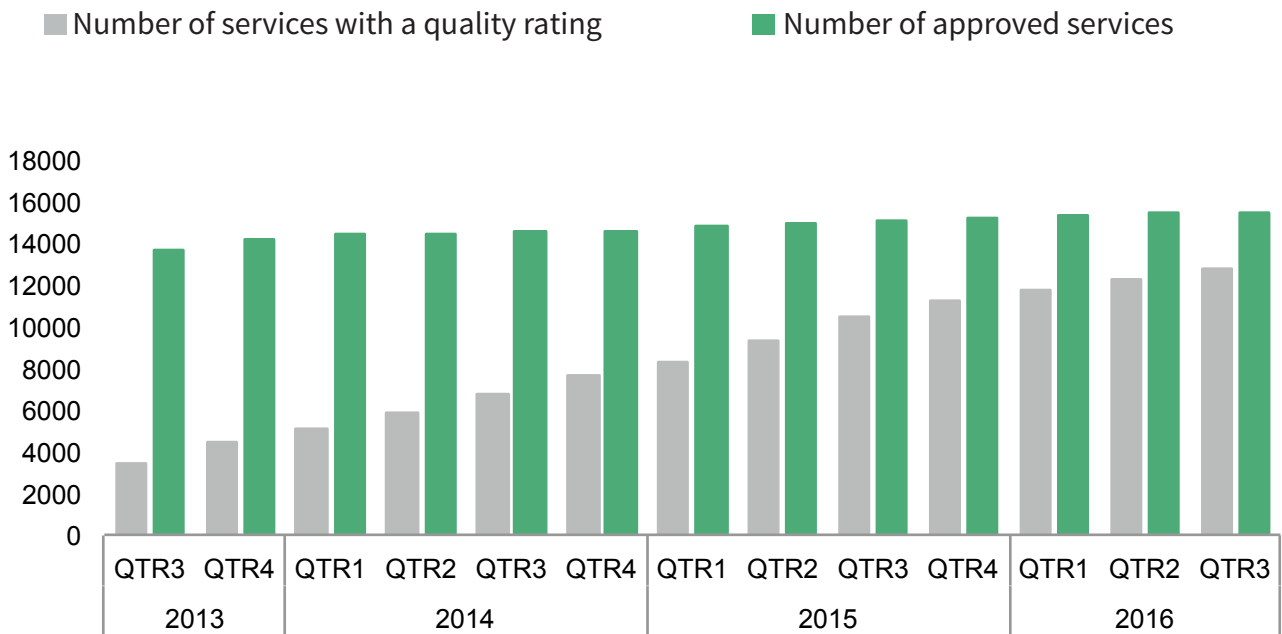
The data presented in this Snapshot was taken from the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA ITS) on 1 October 2016 for the period ending 30 September 2016.



Snapshot highlights

15 429	children's education and care services operating across Australia
12 787 (83%)	services with a quality rating
9135 (71%)	services are Meeting or above the National Quality Standard
7484	approved providers operating services
6229 (83%)	approved providers operating only one children's education and care service
49	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

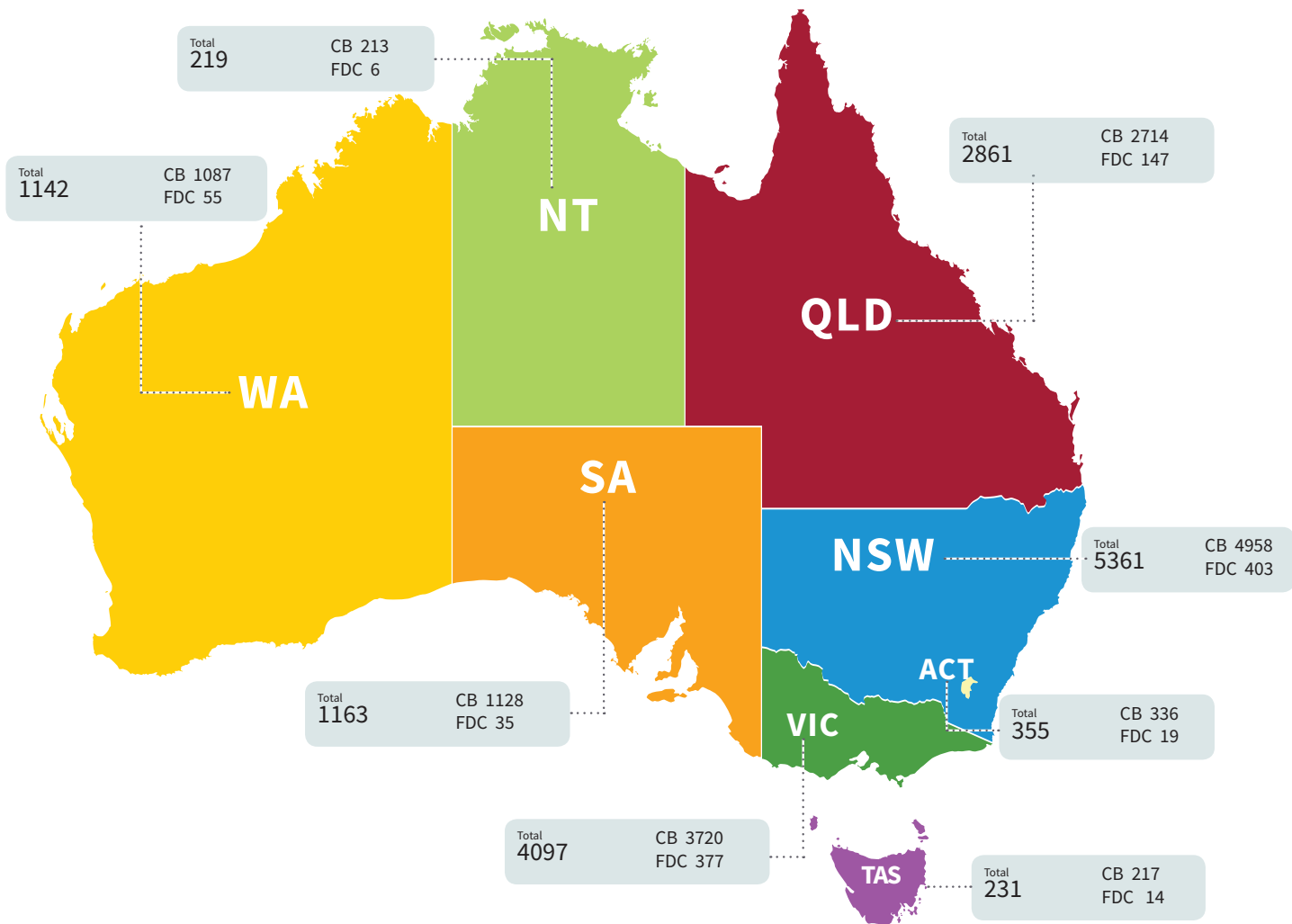
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



The Excellent rating is awarded for a period of three years. Unless a reapplication for the Excellent rating is received, a service's rating will revert back to Exceeding NQS after this three year period. The Snapshot includes the current number of Excellent rated services.

Profile of the sector

Figure 2: Number of approved services by jurisdiction and service type



<p>Total Centre-based (CB) ¹</p> <p>14 373 (93%)</p> <p>3% Increase on Q3 2015</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) ²</p> <p>1056 (7%)</p> <p>3% Increase on Q3 2015</p>	<p>Total</p> <p>15 429</p> <p>3% Increase on Q3 2015</p>
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¹ 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, as well as other services that aren't regulated under the National Law.

² A family day care service (FDC) 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.

Figure 3: Proportion of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction ^{1,2,3,4,5}

■ Long day care ■ Preschool/Kindergarten ■ Outside school hours care ■ Family day care

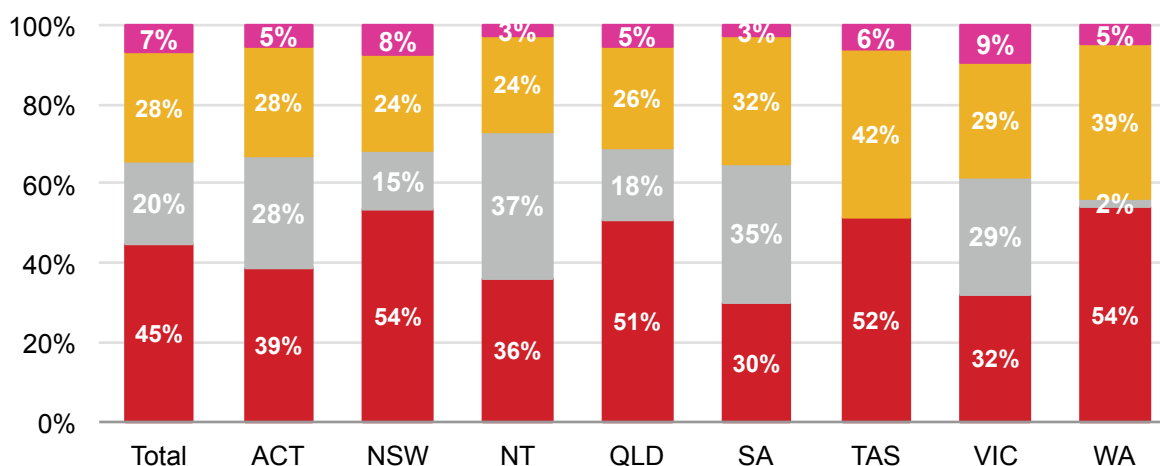


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	19	138	99	99	0	355
NSW	403	2869	799	1290	0	5361
NT	6	79	80	52	2	219
QLD	147	1460	508	744	2	2861
SA	35	352	405	371	0	1163
TAS	14	119	0	98	0	231
VIC	377	1327	1208	1185	0	4097
WA	55	618	25	440	4	1142
TOTAL	1056	6962	3124	4279	8	15 429

¹ NQA ITS data collected on service sub-type is self-reported by providers when applying for service approval, and providers may choose multiple service sub-types. For example, a service providing both long day care and outside school hours care, or one providing both long day care and preschool/kindergarten would tick both boxes.

² Providers are not required to notify changes to this information, and therefore this NQA ITS information may not be current.

³ Centre-based services offering more than one type of service are classified as follows: services which provide long day care in addition to any other service type are classified as long day care services; services which provide preschool/kindergarten services as well as outside school hours care services are classified as preschool/kindergarten services; services which provide outside school hours care services only are classified as outside school hours care services.

⁴ Excludes preschool/kindergarten operating in Tasmania and Western Australia that are out of scope of the NQF, as well as other services that aren't regulated under the National Law.

⁵ 'Nature of Care Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

Figure 4: Proportion of approved services by provider management type ^{1,2,3}

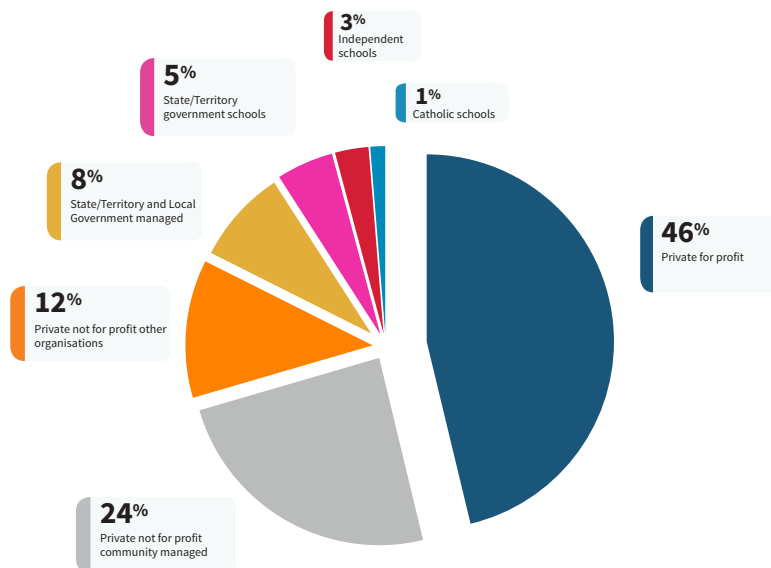


Table 2: Number and proportion of approved services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7122	46%
Private not for profit community managed	3735	24%
Private not for profit other organisations	1837	12%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1309	8%
State/Territory government schools	758	5%
Independent schools	446	3%
Catholic schools	197	1%
Not stated/Other	25	0%
TOTAL	15 429	100%

¹ NQA ITS data collected on provider management type is self-reported by providers when applying for service approval. Reporting on provider management type is not mandatory and therefore, may not be current.

² Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provider management type classifications have been applied for the purposes of Snapshot reporting. The type of services in these categories can vary significantly. In the case of 'State/Territory and local government' managed services, for example, providers include local councils, health departments, the vocational training arms of government, and other government controlled agencies that are not government schools. Provider service sub-type profile also varies significantly across and within jurisdictions. For example, 'Private for Profit' services are predominantly comprised of Long Day Care, while 'State/Territory and local government' managed services are predominantly comprised of Preschool/Kindergarten. More detailed definitions of these classifications can be found at Australian Bureau of Statistics (2014) National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection: Data Collection Guide, 2013, Cat. No. 4240.0.55.002, ABS, Canberra, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/EDCFD2FC57CD225CA257C93000D13A7?opendocument>

³ Not Stated/Other has been removed for graphical purposes.

Figure 5: Proportion of approved providers with services by size

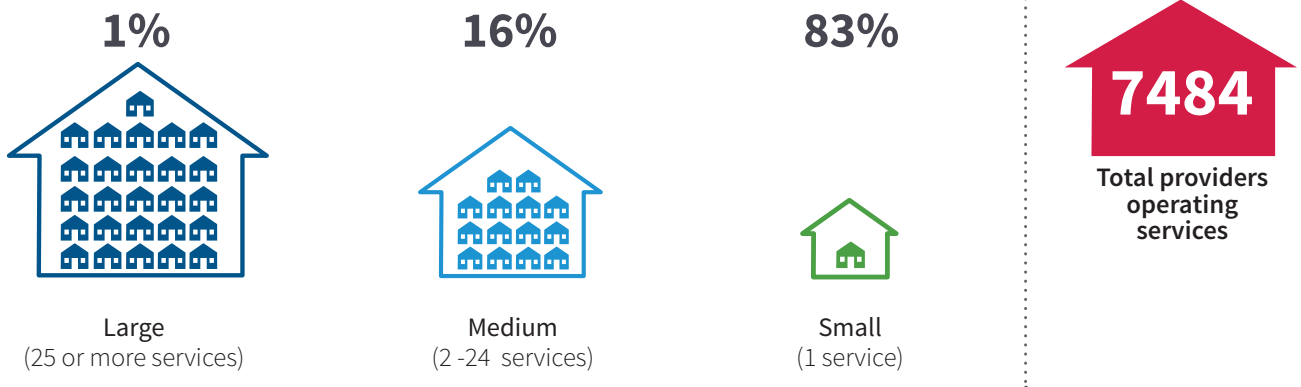


Figure 5 shows that 83% of approved providers operate a single service while 1% of approved providers operate 25 or more services.

Figure 6: Proportion of approved services by provider size

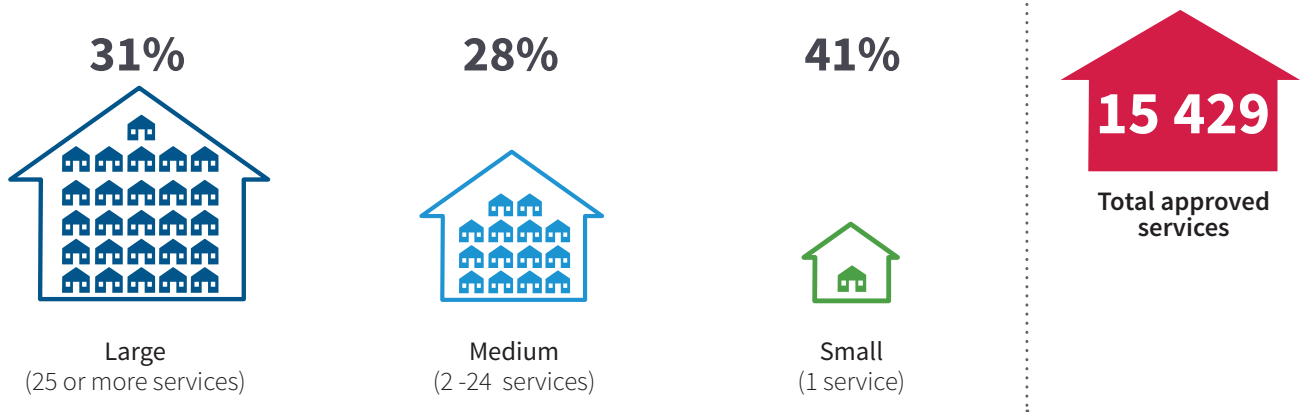


Figure 6 shows that 41% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 31% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

Progress of assessment and rating

Table 3: Quality ratings by jurisdiction

Table 3 includes all approved services. A small proportion of these services will only recently have been approved and may not have started operating or may have only been operating for a short period of time. In general, regulatory authorities will not assess and rate newly approved services which have been operating for less than 9-12 months, therefore the proportion of services with a quality rating will not reach 100% at any one time.

	Number of services	Proportion of all services	Number of services with a quality rating	Proportion of services with a quality rating
ACT	355	2%	306	86%
NSW	5361	35%	4286	80%
NT	219	1%	202	92%
QLD	2861	19%	2511	88%
SA	1163	8%	713	61%
TAS	231	1%	220	95%
VIC	4097	27%	3737	91%
WA	1142	7%	812	71%
TOTAL	15 429	100%	12 787	83%

Table 4: Number of services with a quality rating by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	TOTAL
ACT	6	116	94	90	0	306
NSW	114	2559	745	868	0	4286
NT	4	75	74	47	2	202
QLD	81	1294	486	649	1	2511
SA	5	242	213	253	0	713
TAS	12	116	0	92	0	220
VIC	243	1237	1178	1079	0	3737
WA	26	526	11	248	1	812
TOTAL	491	6165	2801	3326	4	12 787

Quality improvement

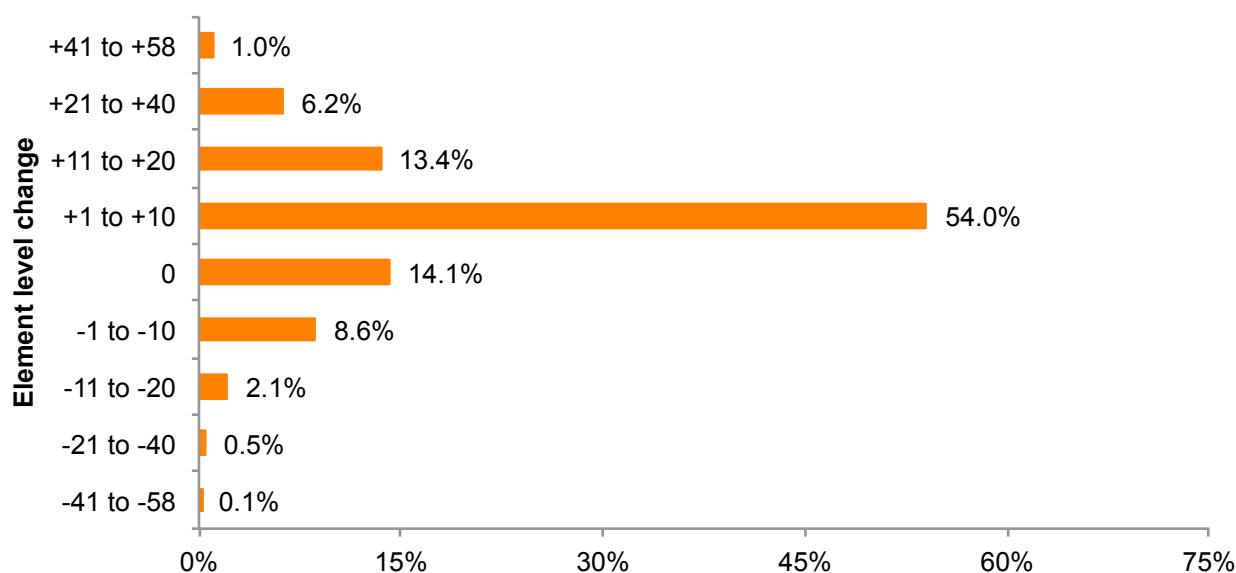
Of the 1332 reassessments undertaken, 63% resulted in an improved overall quality rating. Of the 34% of reassessments that did not result in a change to the overall quality rating, 46% resulted in improved performance against the elements of the NQS e.g. a higher number of elements were judged as met.

Table 5: Overall quality rating changes for services that have been reassessed¹

Rating level change	Number of reassessments	Proportion of reassessments
Higher	835	63%
Unchanged	452	34%
Lower	45	3%
TOTAL	1332	100%

Figure 7: Element level changes for services that have been reassessed

Figure 7 looks at the 1332 reassessments undertaken by overall change in element level performance. For example, if the same number of elements were met at the reassessment, then the level of change is '0'. If five more elements were met at the reassessment, then the level of change is '+1 to +10'. The figure examines overall changes at the element level - individual elements may have moved in either direction (not met to met or met to not met) at reassessment.



¹Reassessments include the following processes described in the National Law: i. Next assessment; ii. Partial reassessment and re-rating requested by provider; iii. Partial reassessment and re-rating instigated by the regulatory authority; iv. Full reassessment and re-rating requested by provider; v. Full reassessment and re-rating instigated by the regulatory authority.

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 (NQS). Services are given a rating for each of the seven quality areas and an overall rating.

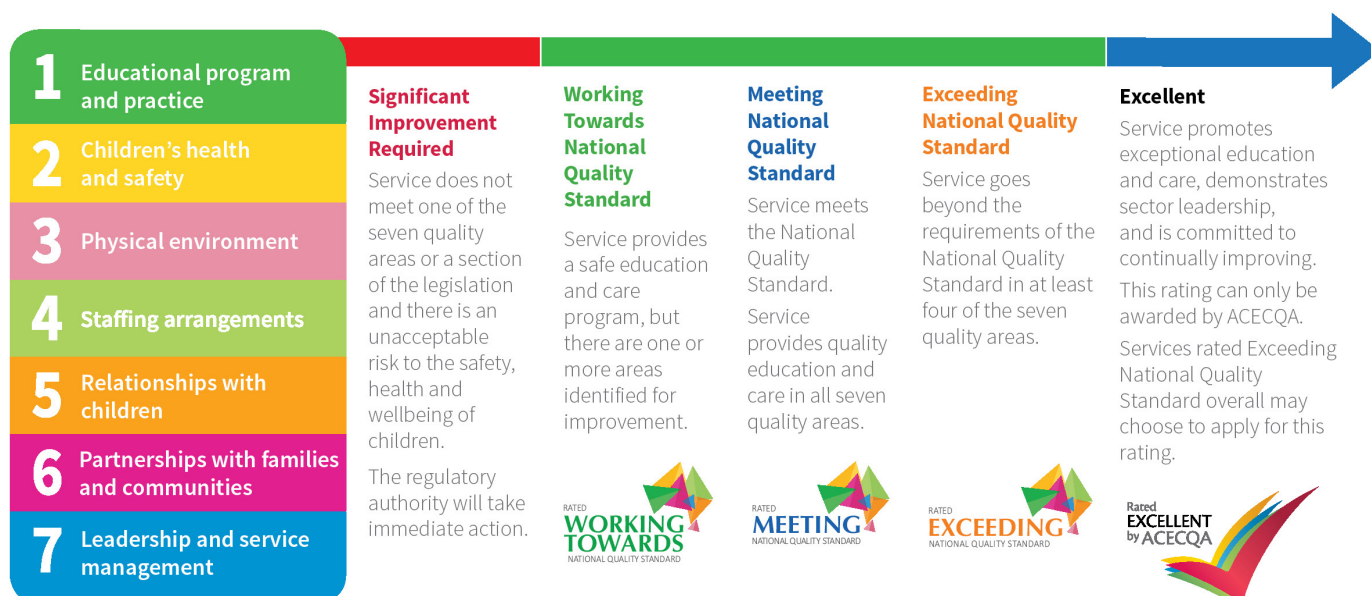


Table 6: Overall quality rating results by jurisdiction

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent rated	TOTAL
ACT	1	124 (41%)	61 (20%)	113 (37%)	7	306
NSW	9	1460 (34%)	1720 (40%)	1086 (25%)	11	4286
NT	0	111 (55%)	61 (30%)	28 (14%)	2	202
QLD	0	605 (24%)	1111 (44%)	781 (31%)	14	2511
SA	0	235 (33%)	171 (24%)	302 (42%)	5	713
TAS	0	57 (26%)	90 (41%)	73 (33%)	0	220
VIC	11	723 (19%)	1756 (47%)	1239 (33%)	8	3737
WA	0	316 (39%)	305 (38%)	189 (23%)	2	812
TOTAL	21	3631 (28%)	5275 (41%)	3811 (30%)	49	12 787

Overall quality ratings by provider management type

Figure 8 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings by overall quality rating level between provider management type. For example, 87% of ‘State/Territory and Local Government managed’ services have been rated as either Meeting or Exceeding, compared to 63% of ‘Private for profit’ services.

These differences can reflect a range of contextual factors, such as the service profile of these provider types, and historical levels of government investment in different types of provision. For example, half of all ‘State/Territory and Local Government managed’ services are preschools/kindergartens, with preschools/kindergartens performing better against the NQS than other service types (see Figure 10). In contrast, preschools/kindergartens make up only 1% of ‘Private for profit’ services.

Figure 8: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level¹

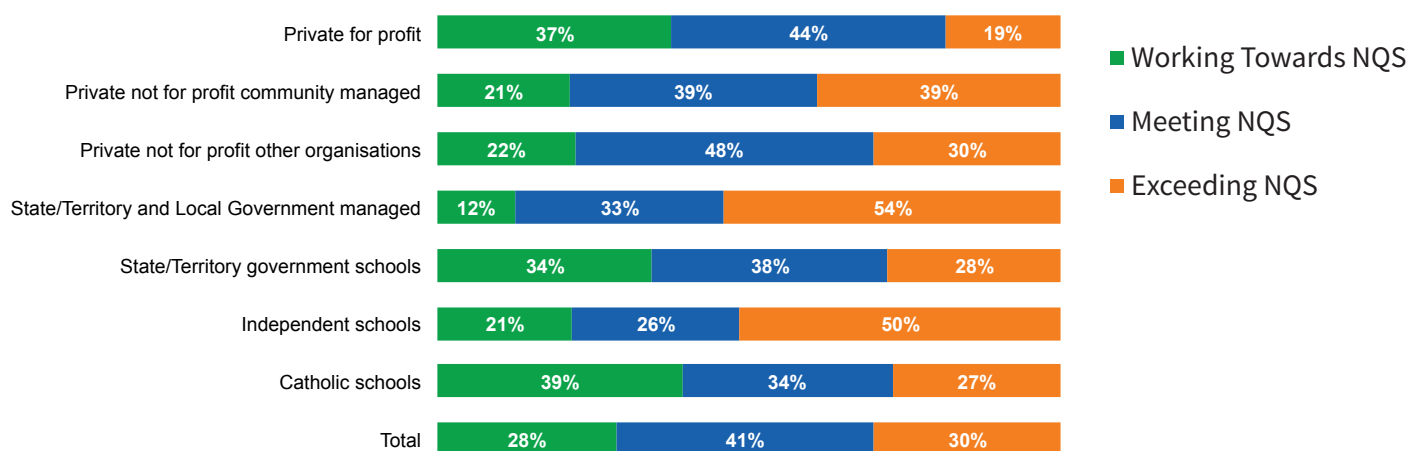


Table 7: Number of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
Private for profit	20	2045	2385	1013	9	5472
Private not for profit community managed	1	706	1330	1312	22	3371
Private not for profit other organisations	0	364	793	499	2	1658
State/Territory and Local Government managed	0	130	353	567	4	1054
State/Territory government schools	0	233	256	188	2	679
Independent schools	0	77	96	184	9	366
Catholic schools	0	65	56	45	0	166
Not Stated/Other	0	11	6	3	1	21
Total	21	3631	5275	3811	49	12 787

1. Not Stated/Other has been removed for graphical purposes.

Overall quality ratings by service and service sub-type

Figure 9: Quality ratings by quality rating level and service type

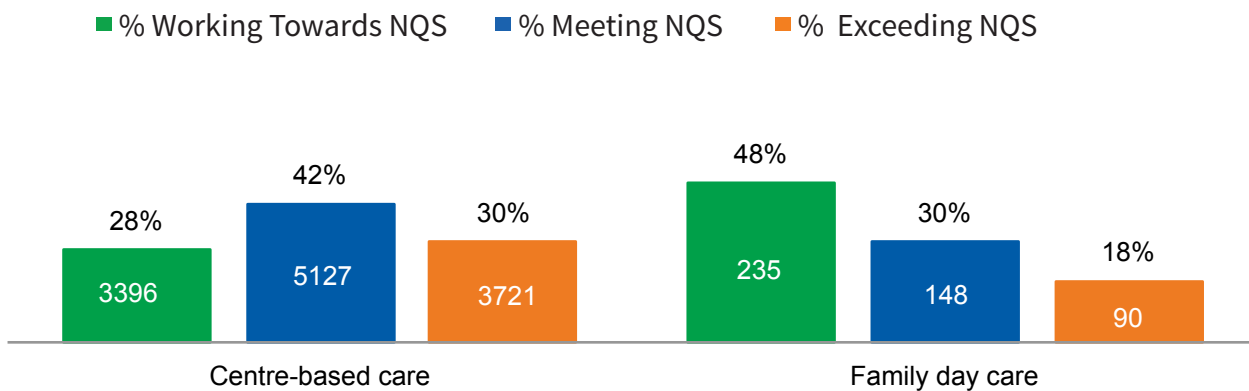
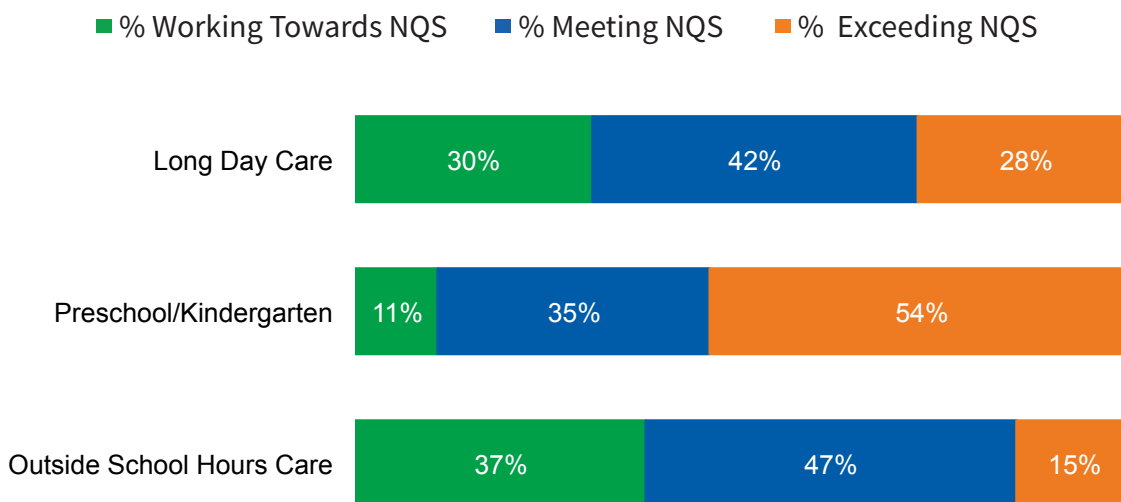


Figure 10: Quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

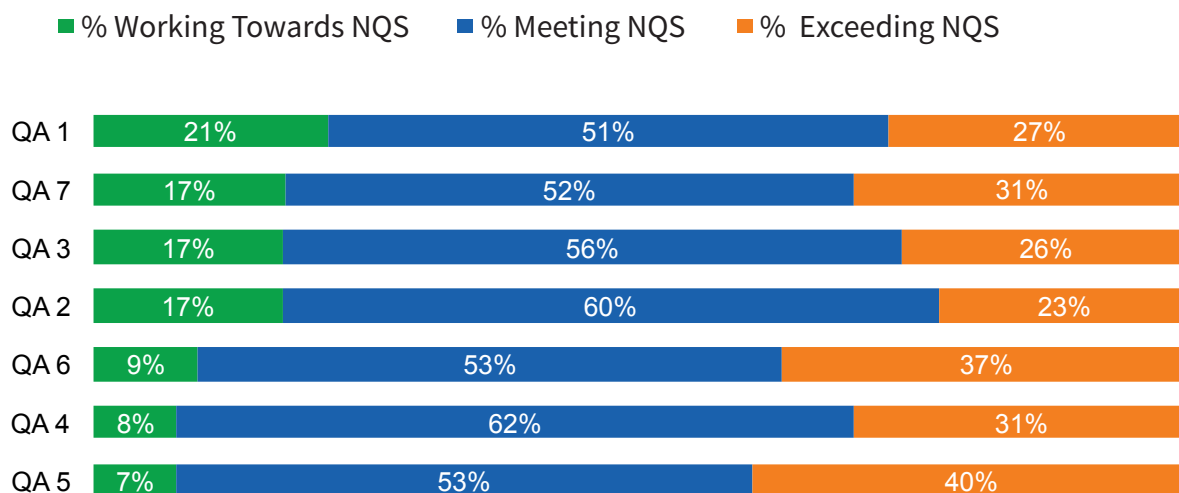


The interactive online version of the Snapshot includes additional analysis of service sub-type and provider management type and is available on the ACECQA website.

Quality area ratings

Figure 11: Quality ratings by quality area

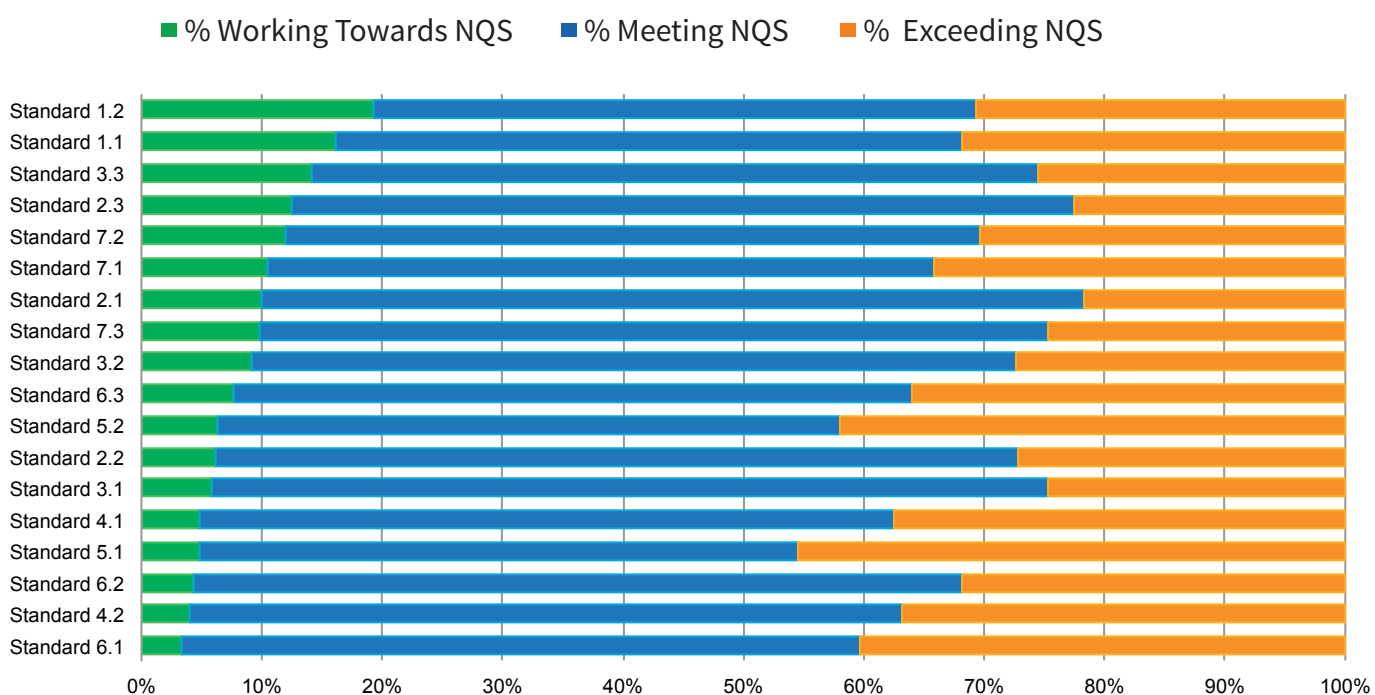
Figure 11 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Standard level ratings

Figure 12 ranks the 18 standards of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each standard.

Figure 12: Standard level ratings

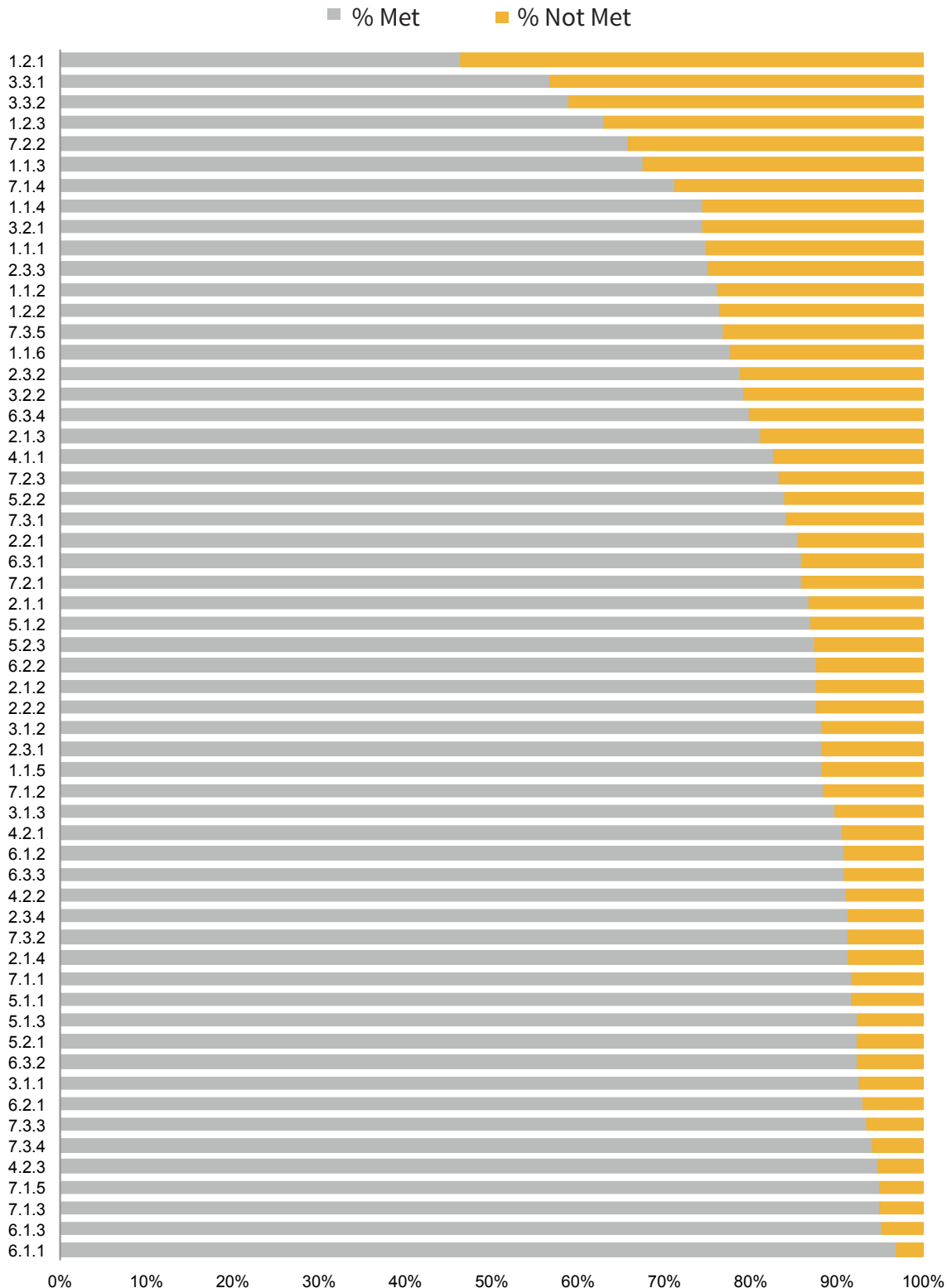


Element level results

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

Figure 13 looks at the element level results for the 3652 services with a quality rating of Significant Improvement Required or Working Towards NQS. The performance of these services against the 58 elements of the NQS has been ranked in descending order based on the proportion of services that do not meet each element.

Figure 13: Element level results for services rated Significant Improvement Required or Working Towards



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 are rated Working Towards NQS.

Figure 14: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of quality areas rated Working Towards

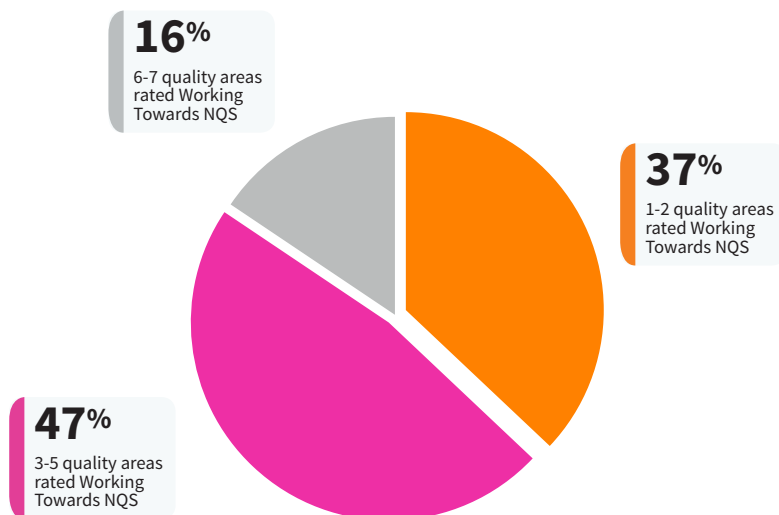
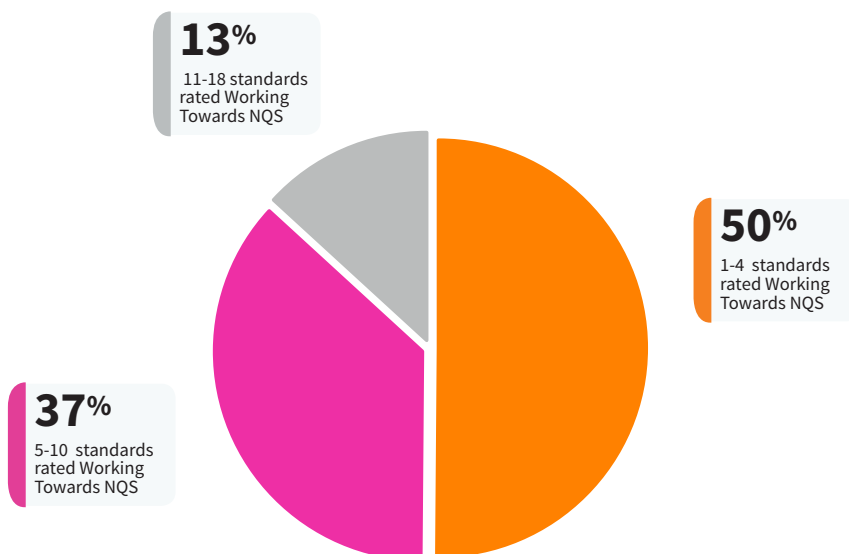


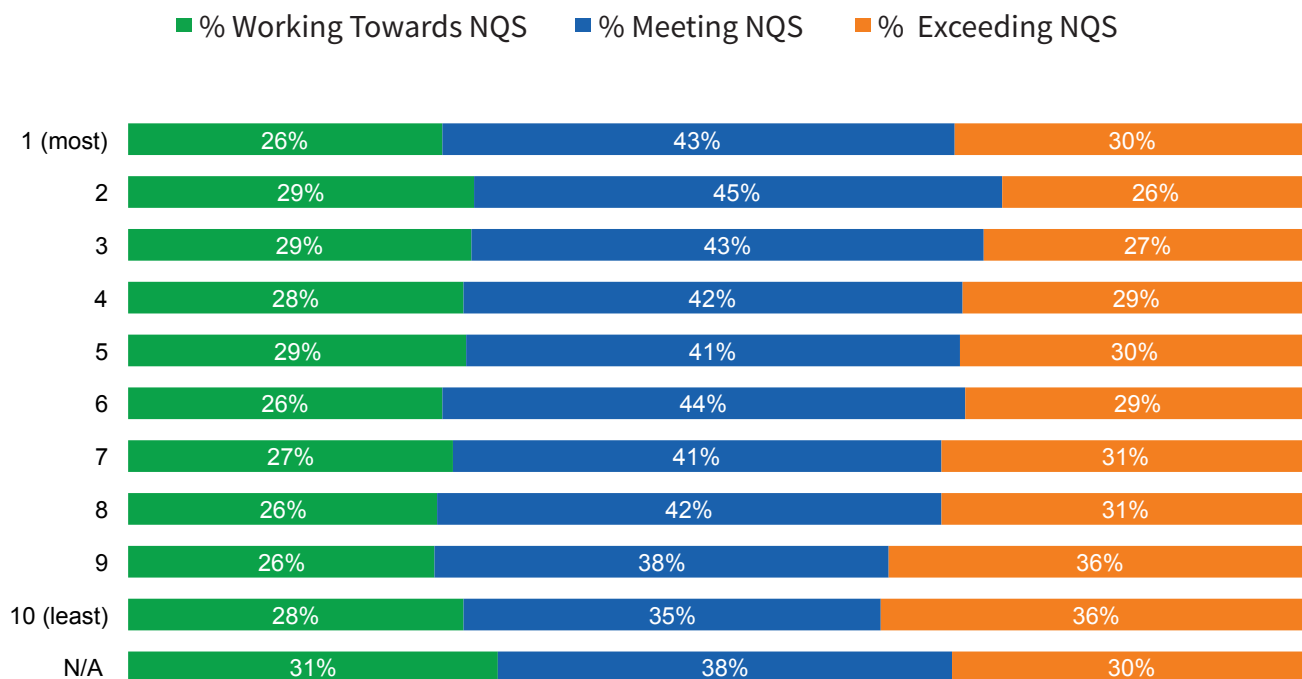
Figure 15: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of standards rated Working Towards



Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA¹

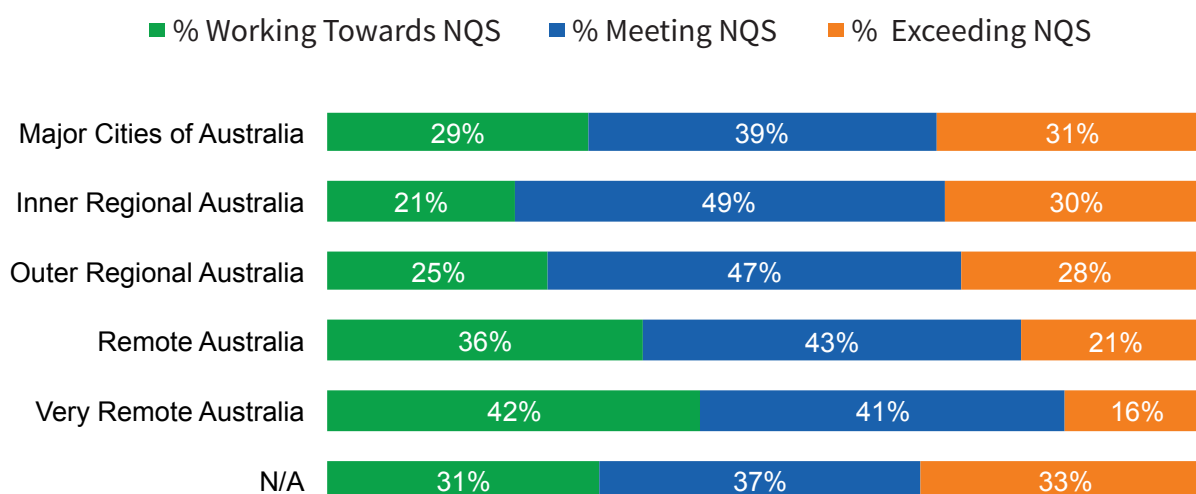
SEIFA is a product that ranks areas according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on census data. Variables used cover a number of areas including household income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other indicators of advantage and disadvantage.

Figure 16: Quality ratings by SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage



Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification²

Figure 17: Quality ratings by remoteness classification



¹ FDC services are excluded from SEIFA classification because their approval is not specific to one location. The N/A includes 430 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a SEIFA classification.

² FDC services are excluded from remoteness classification because their approval is not specific to one location. The N/A includes 101 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with an ARIA classification.

Australian Capital Territory summary

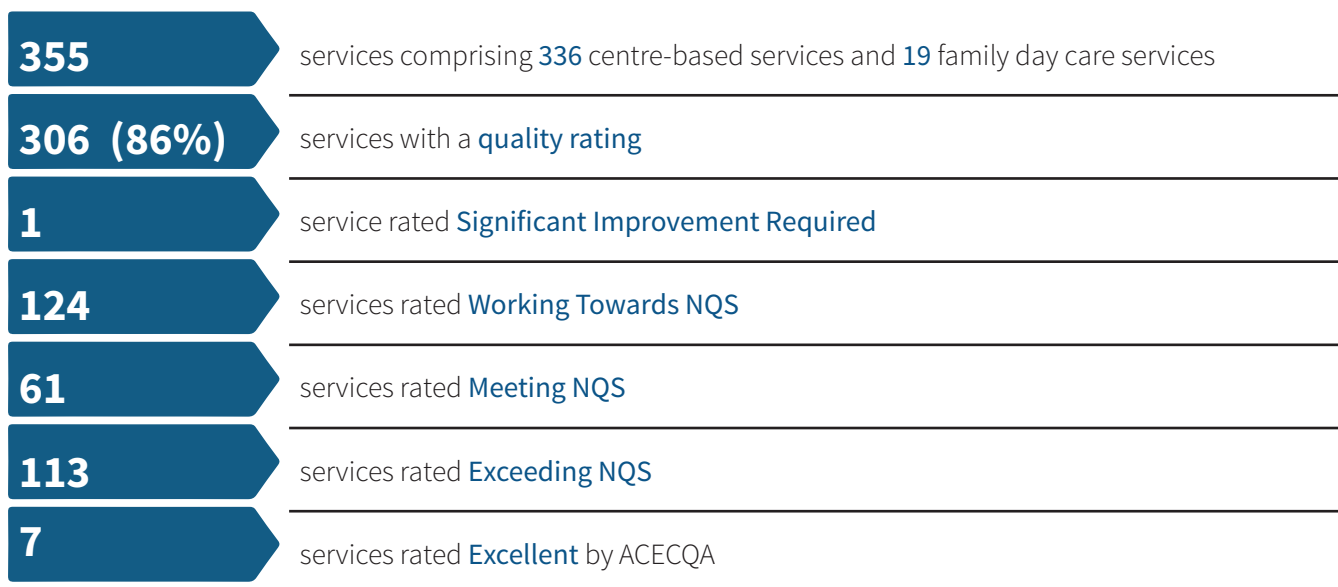
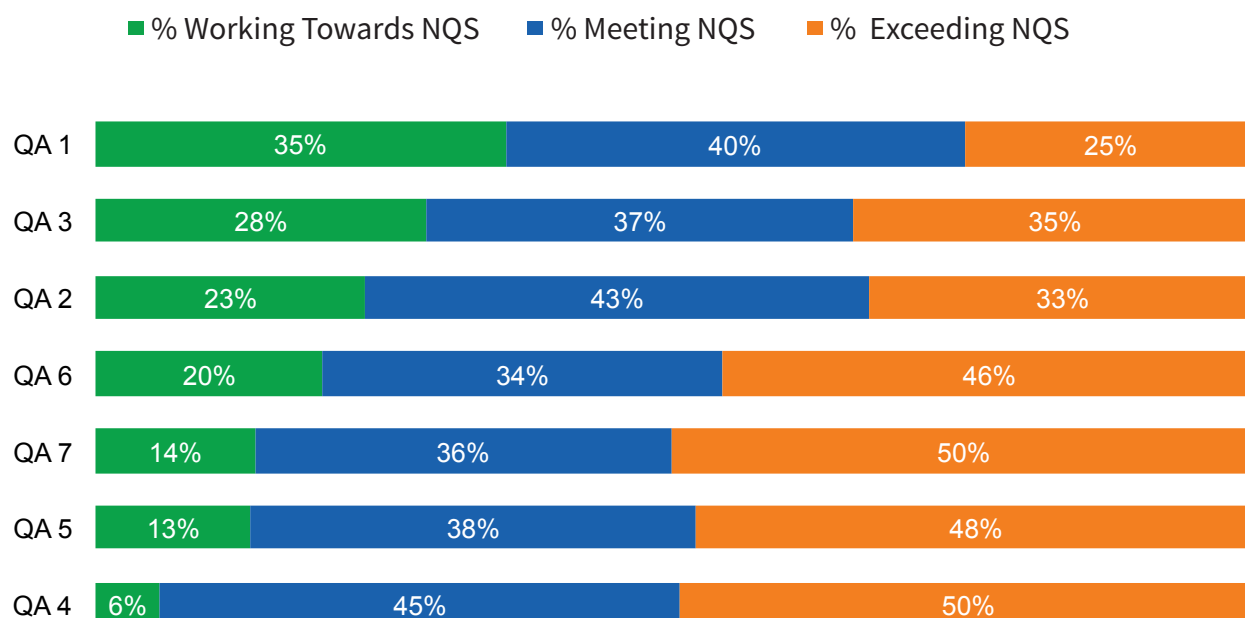


Figure 21: Australian Capital Territory services with a quality rating by quality area

Figure 21 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Contact details

Education and Training Directorate
 Children's Governance and Assurance
www.det.act.gov.au

New South Wales summary

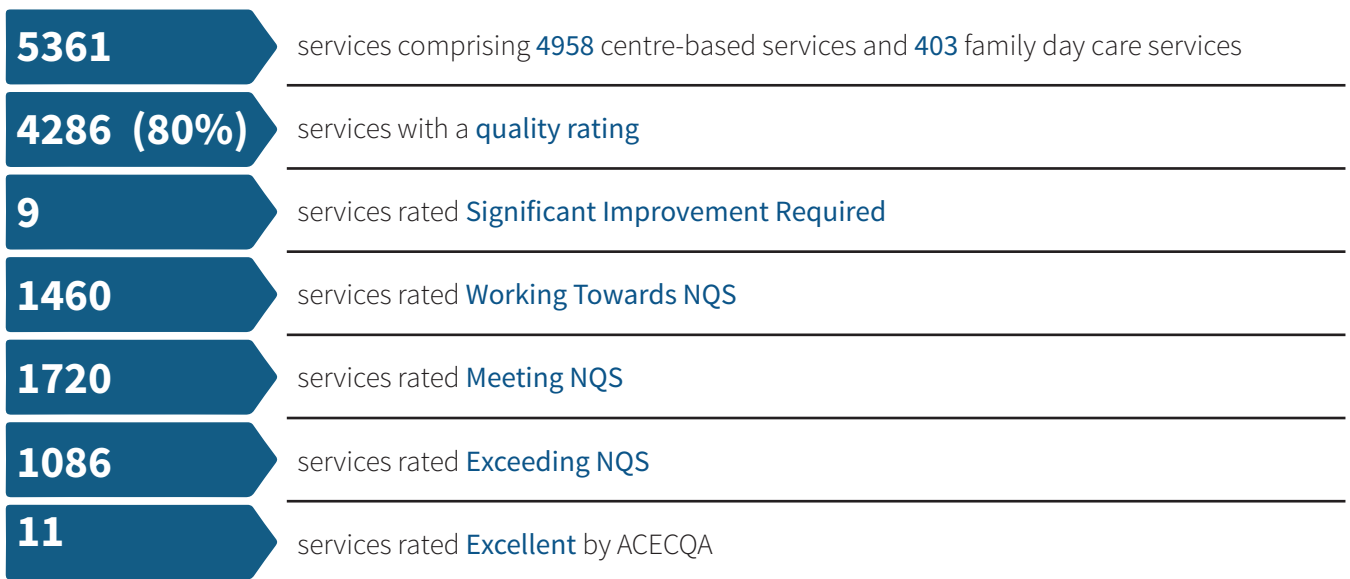
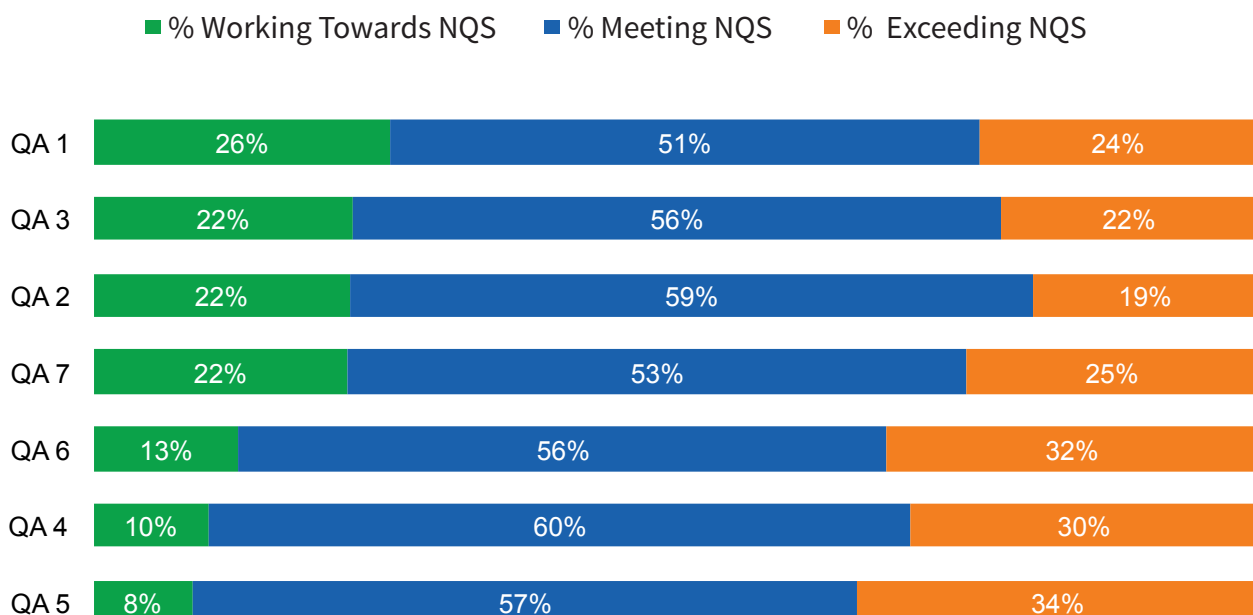


Figure 22: New South Wales services with a quality rating by quality area

Figure 22 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Contact details

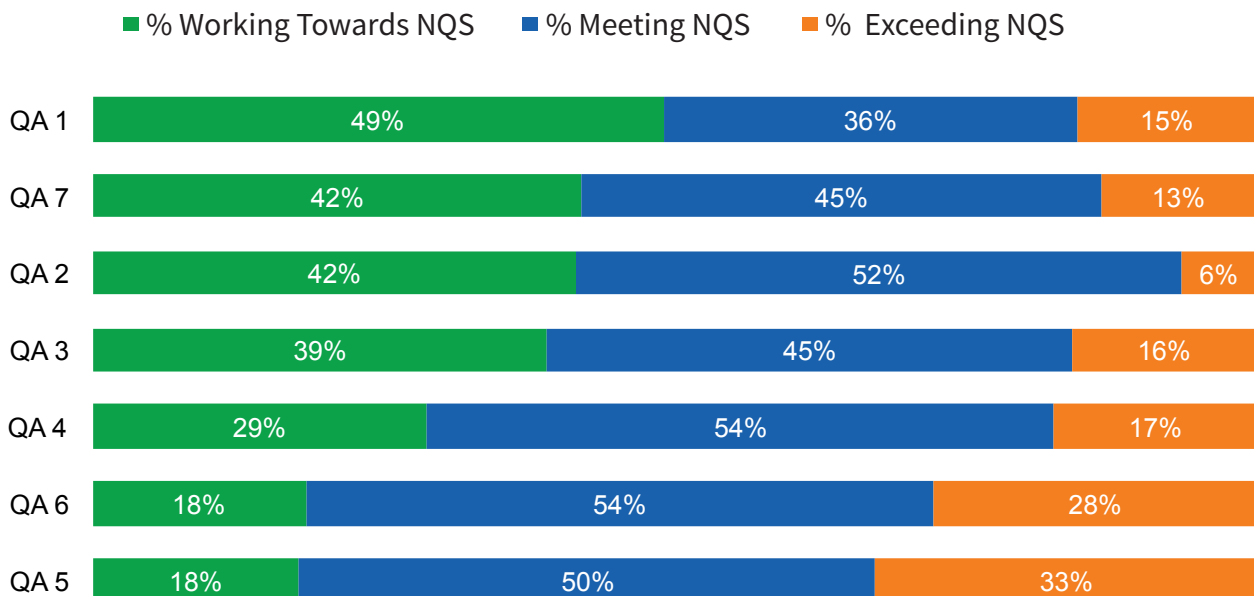
Department of Education
 Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec

Northern Territory summary

219	services comprising 213 centre-based services and six family day care services
202 (92%)	services with a quality rating
111	services rated Working Towards NQS
61	services rated Meeting NQS
28	services rated Exceeding NQS
2	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 23: Northern Territory services with a quality rating by quality area

Figure 23 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Contact details

Department of Education
Quality Education and Care NT
www.education.nt.gov.au

Queensland summary

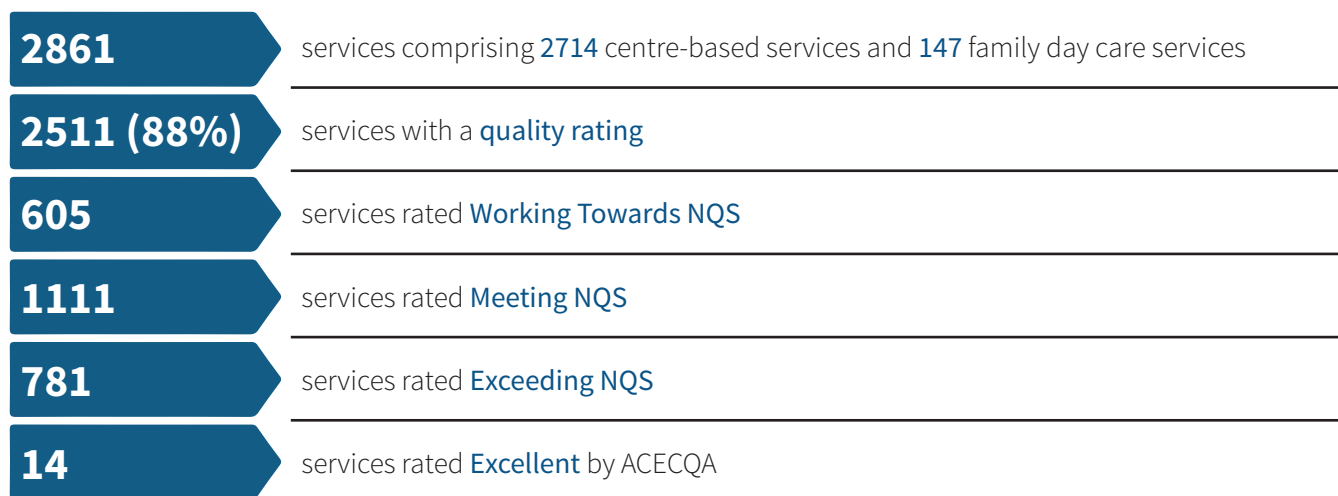
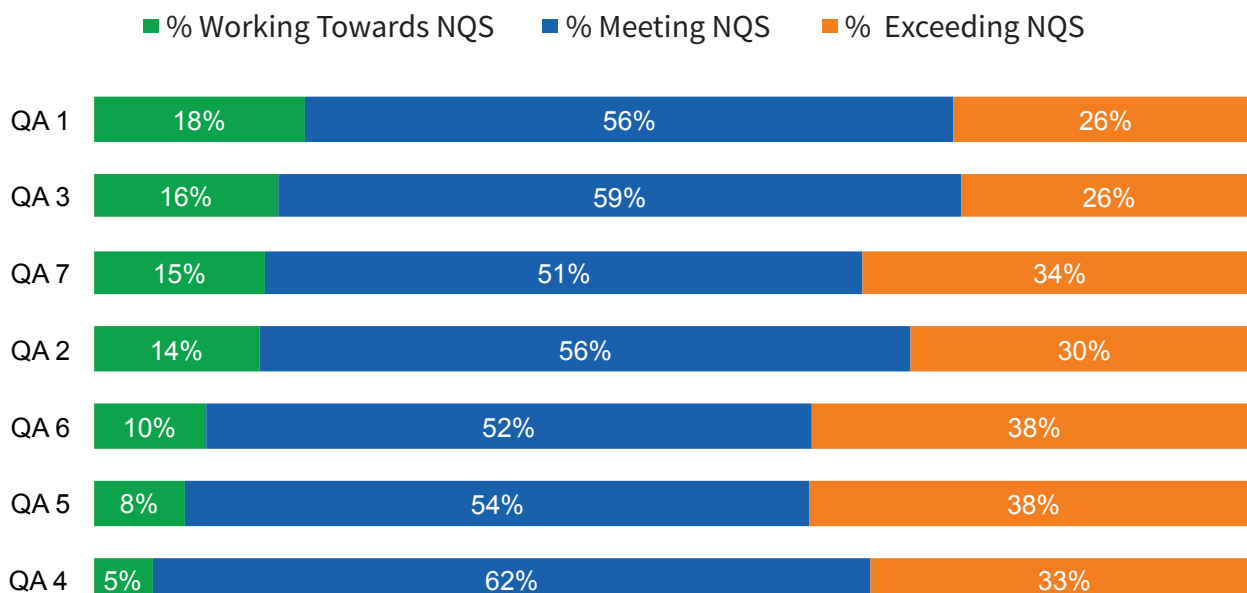


Figure 24: Queensland services with a quality rating by quality area

Figure 24 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Contact details

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

South Australia summary

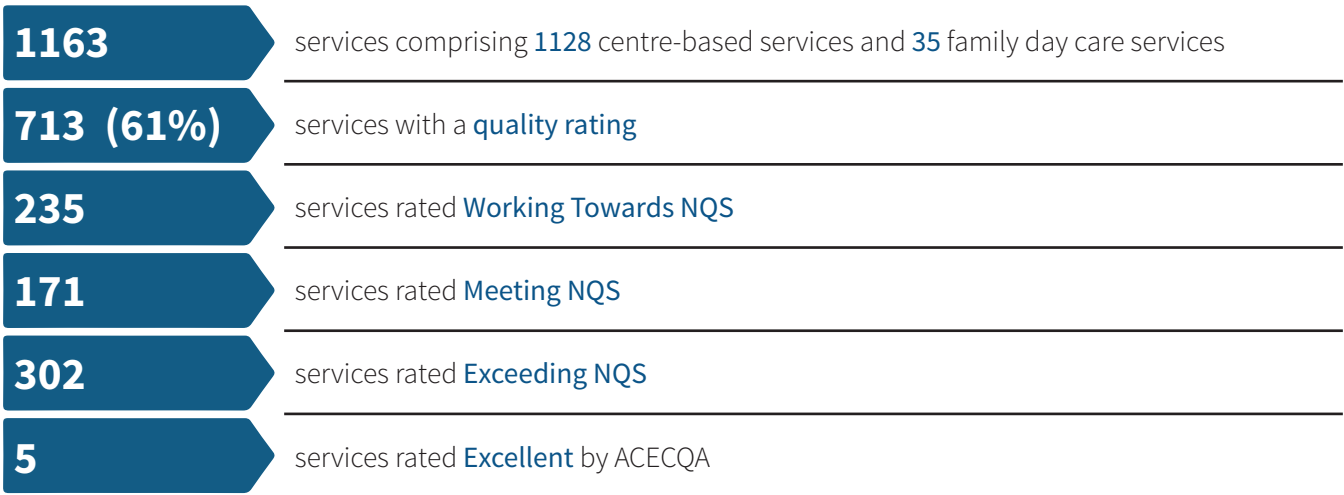
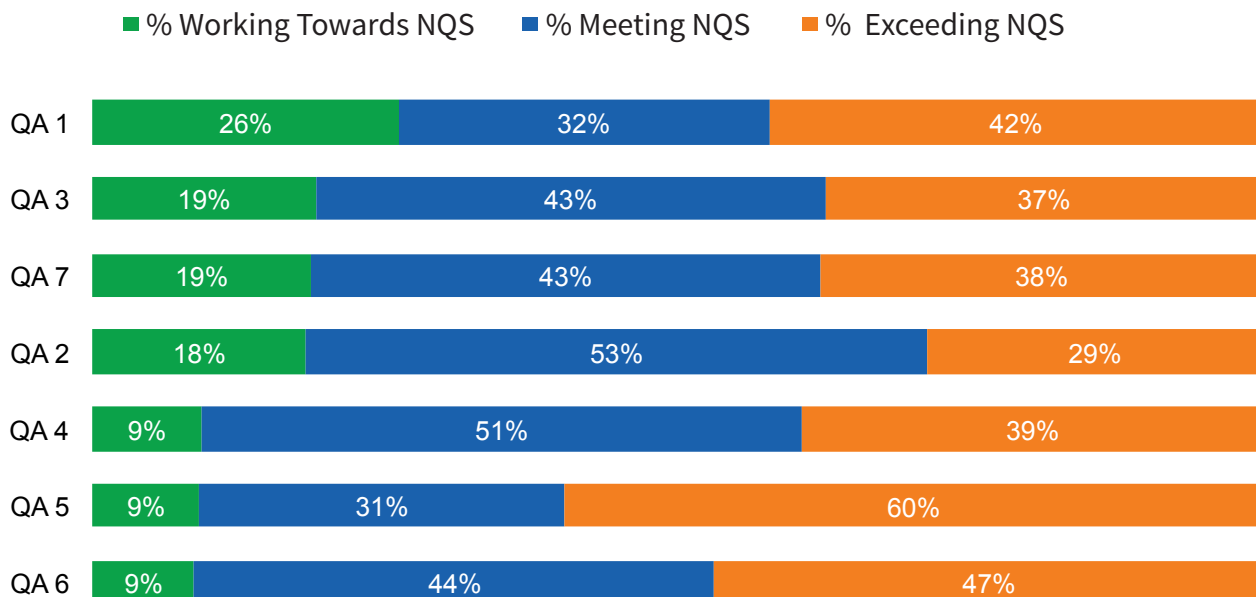


Figure 25: services with a quality rating by quality area

Figure 25 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Contact details

Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards
 Board of South Australia
www.eecrsb.sa.gov.au

Tasmania summary

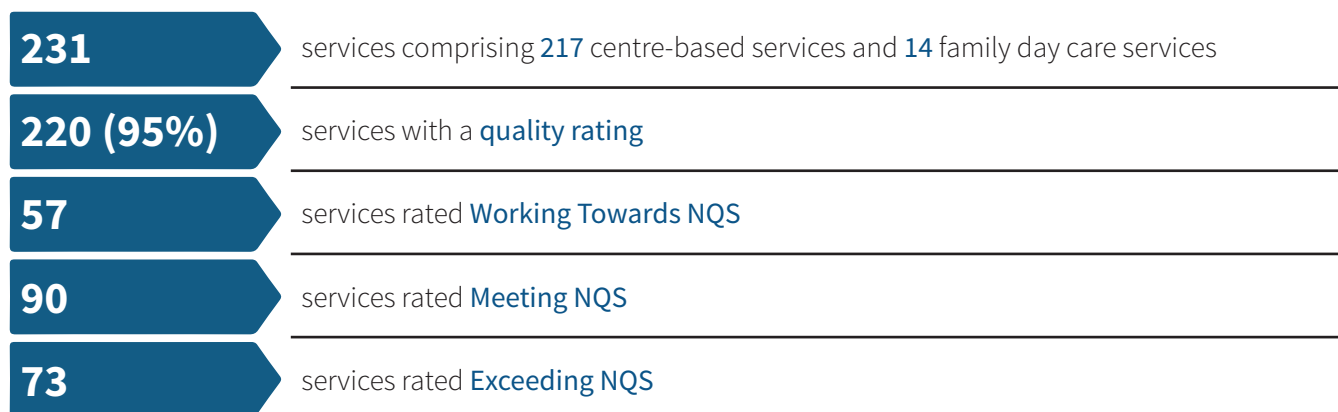
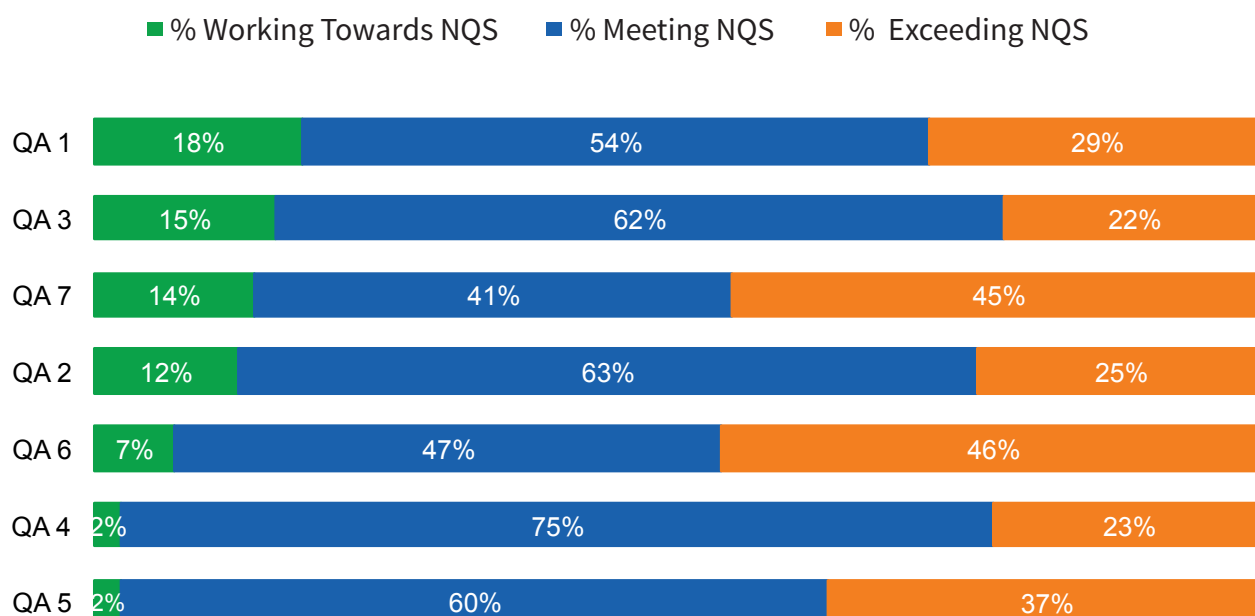


Figure 26: Tasmanian services with a quality rating by quality area

Figure 26 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Contact details

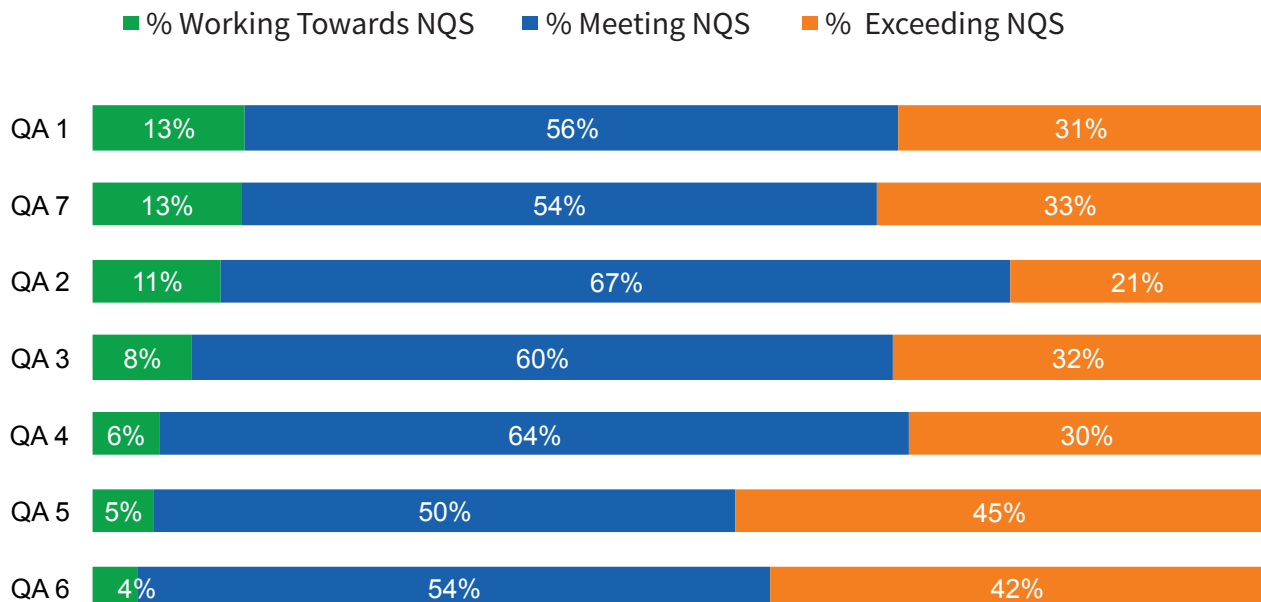
Department of Education
Education and Care Unit
www.education.tas.gov.au

Victoria summary

4097	services comprising 3720 centre-based services and 377 family day care services
3737 (91%)	services with a quality rating
11	services rated Significant Improvement Required
723	services rated Working Towards NQS
1756	services rated Meeting NQS
1239	services rated Exceeding NQS
8	services rated Excellent by ACECQA

Figure 27: Victorian services with a quality rating by quality area

Figure 27 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Contact details

Department of Education and Training
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division
www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation

Western Australia summary

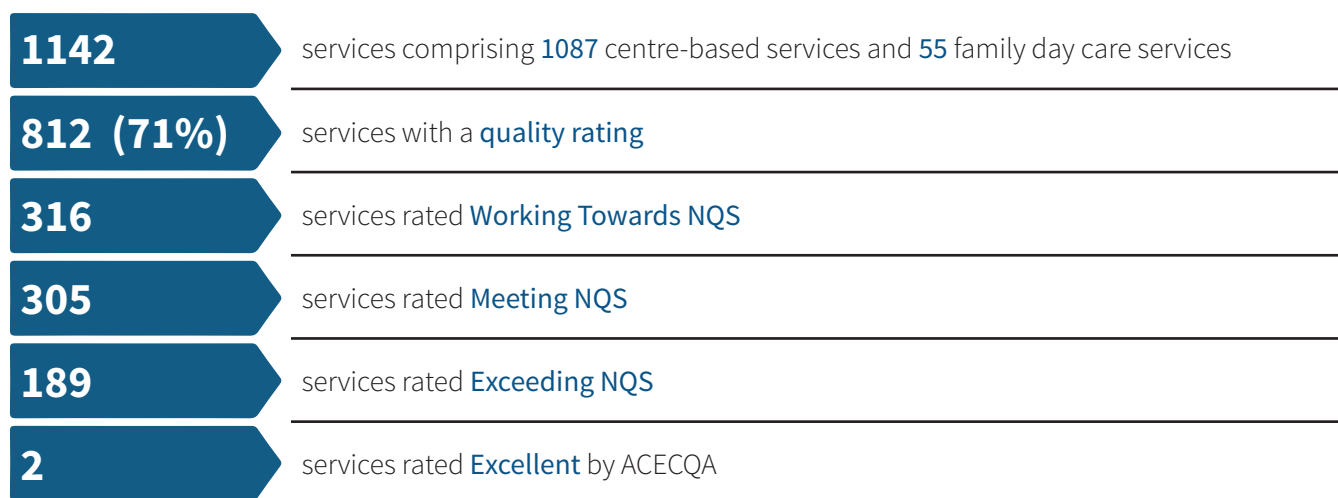
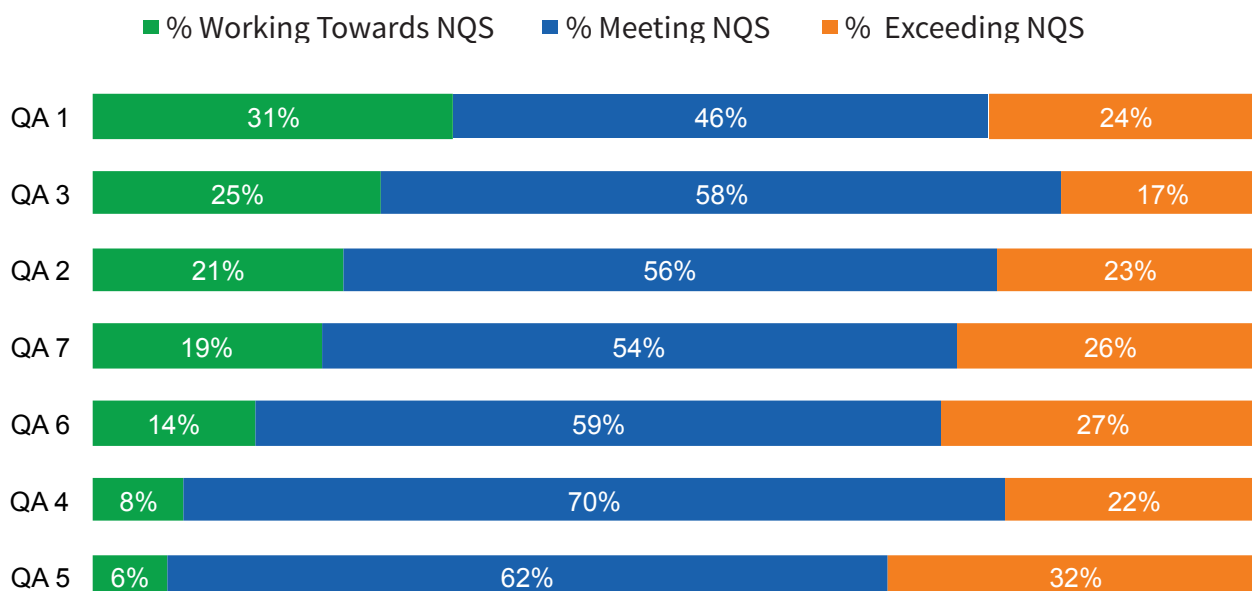


Figure 28: Western Australian services with a quality rating by quality area

Figure 28 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



Contact details

Department of Local Government and Communities
 Education and Care Regulatory Unit
www.dlgc.wa.gov.au



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