



# NQF Snapshot

## Q2 2017



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority™

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

August 2017

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# Overview

NQF Snapshot Q2 2017 is ACECQA's 18th 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 July 2017 for the period ending 30 June 2017.

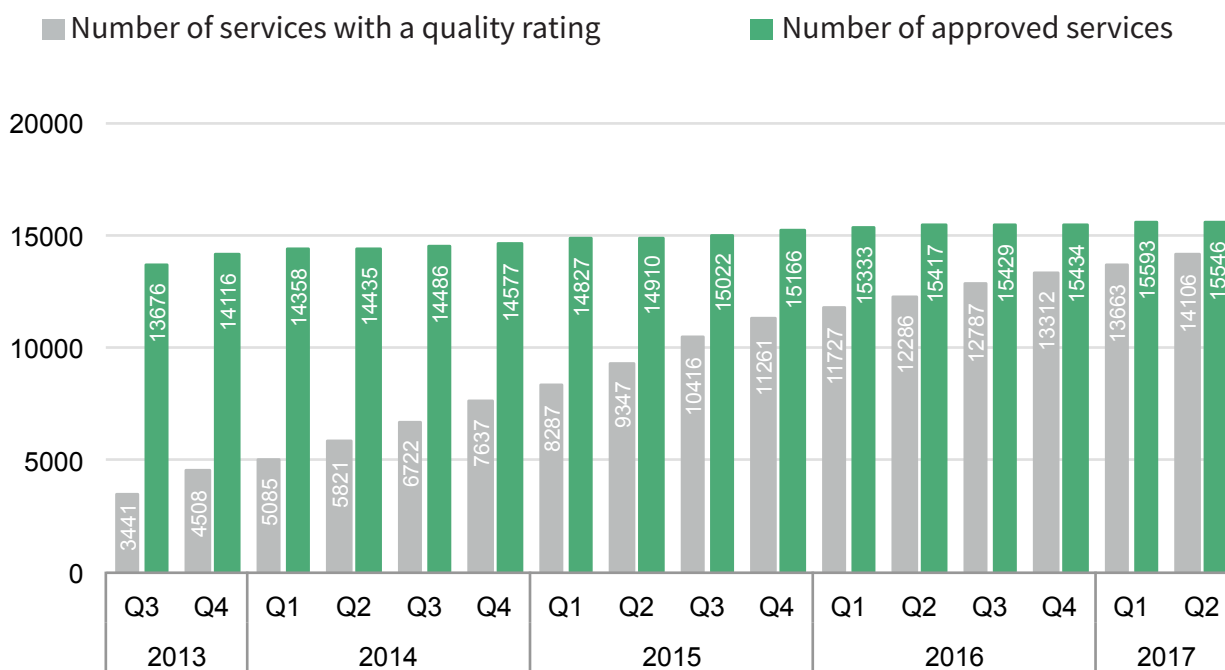
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



# Snapshot highlights

<b>15 546</b>	children's education and care services operating across Australia
<b>14 106 (91%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>10355 (73%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b> are <b>Meeting or above</b> the National Quality Standard
<b>7411</b>	<b>approved providers</b> operating services
<b>6145 (83%)</b>	approved providers operating <b>only one</b> children's education and care service
<b>52</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA <sup>1</sup>
<b>2419</b>	<b>quality rating reassessments</b> completed
<b>59%</b>	reassessed services improved their overall <b>quality rating</b>

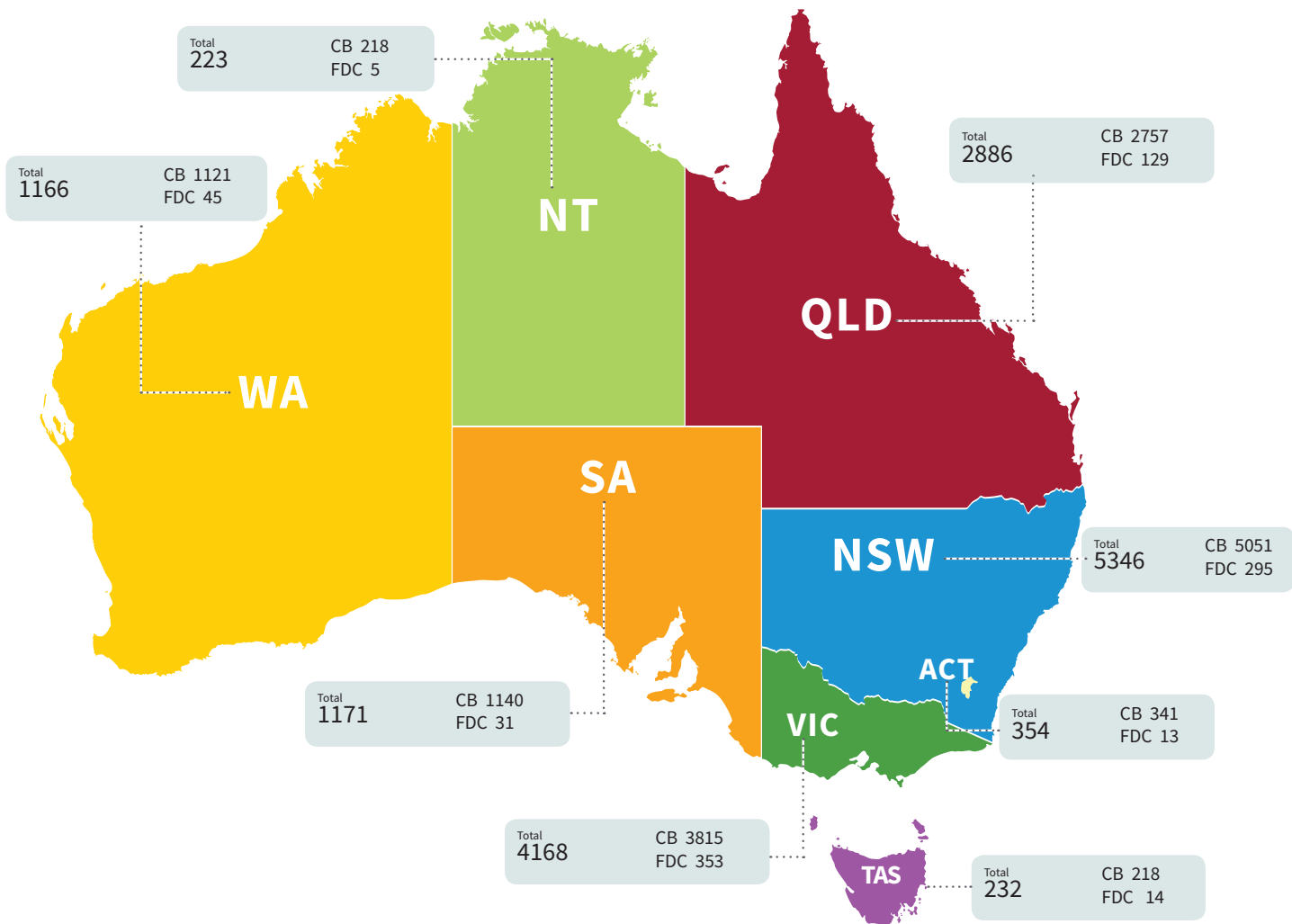
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



<sup>1</sup> 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) <sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>14 661 (94%)</b></p> <p>2% Increase on Q2 2016</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) <sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>885 (6%)</b></p> <p>20% Decrease on Q2 2016</p>	<p>Total</p> <p><b>15 546</b></p> <p>1% Increase on Q2 2016</p>
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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>

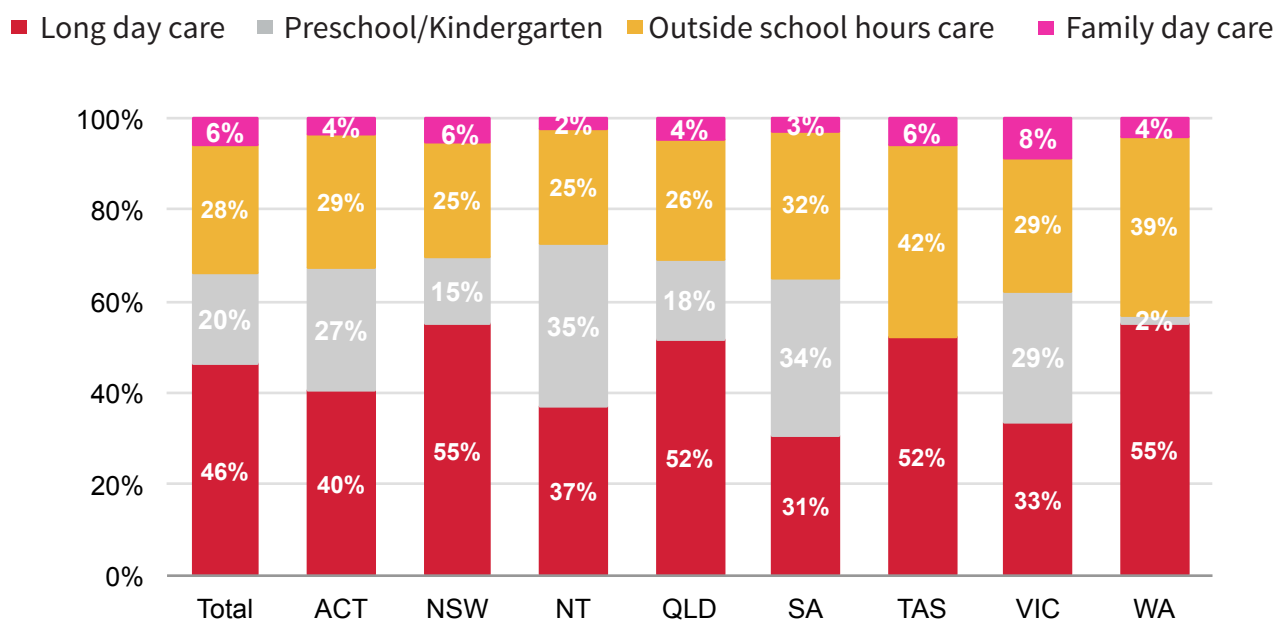


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	13	143	95	103	0	354
NSW	295	2936	803	1312	0	5346
NT	5	82	78	56	2	223
QLD	129	1,490	510	755	2	2886
SA	31	361	403	376	0	1171
TAS	14	121	0	97	0	232
VIC	353	1391	1208	1216	0	4168
WA	45	642	21	455	3	1166
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>7166</b>	<b>3118</b>	<b>4370</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15 546</b>

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 <sup>1,2,3</sup>

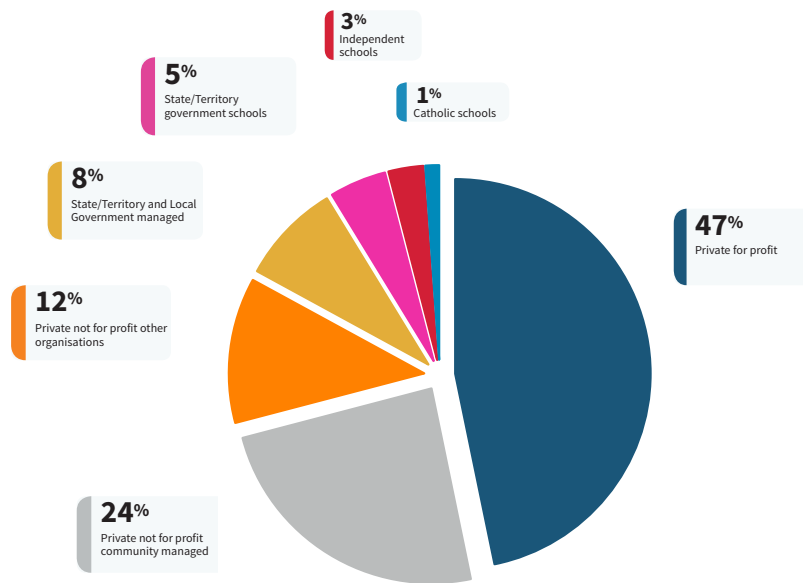


Table 2: Number and proportion of approved services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7243	47%
Private not for profit community managed	3748	24%
Private not for profit other organisations	1882	12%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1299	8%
State/Territory government schools	725	5%
Independent schools	459	3%
Catholic schools	175	1%
Not stated/Other	15	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15546</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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>

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

Figure 5: Proportion of approved providers with services by size

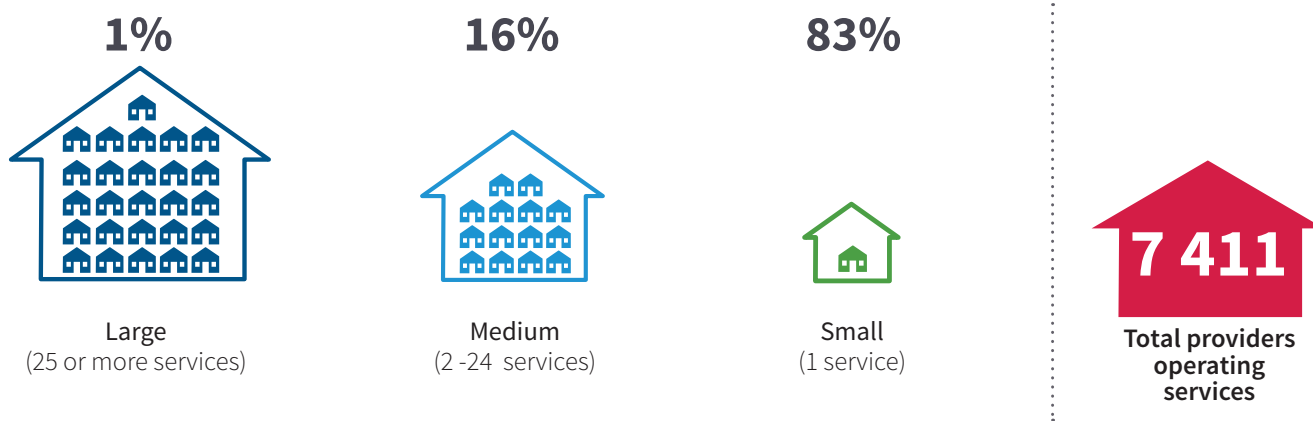


Figure 5 shows that 83% of approved providers operate a single service while 1% of approved providers operate 25 or more services.

Figure 6: Proportion of approved services by provider size

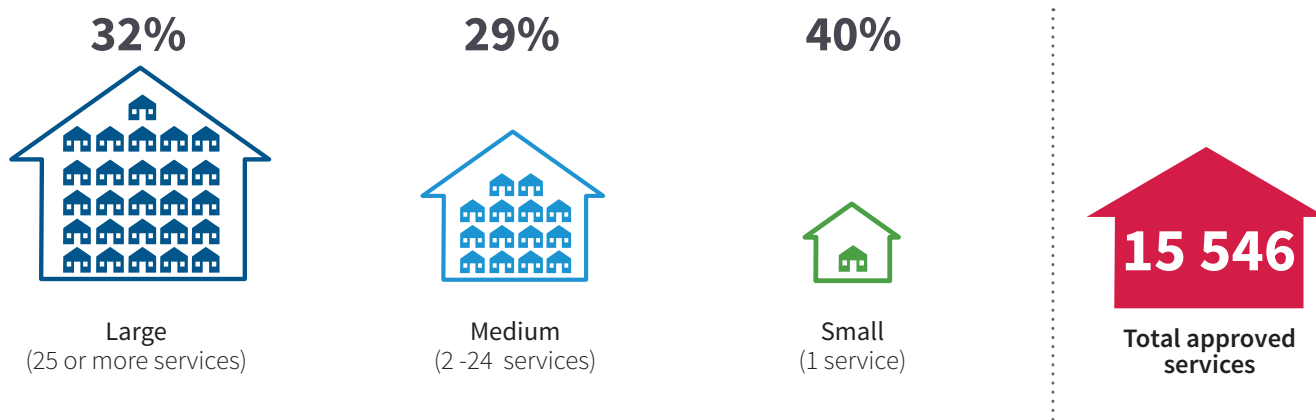


Figure 6 shows that 40% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 32% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

# 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	354	2%	308	87%
NSW	5,346	34%	4,887	91%
NT	223	1%	204	91%
QLD	2,886	19%	2,683	93%
SA	1,171	8%	949	81%
TAS	232	1%	222	96%
VIC	4,168	27%	3,792	91%
WA	1,166	8%	1,061	91%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,546</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,106</b>	<b>91%</b>

**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	5	122	91	90	0	308
NSW	213	2736	786	1152	0	4,887
NT	4	79	74	45	2	204
QLD	93	1405	494	690	1	2,683
SA	9	307	291	342	0	949
TAS	13	119	0	90	0	222
VIC	272	1256	1169	1095	0	3,792
WA	40	609	16	394	2	1,061
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>6633</b>	<b>2921</b>	<b>3898</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14,106</b>

# Quality improvement

Of the 2419 reassessments undertaken, 59% resulted in an improved overall quality rating.

**Table 5: Overall quality rating changes for services that have been reassessed<sup>1</sup>**

Rating level change	Number of reassessments	Proportion of reassessments
Higher	1,422	59%
Unchanged	852	35%
Lower	145	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>100%</b>

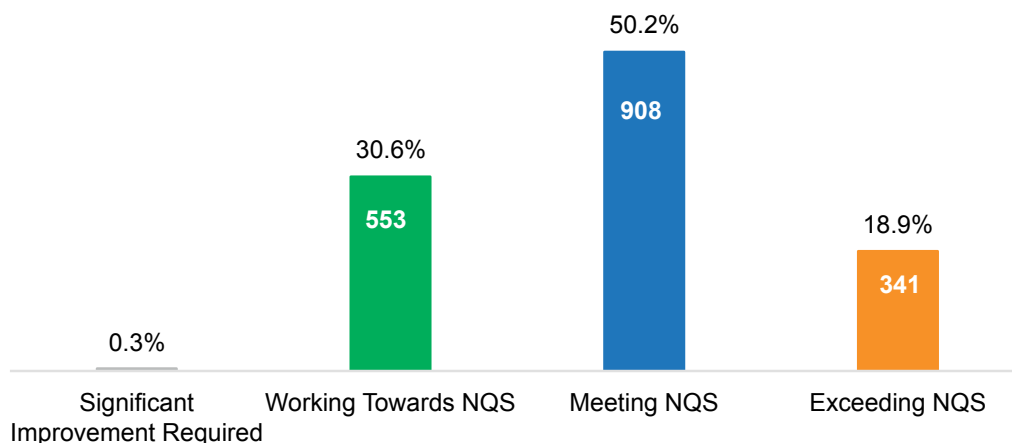
**Table 6: Number of reassessments by overall quality rating**

Table 6 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 908 of the services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 553 services previously rated Working Towards NQS received the same rating again after reassessment.

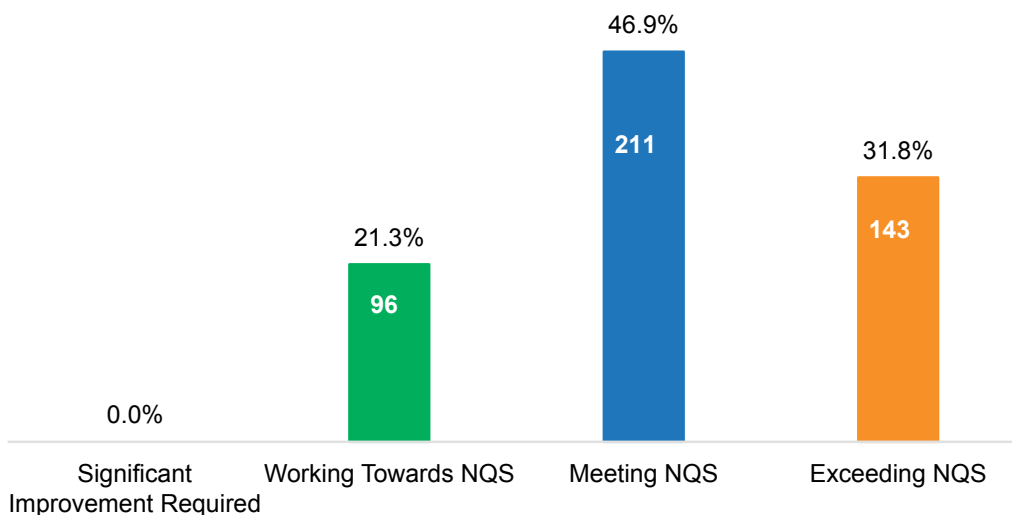
		Reassessed rating				Total
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Previous rating	Significant Improvement Required	9	24	6	0	<b>39</b>
	Working Towards NQS	5	553	908	341	<b>1,807</b>
	Meeting NQS	0	96	211	143	<b>450</b>
	Exceeding NQS	0	19	25	79	<b>123</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>2,419</b>

<sup>1</sup> Reassessments 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.

**Figure 7: Overall quality rating changes for services that have been reassessed where previous rating was Working Towards NQS**

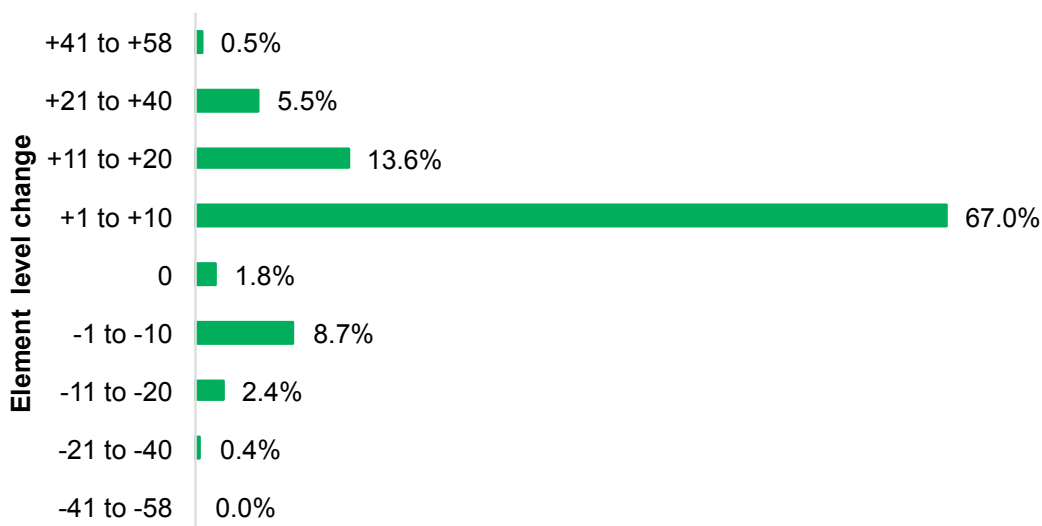


**Figure 8: Overall quality rating changes for services that have been reassessed where previous rating was Meeting NQS**



**Figure 9: Element level changes for services that have been reassessed where previous rating was Working Towards NQS**

Figure 9 looks at the 1807 reassessments of services rated Working Towards NQS 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'. Individual elements may have moved in either direction (not met to met or met to not met) at reassessment.



# 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 7: Overall quality rating results by jurisdiction

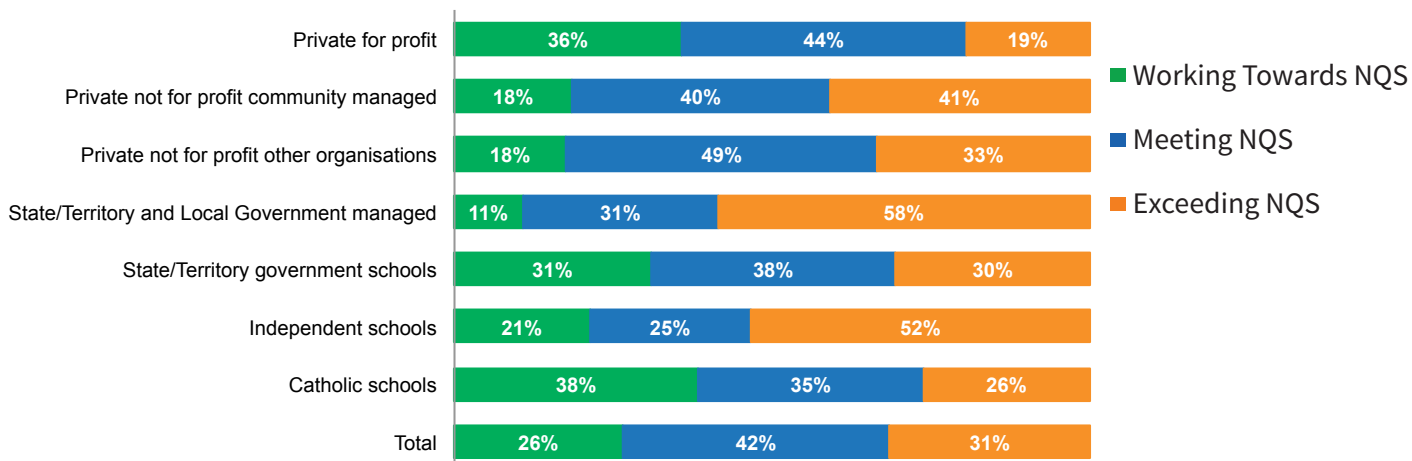
	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent rated	Total
ACT	3	100 (32%)	69 (22%)	129 (42%)	7	308
NSW	25	1566 (32%)	1958 (40%)	1325 (27%)	13	4887
NT	0	83 (41%)	88 (43%)	31 (15%)	2	204
QLD	2	590 (22%)	1223 (46%)	852 (32%)	16	2683
SA	0	290 (31%)	222 (23%)	432 (46%)	5	949
TAS	0	50 (23%)	88 (40%)	84 (38%)	0	222
VIC	10	624 (16%)	1846 (49%)	1304 (34%)	8	3792
WA	0	408 (38%)	397 (37%)	255 (24%)	1	1061
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3711 (26%)</b>	<b>5891 (42%)</b>	<b>4412 (31%)</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>14 106</b>

# Overall quality ratings by provider management type

Figure 10 shows the variation in spread of quality ratings between provider management types.

These differences can reflect a range of contextual factors, such as the service profile of these provider types. 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 12). In contrast, preschools/kindergartens make up only 1% of 'Private for profit' services.

**Figure 10: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level<sup>1</sup>**



**Table 8: 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	35	2239	2796	1218	10	6298
Private not for profit community managed	2	662	1440	1459	25	3588
Private not for profit other organisations	2	313	869	593	2	1779
State/Territory and Local Government managed	0	124	351	669	3	1147
State/Territory government schools	0	218	271	215	2	706
Independent schools	1	85	102	213	9	410
Other	0	7	4	2	1	14
Catholic schools	0	63	58	43	0	164
Not Stated/Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3711</b>	<b>5891</b>	<b>4412</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>14106</b>

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

# Overall quality ratings by service and service sub-type

Figure 11: Quality ratings by service type

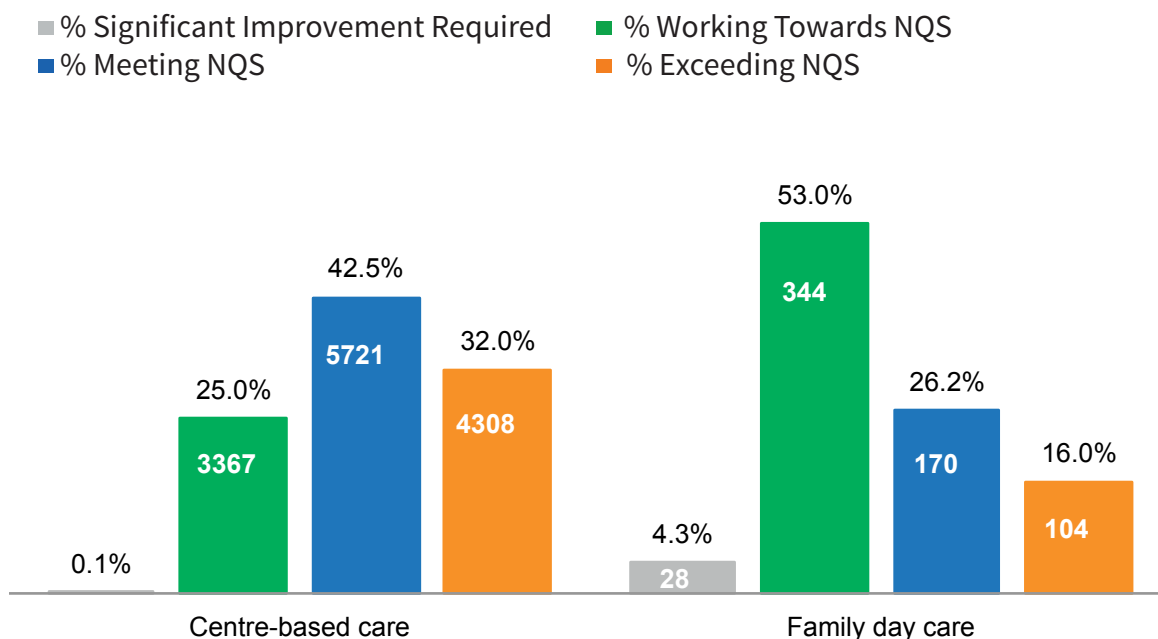
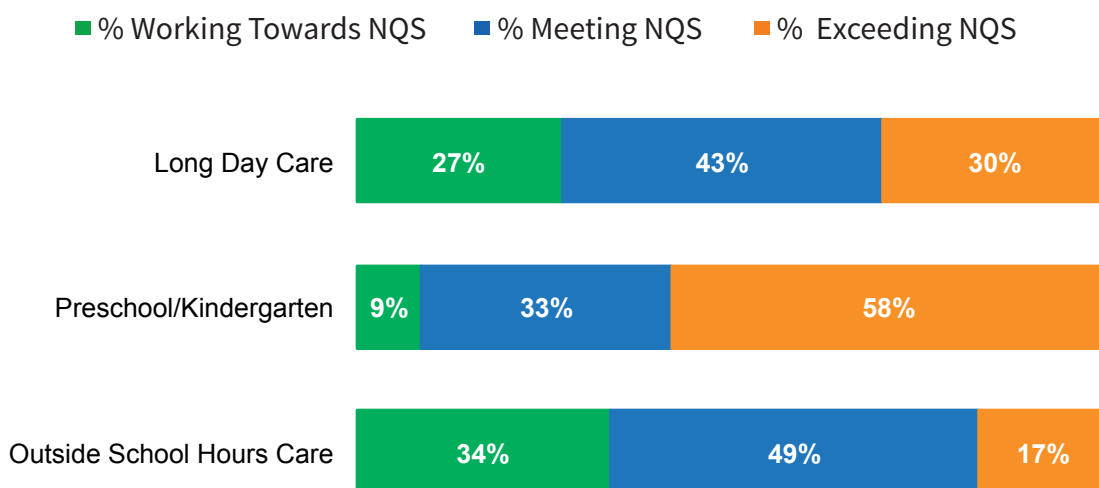


Figure 12: Quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

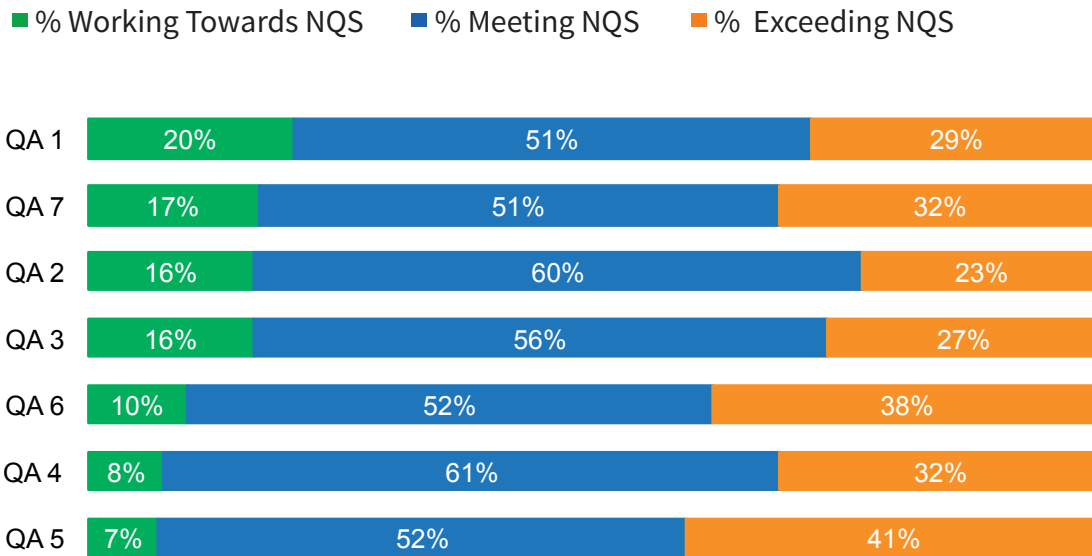


The interactive online version of the Snapshot includes additional analysis of service sub-type and provider management type and is available on the ACECQA website.

# Quality area ratings

**Figure 13: Quality ratings by quality area**

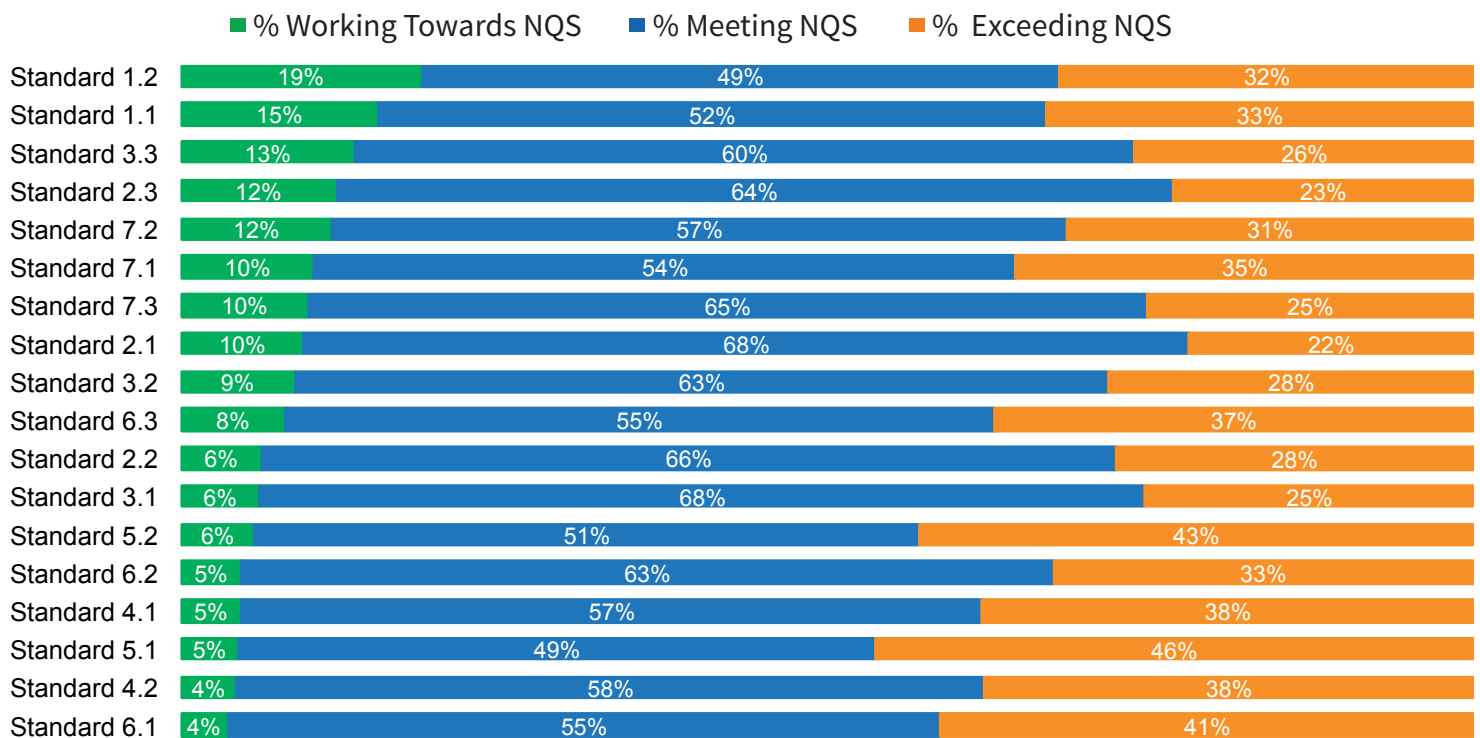
Figure 13 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



# Standard level ratings

Figure 14 ranks the 18 standards of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each standard.

**Figure 14: Standard level ratings**

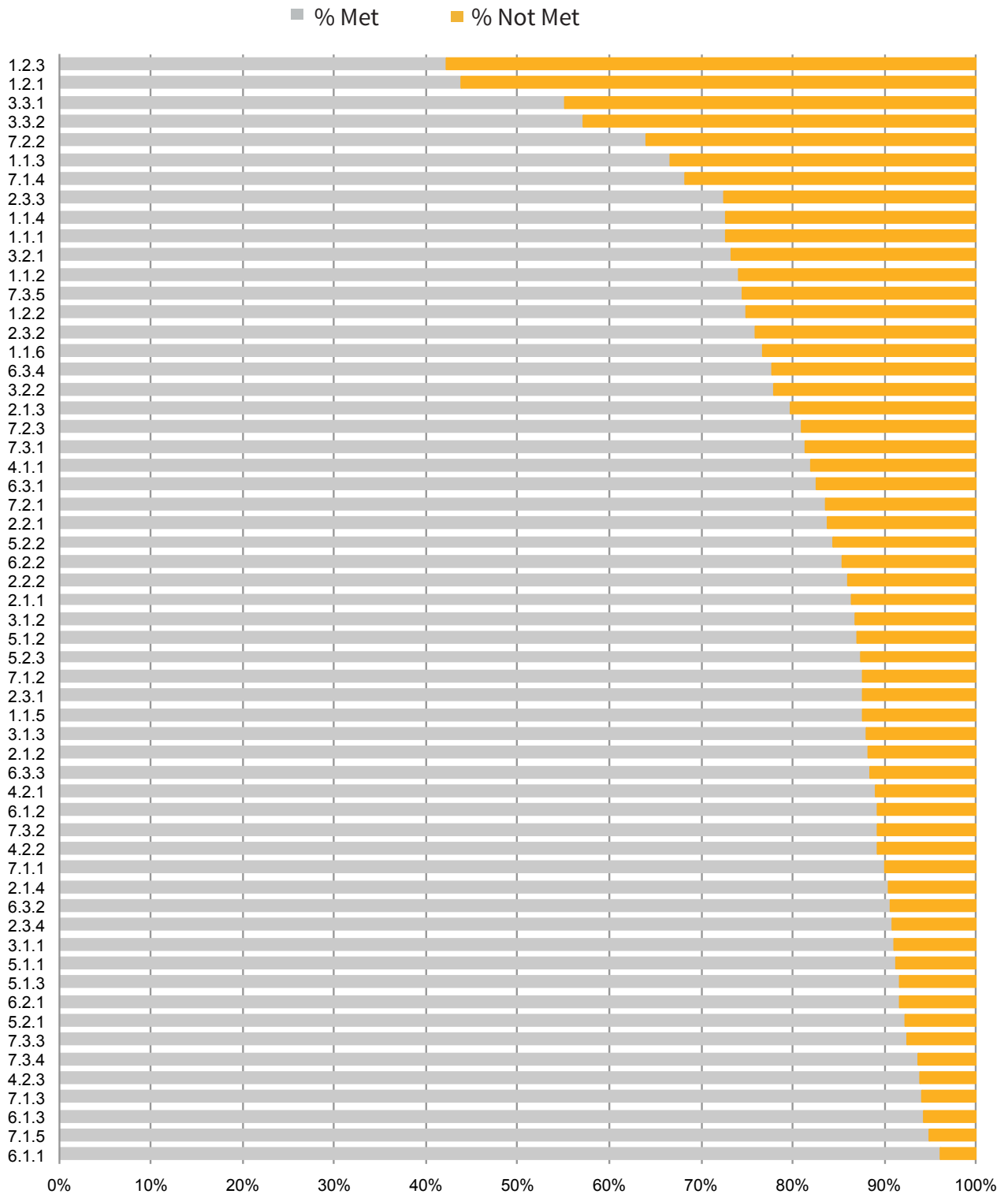


# Element level results

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 15 looks at the element level results for the 3751 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.

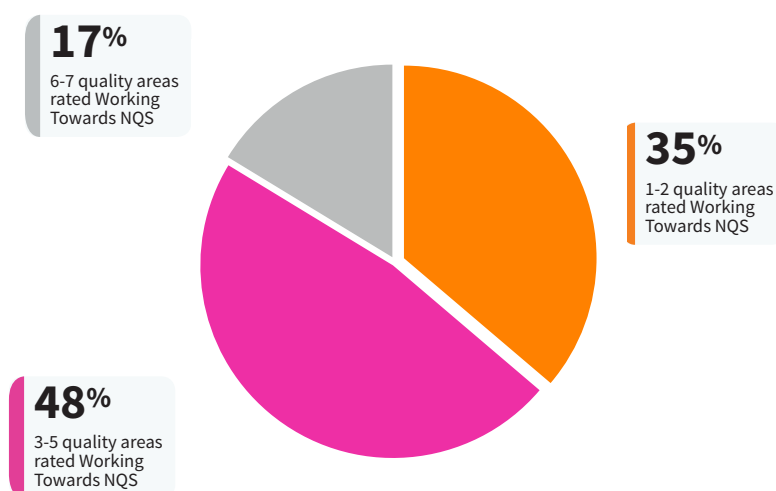
**Figure 15: Element level results for services rated Significant Improvement Required or Working Towards NQS**



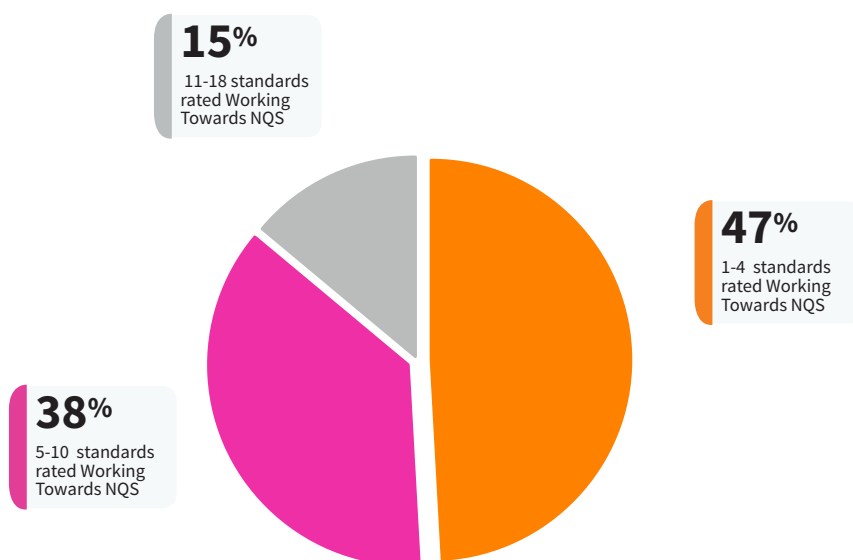
# Services rated Working Towards NQS

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 as Working Towards NQS.

**Figure 16: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of quality areas rated Working Towards NQS**



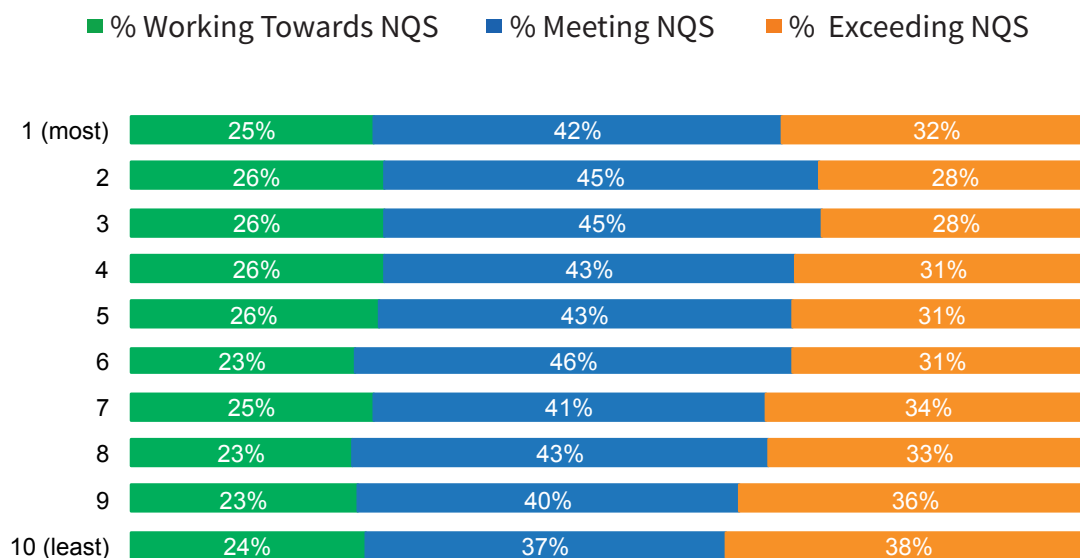
**Figure 17: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of standards rated Working Towards NQS**



# Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA<sup>1</sup>

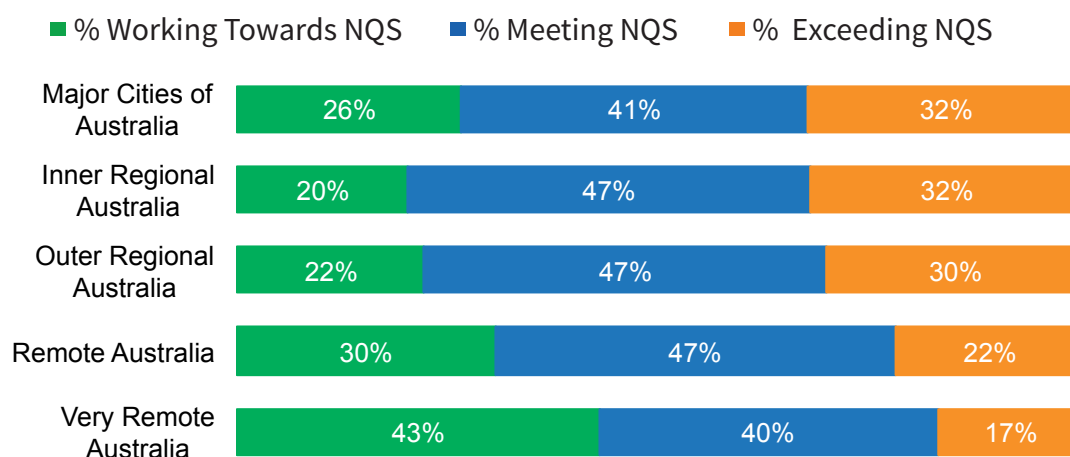
SEIFA is a product that ranks areas according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on census data. Variables used cover a number of areas including household income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other indicators of advantage and disadvantage.

Figure 18: Quality ratings by SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage



# Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification<sup>2</sup>

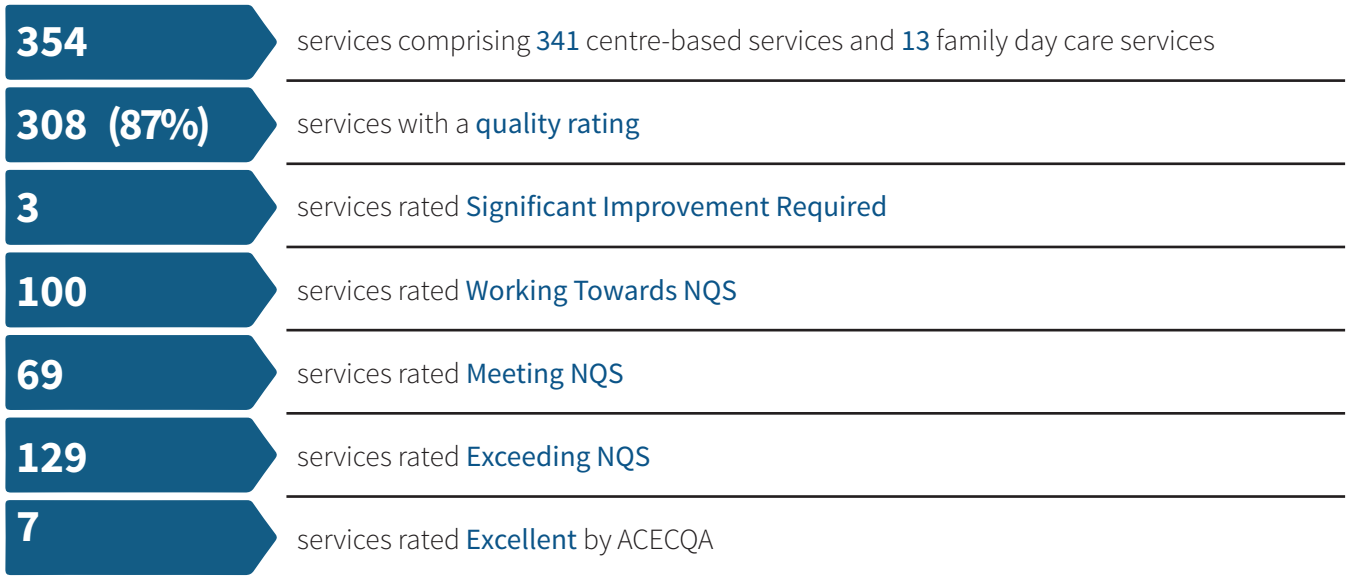
Figure 19: Quality ratings by remoteness classification



<sup>1</sup> FDC services are excluded from SEIFA classification because their approval is not specific to one location. There are also 463 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with a SEIFA classification.

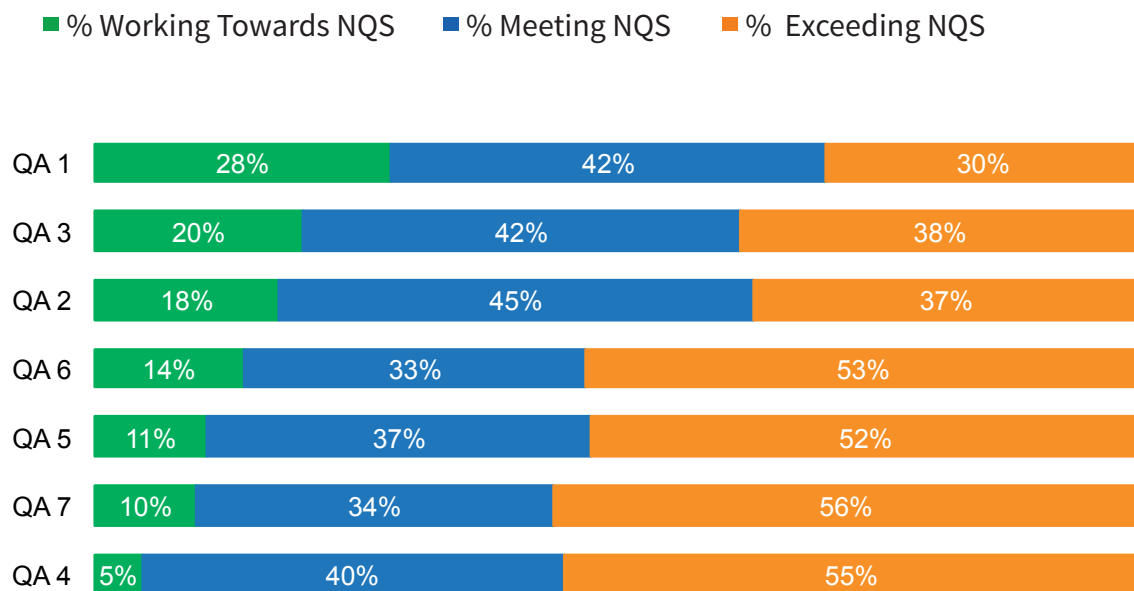
<sup>2</sup> FDC services are excluded from remoteness classification because their approval is not specific to one location. There are also 99 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with an ARIA+ classification.

# Australian Capital Territory summary



**Figure 20: Quality ratings by quality area**

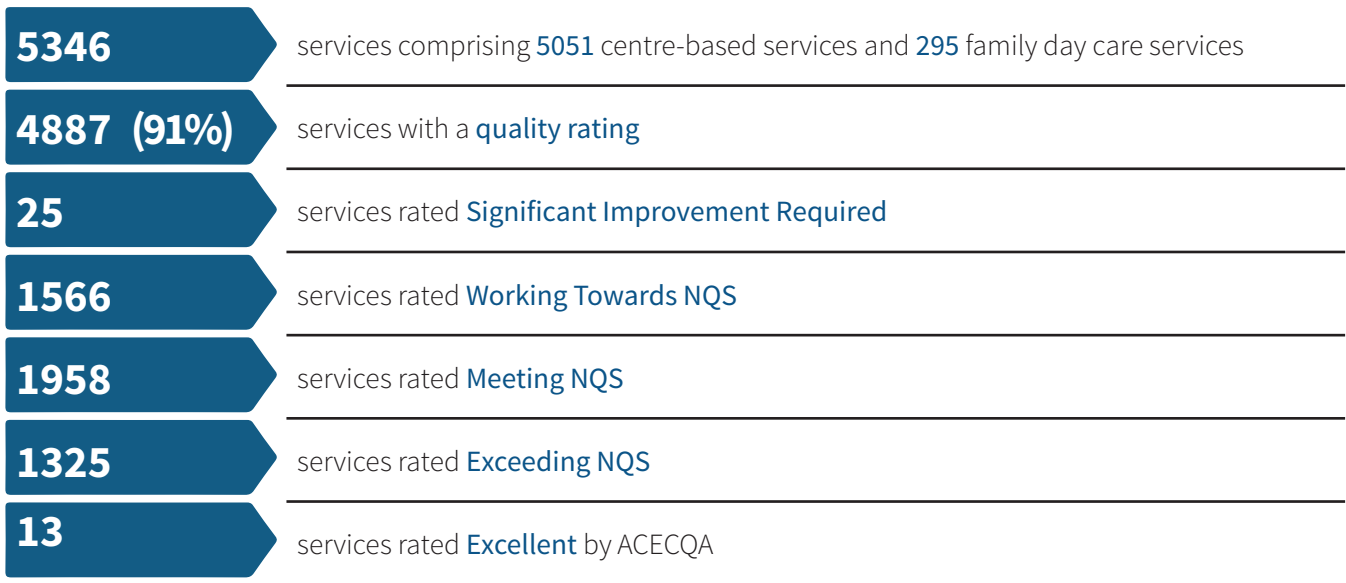
Figure 20 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



## Contact details

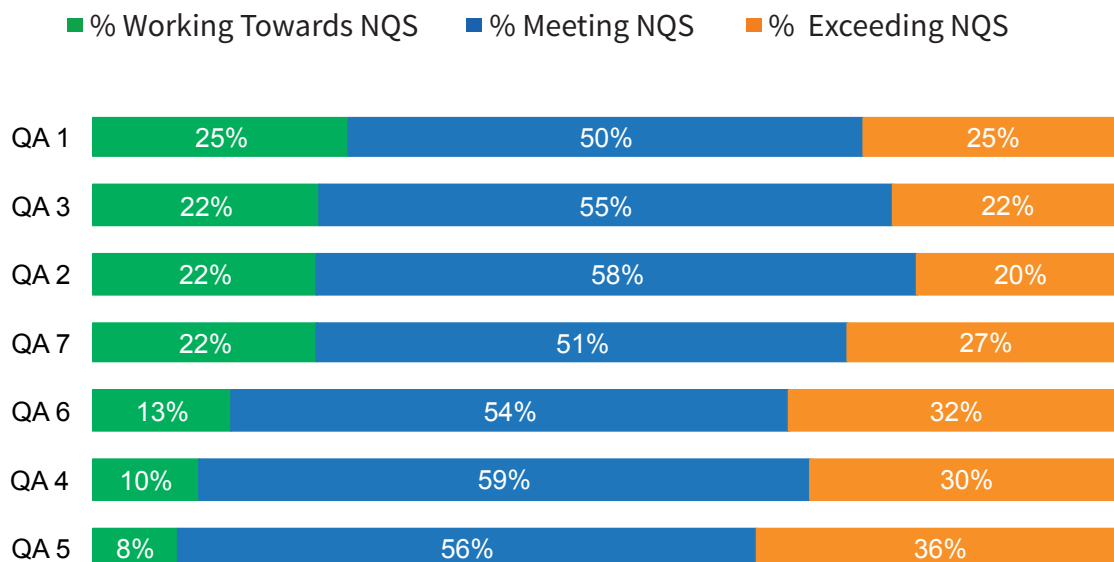
Education and Training Directorate  
 Children's Governance and Assurance  
[www.education.act.gov.au](http://www.education.act.gov.au)

# New South Wales summary



**Figure 21: Quality ratings by quality area**

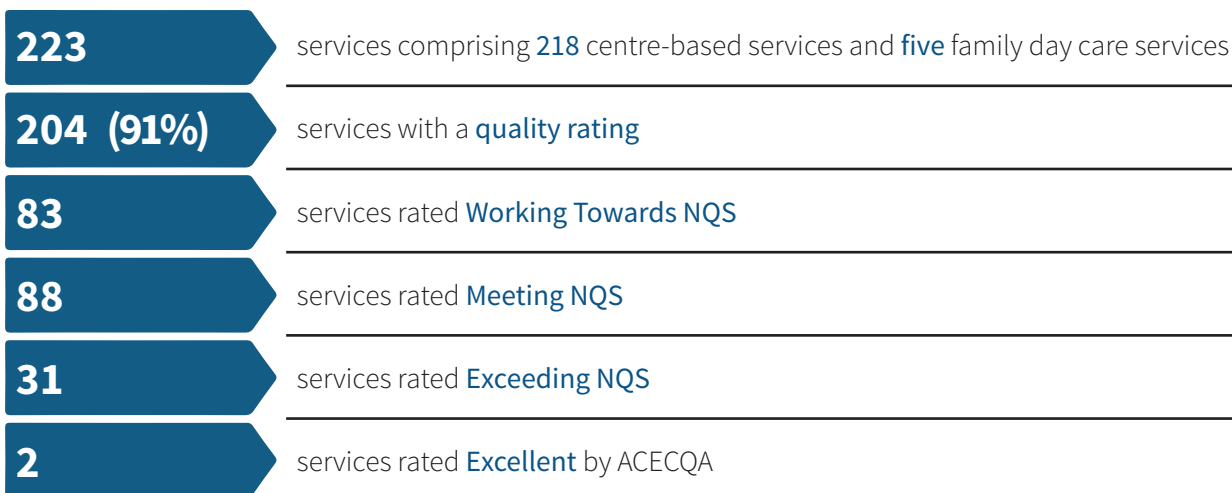
Figure 21 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



**Contact details**

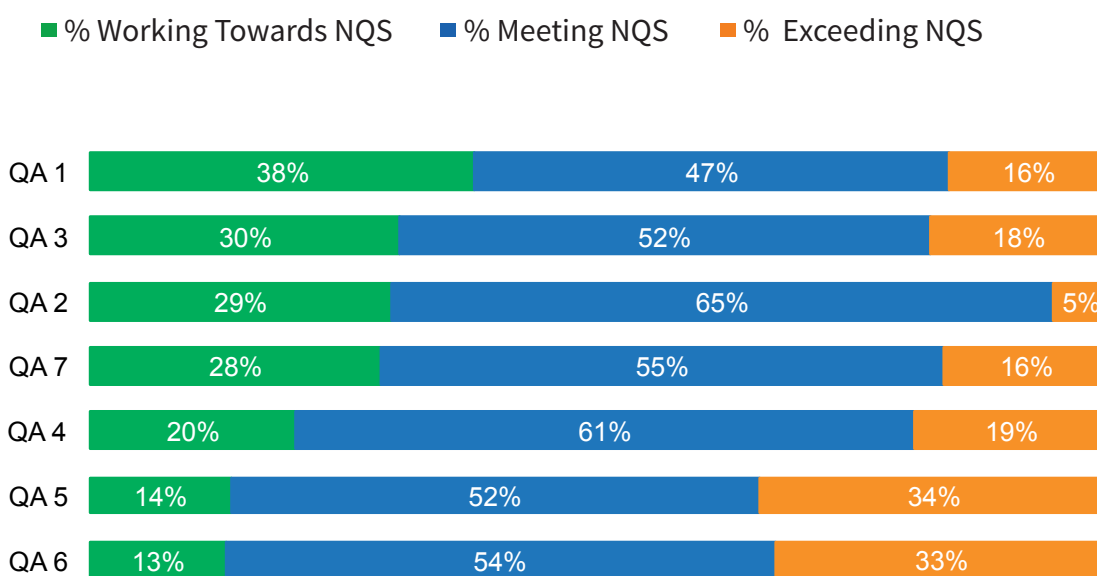
Department of Education  
 Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate  
[www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec)

# Northern Territory summary



**Figure 22: Quality ratings by quality area**

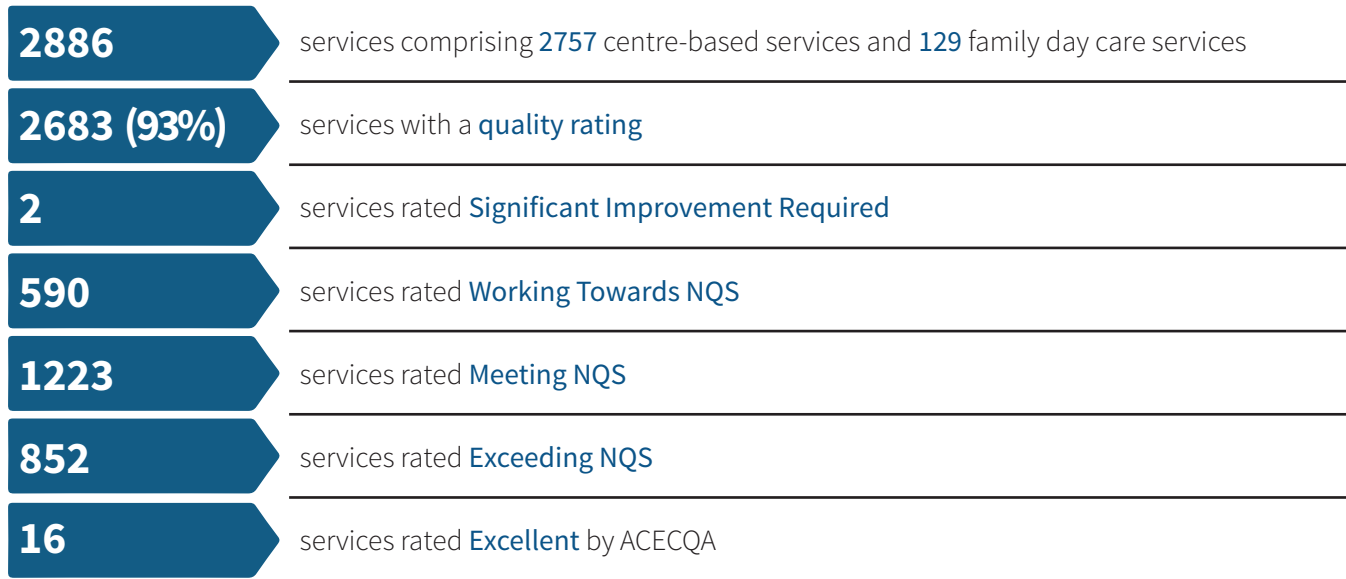
Figure 22 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



## Contact details

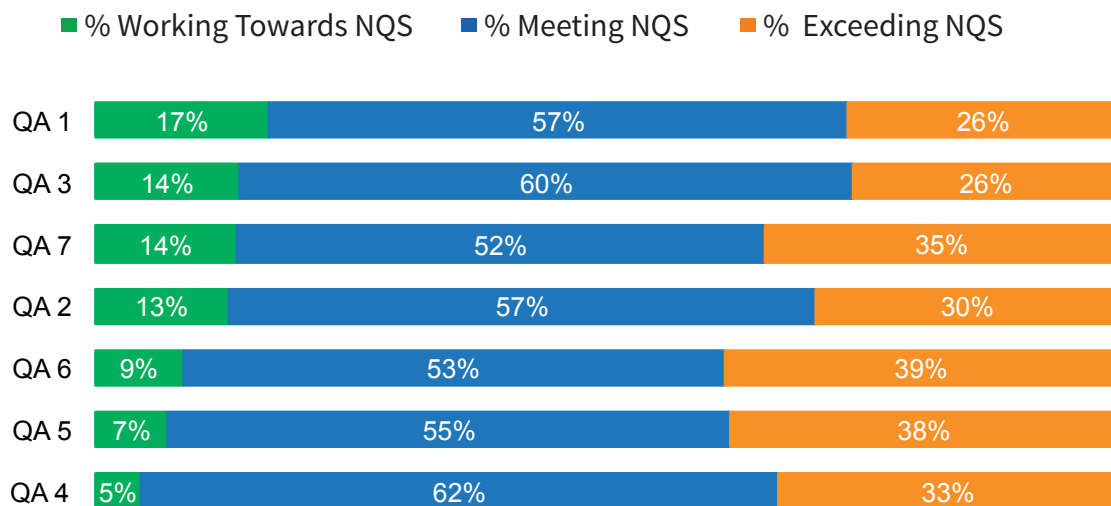
Department of Education  
Quality Education and Care NT  
[www.education.nt.gov.au](http://www.education.nt.gov.au)

# Queensland summary



**Figure 23: Quality ratings 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

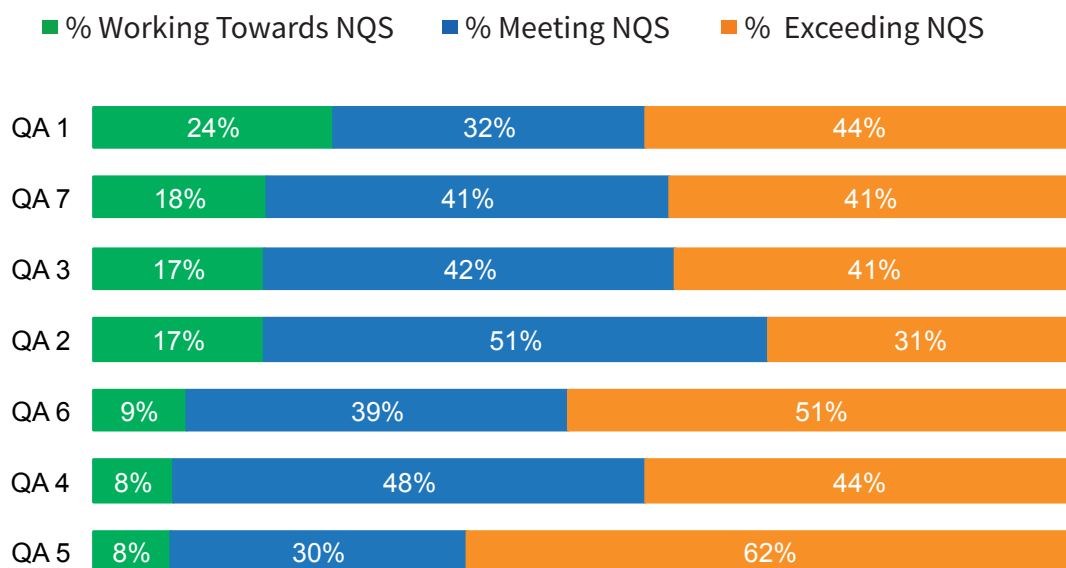
Department of Education and Training  
 Early Childhood Education and Care  
[www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood)

# South Australia summary

<b>1171</b>	services comprising <b>1140</b> centre-based services and <b>31</b> family day care services
<b>949 (81%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>290</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>222</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>432</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>5</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

**Figure 24: Quality ratings 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

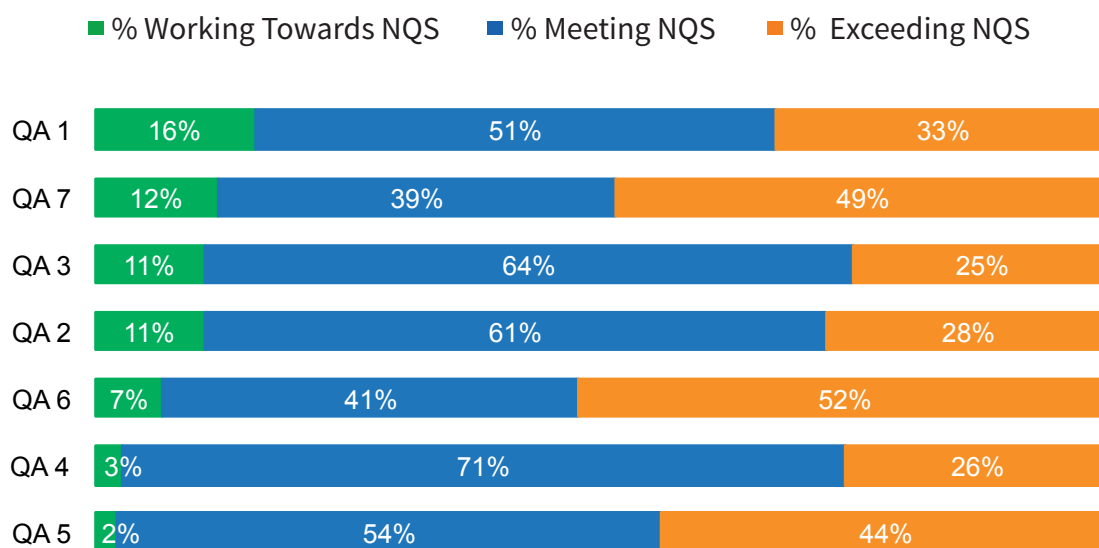
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards  
Board of South Australia  
[www.esb.sa.gov.au](http://www.esb.sa.gov.au)

# Tasmania summary

<b>232</b>	services comprising <b>218</b> centre-based services and <b>14</b> family day care services
<b>222 (96%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>50</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>88</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>84</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>

**Figure 25: Quality ratings 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

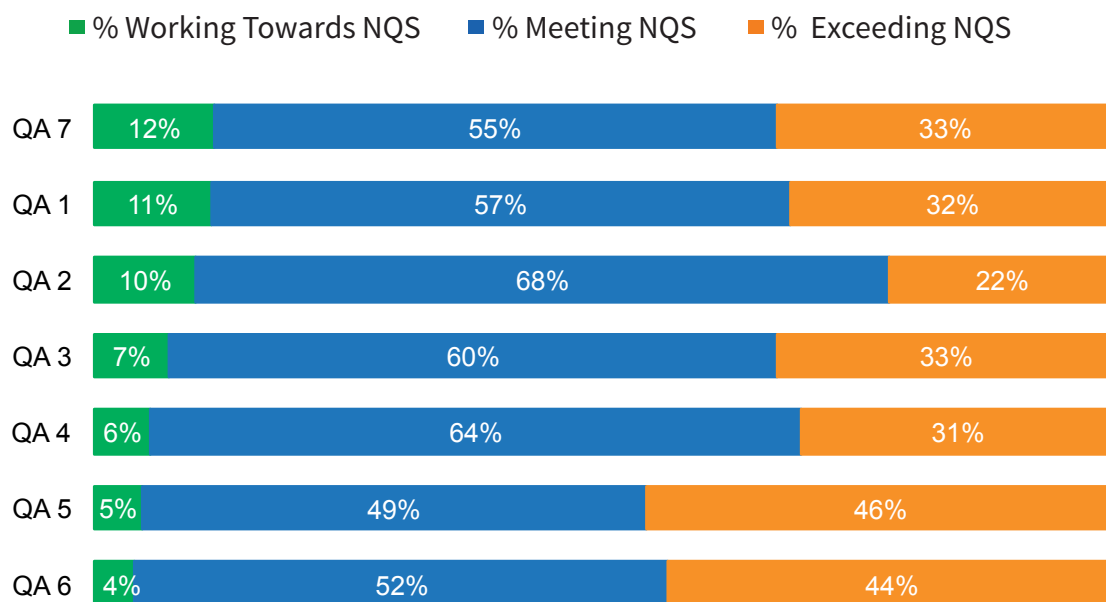
Department of Education  
Education and Care Unit  
[www.education.tas.gov.au](http://www.education.tas.gov.au)

# Victoria summary

<b>4168</b>	services comprising <b>3815</b> centre-based services and <b>353</b> family day care services
<b>3792 (91%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>10</b>	services rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>624</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>1846</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>1304</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>8</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

**Figure 26: Quality ratings 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

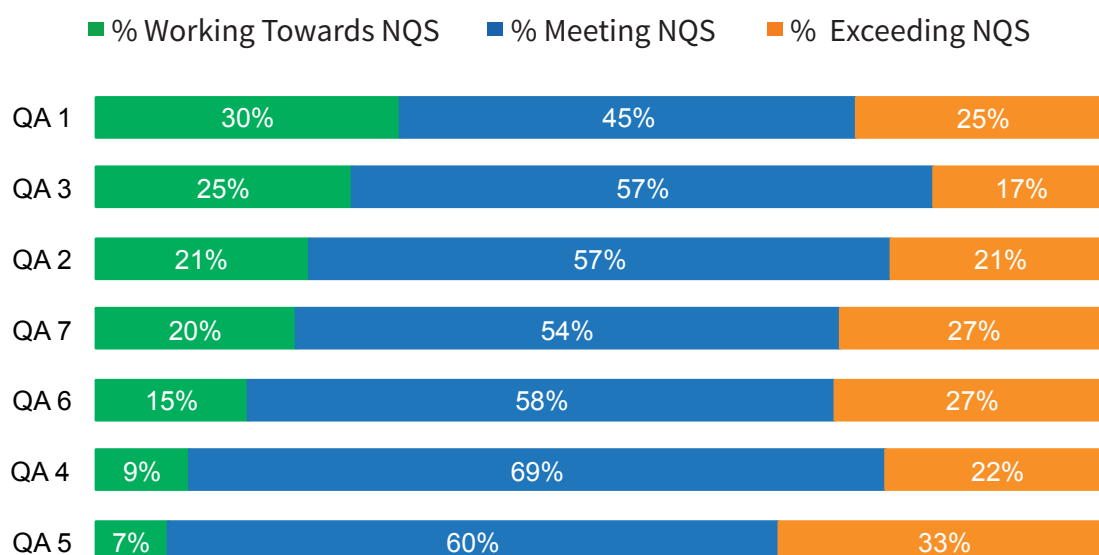
Department of Education and Training  
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation)

# Western Australia summary

<b>1166</b>	services comprising <b>1121</b> centre-based services and <b>45</b> family day care services
<b>1061 (91%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>408</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>397</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>255</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>1</b>	service rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

## Figure 27: Quality ratings 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 Local Government and Communities  
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