



# NQF Snapshot

## Q3 2017



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority™

A quarterly report from  
the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority  
November 2017

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# Overview

NQF Snapshot Q3 2017 is ACECQA's 19th national report on children's education and care services operating under the National Quality Framework (NQF).

It provides analysis and information on the profile of the sector, progress of assessment and rating and the quality ratings of services against the National Quality Standard (NQS).

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 2017 for the period ending 30 September 2017.

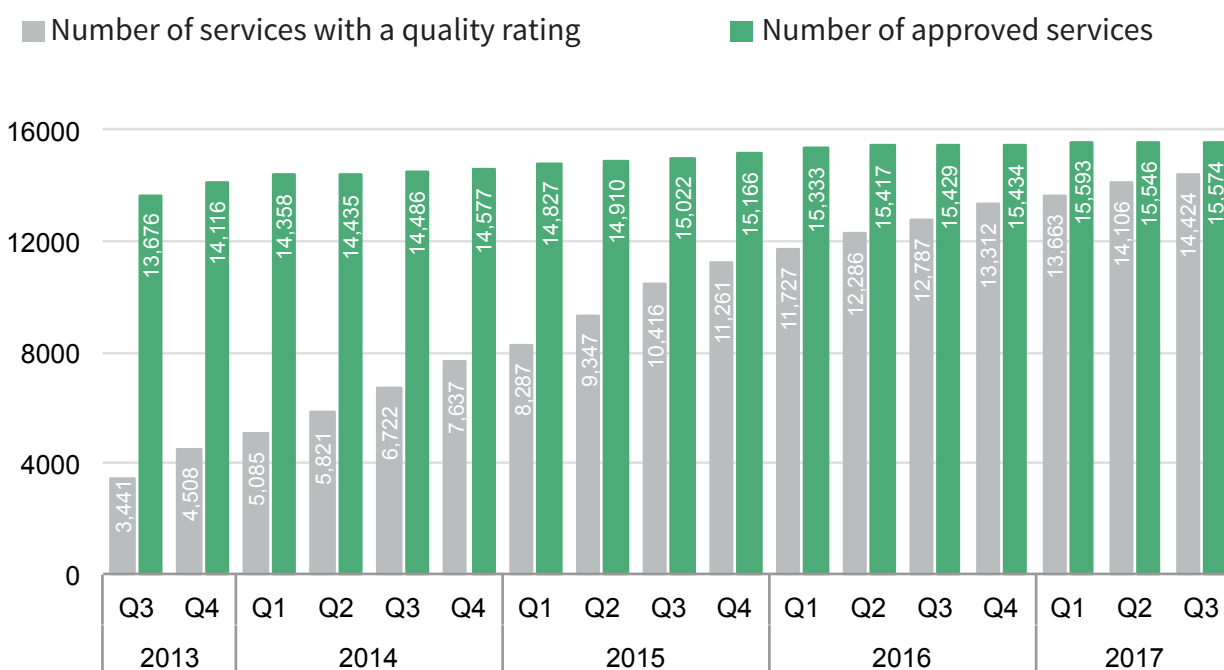
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



# Snapshot highlights

<b>15,574</b>	children's education and care services approved to operate under the NQF
<b>14,424 (93%)</b>	services with a quality rating
<b>10,792 (75%)</b>	services with a quality rating of Meeting NQS or above
<b>7403</b>	providers approved to operate
<b>6141</b>	providers approved to operate only one service
<b>50</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA <sup>1</sup>
<b>2997</b>	quality rating reassessments completed
<b>69%</b>	of services rated Working Towards NQS improved their overall quality rating at reassessment

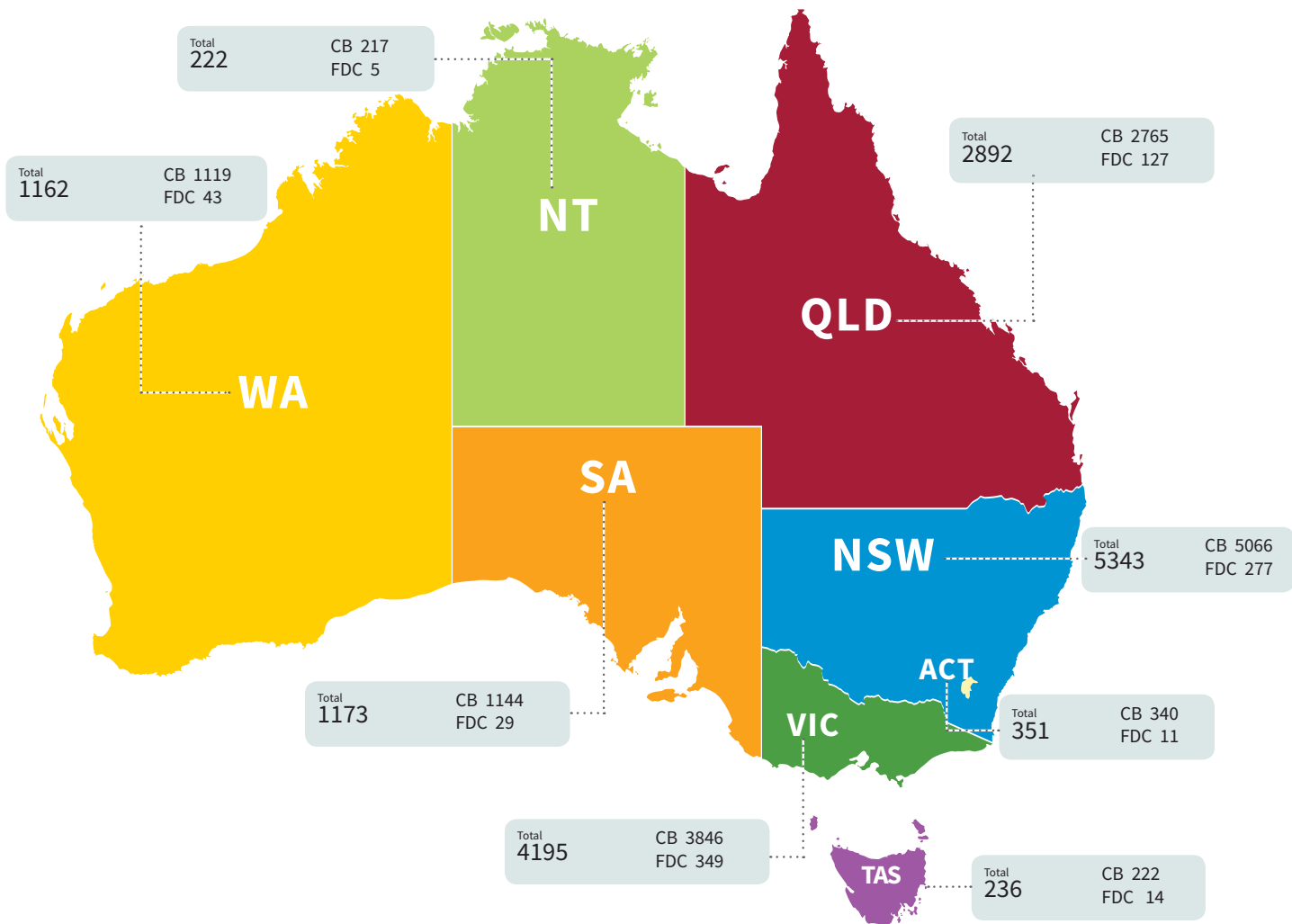
Figure 1: Number of approved services and number of services with a quality rating by quarter



<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>14,719 (95%)</b></p> <p>2% Increase on Q3 2016</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) <sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>855 (5%)</b></p> <p>19% Decrease on Q3 2016</p>	<p>Total</p> <p><b>15,574</b></p> <p>1% Increase on Q3 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 is an education and care service delivered through a network of educators operating from residences and other approved venues. 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>

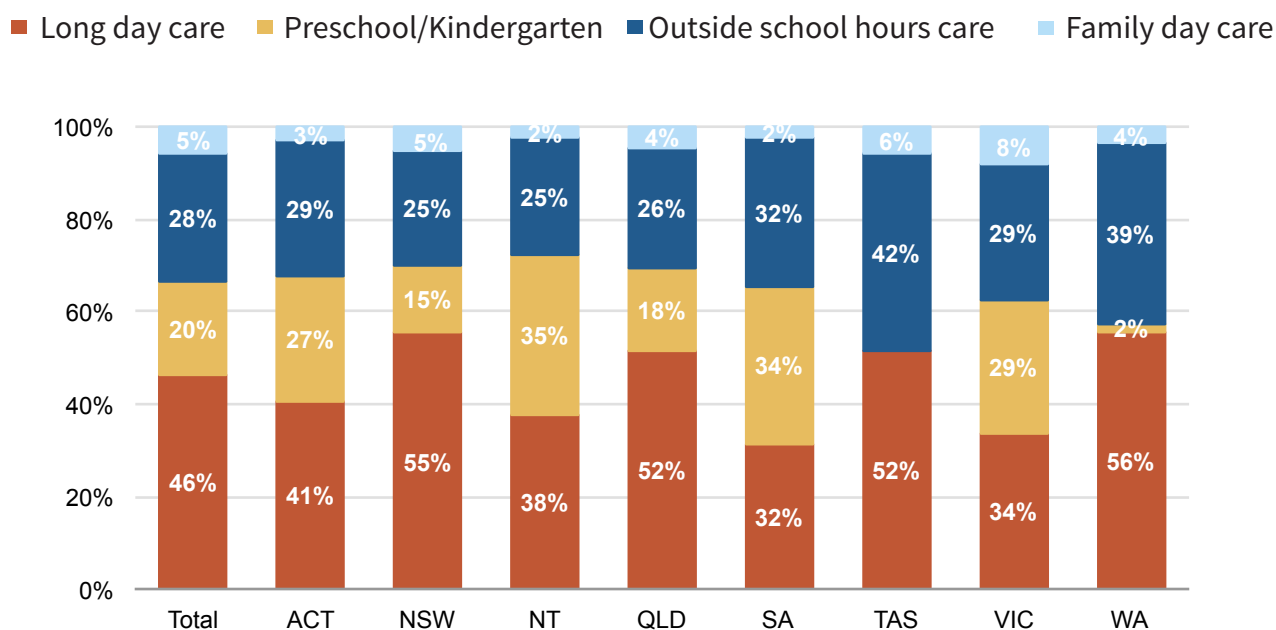


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	11	143	95	102	0	351
NSW	277	2954	799	1313	0	5343
NT	5	83	76	56	2	222
QLD	127	1494	514	755	2	2892
SA	29	370	399	375	0	1173
TAS	14	122	0	100	0	236
VIC	349	1420	1203	1223	0	4195
WA	43	645	23	449	2	1162
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>7231</b>	<b>3109</b>	<b>4373</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15,574</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 multiple 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 services 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 Six services categorised as 'Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

Figure 4: Proportion of approved services by provider management type <sup>1,2,3</sup>

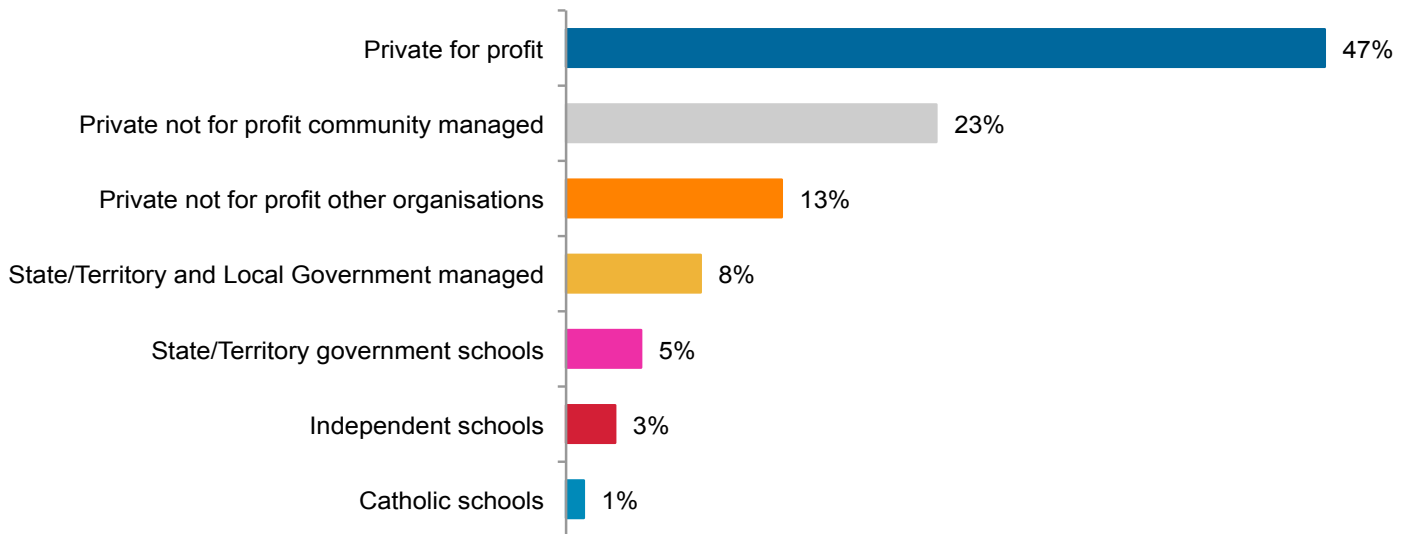


Table 2: Number and proportion of approved services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7282	47%
Private not for profit community managed	3554	23%
Private not for profit other organisations	2070	13%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1292	8%
State/Territory government schools	720	5%
Independent schools	471	3%
Catholic schools	170	1%
Not stated/Other	15	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,574</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> NQA ITS data collected on provider management type is self-reported by providers when applying for provider approval. Providers are not required to notify changes to this information, and therefore this NQA ITS information 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> 15 services categorised as 'Not stated/Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

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

**Figure 5: Proportion of approved providers with services by size**

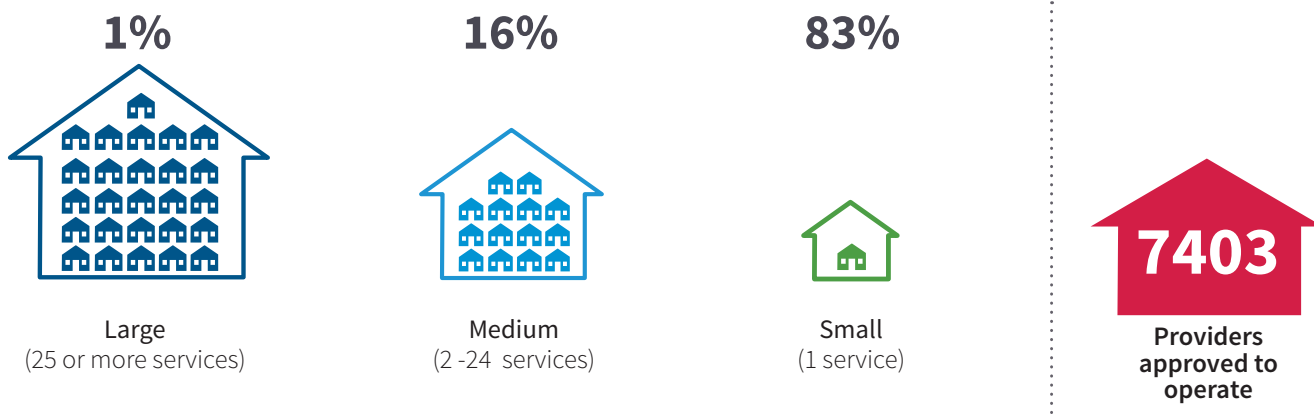
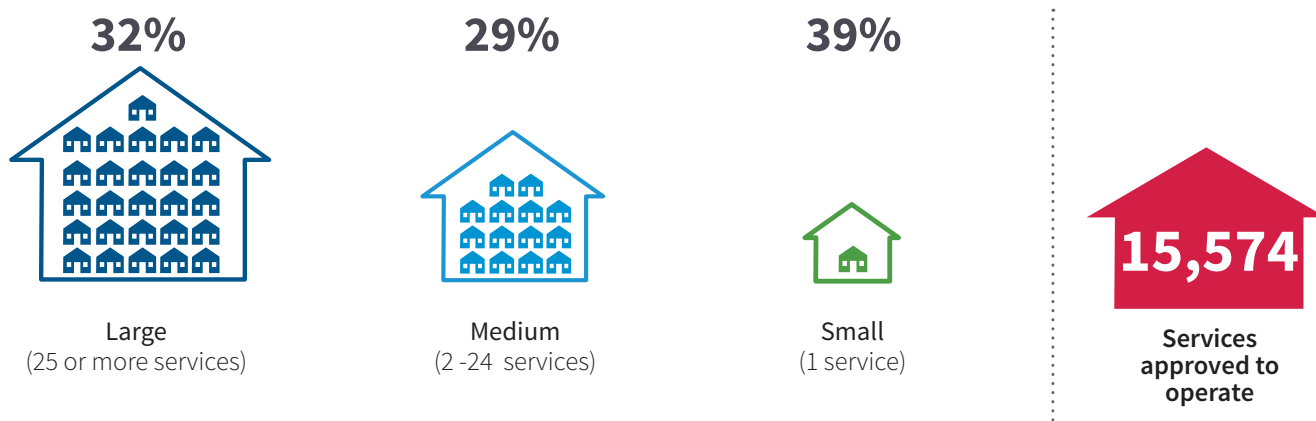


Figure 6 shows that 39% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 32% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.

**Figure 6: Proportion of approved services by provider size**



# Progress of assessment and rating

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. Roughly 4% of services were approved in the last 12 months. Removing these services from the calculation increases the proportion of services with a quality rating to 97%.

**Table 3: Quality ratings by jurisdiction**

	Number of services	Proportion of all services	Number of services with a quality rating	Proportion of services with a quality rating
ACT	351	2%	312	89%
NSW	5343	34%	5039	94%
NT	222	1%	207	93%
QLD	2892	19%	2709	94%
SA	1173	8%	1007	86%
TAS	236	2%	222	94%
VIC	4195	27%	3853	92%
WA	1162	7%	1075	93%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,574</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,424</b>	<b>93%</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	7	122	91	92	0	<b>312</b>
NSW	221	2825	784	1209	0	<b>5039</b>
NT	4	79	75	47	2	<b>207</b>
QLD	92	1420	496	699	2	<b>2709</b>
SA	10	322	319	356	0	<b>1007</b>
TAS	13	120	0	89	0	<b>222</b>
VIC	278	1284	1183	1108	0	<b>3853</b>
WA	39	612	21	401	2	<b>1075</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>6784</b>	<b>2969</b>	<b>4001</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14,424</b>

# Quality improvement

Table 5 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 1064 of services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 666 services previously rated Working Towards NQS received the same rating again after reassessment.

**Table 5: Reassessments by overall quality rating<sup>1</sup>**

		Rating after reassessment				Total
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	13	31	6	0	50
	Working Towards NQS	11	666	1064	438	2179
	Meeting NQS	0	115	283	176	574
	Exceeding NQS	0	27	46	121	194
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>1399</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>2997</b>

		Rating after reassessment				Improvement rate
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Rating before reassessment	Significant Improvement Required	26%	62%	12%	0%	74%
	Working Towards NQS	1%	31%	49%	20%	69%
	Meeting NQS	0%	20%	49%	31%	31%
	Exceeding NQS	0%	14%	24%	62%	-

<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.

# Overall quality ratings

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

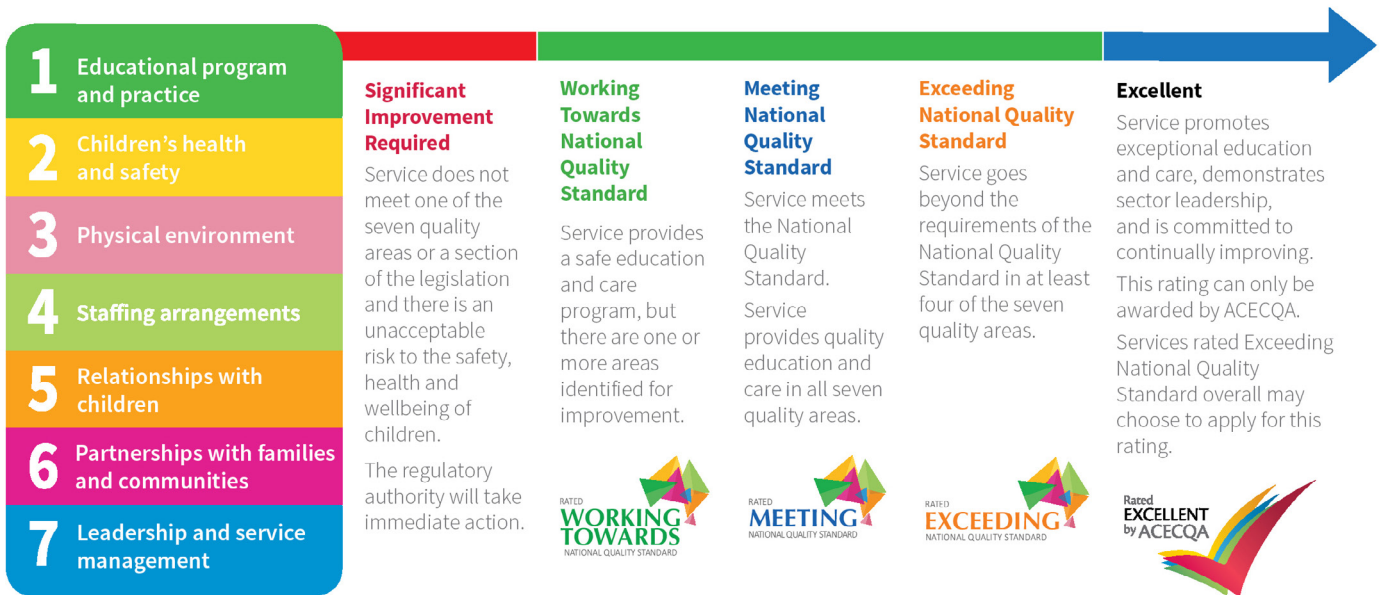


Table 6: Overall quality ratings by jurisdiction

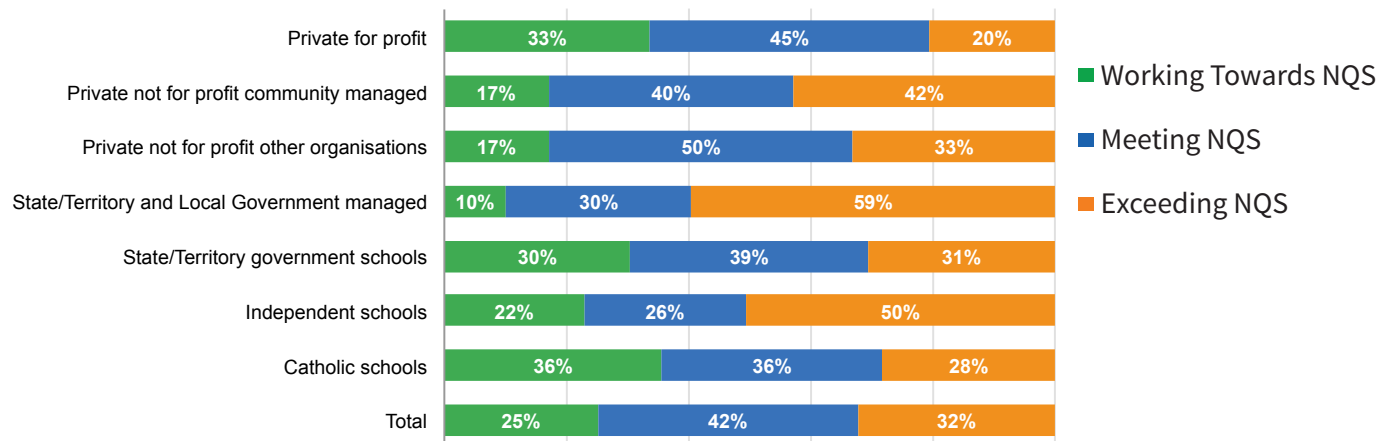
	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent	Total
ACT	0	100 (32%)	76 (24%)	130 (42%)	6	312
NSW	28	1493 (30%)	2074 (41%)	1431 (28%)	13	5039
NT	0	79 (38%)	92 (44%)	34 (16%)	2	207
QLD	2	552 (20%)	1270 (47%)	869 (32%)	16	2709
SA	0	294 (29%)	235 (23%)	474 (47%)	4	1007
TAS	0	48 (22%)	88 (40%)	86 (39%)	0	222
VIC	10	642 (17%)	1878 (49%)	1315 (34%)	8	3853
WA	0	384 (36%)	408 (38%)	282 (26%)	1	1075
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3592 (25%)</b>	<b>6121 (42%)</b>	<b>4621 (32%)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>14,424</b>

# Overall quality ratings by provider management type

Figure 7 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 9). In contrast, preschools/kindergartens make up only 1% of 'Private for profit' services.

**Figure 7: Proportion of approved services with a quality rating by provider management type and overall quality rating level<sup>1</sup>**



**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	37	2178	2954	1332	10	6511
Private not for profit community managed	2	579	1372	1456	23	3432
Private not for profit other organisations	1	340	988	656	2	1987
State/Territory and Local Government managed	0	118	356	697	4	1175
State/Territory government schools	0	215	275	216	2	708
Independent schools	0	97	113	215	9	434
Catholic schools	0	58	59	46	0	163
Not Stated/Other	0	7	4	3	0	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	40	3592	6121	4621	50	14,424

<sup>1</sup> 14 providers categorised as 'Not stated/Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

# Overall quality ratings by service type

Figure 8: Overall quality ratings by service type

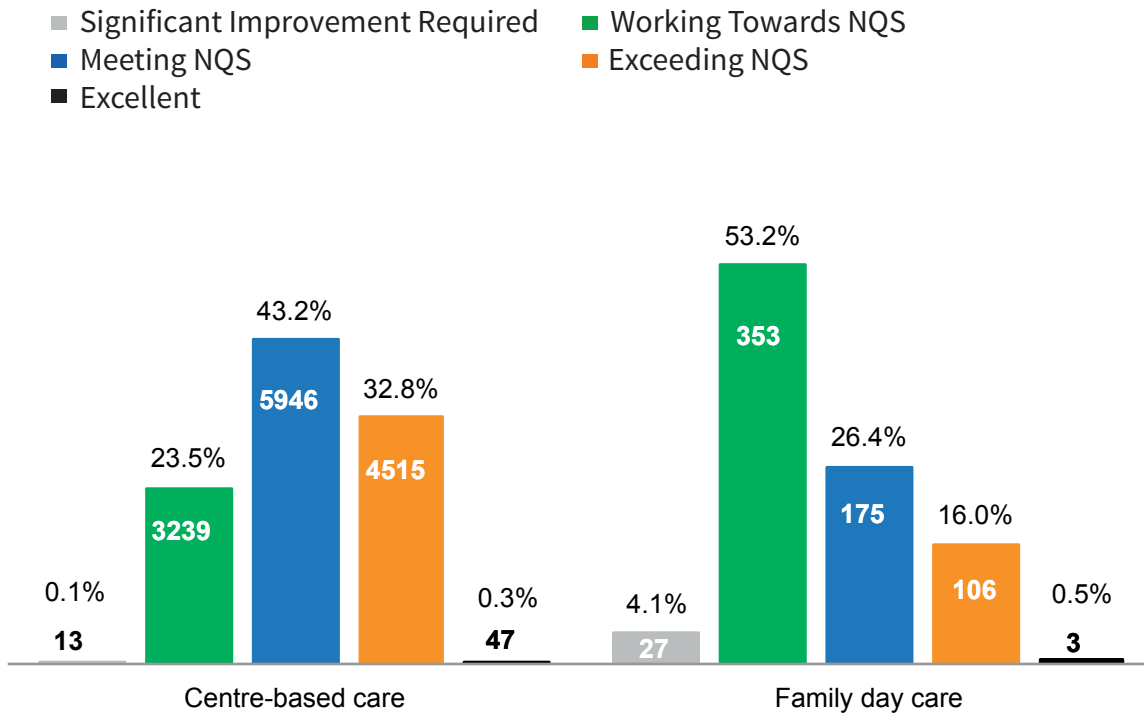
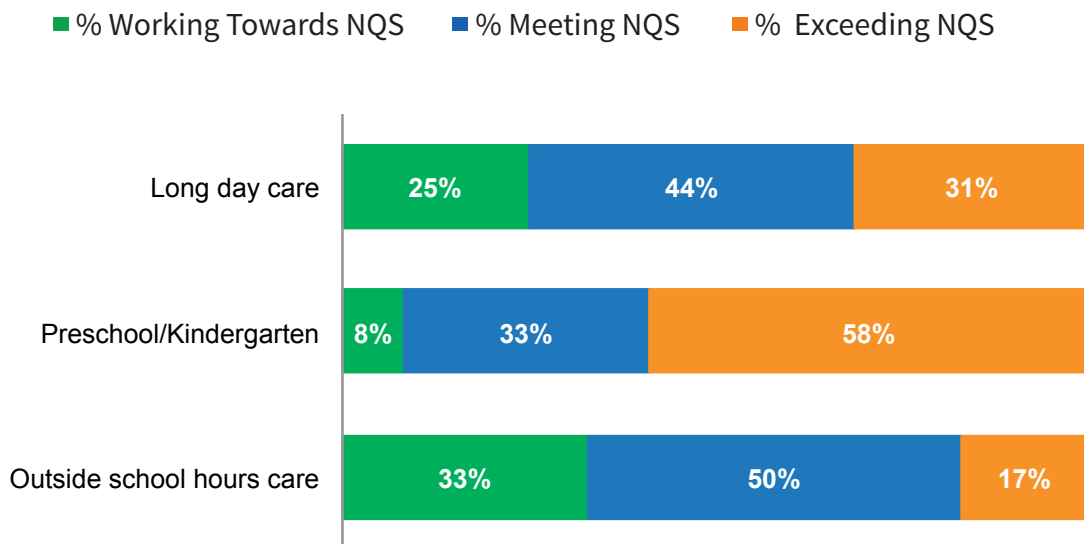


Figure 9: Overall quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

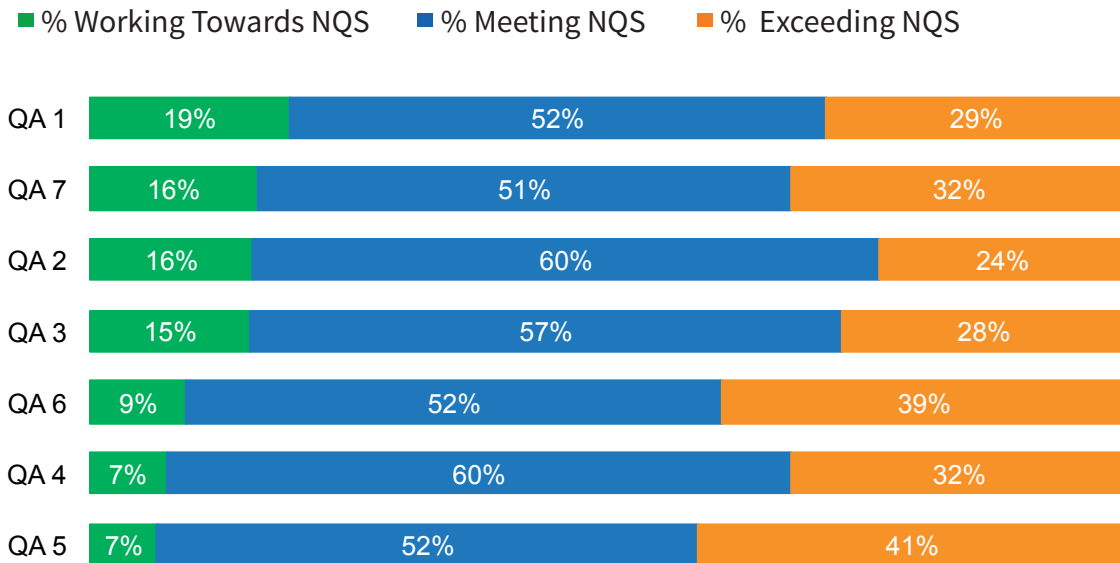


The interactive online version of the Snapshot includes additional analysis and is available on the ACECQA website.

# Quality area ratings

Figure 10 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.

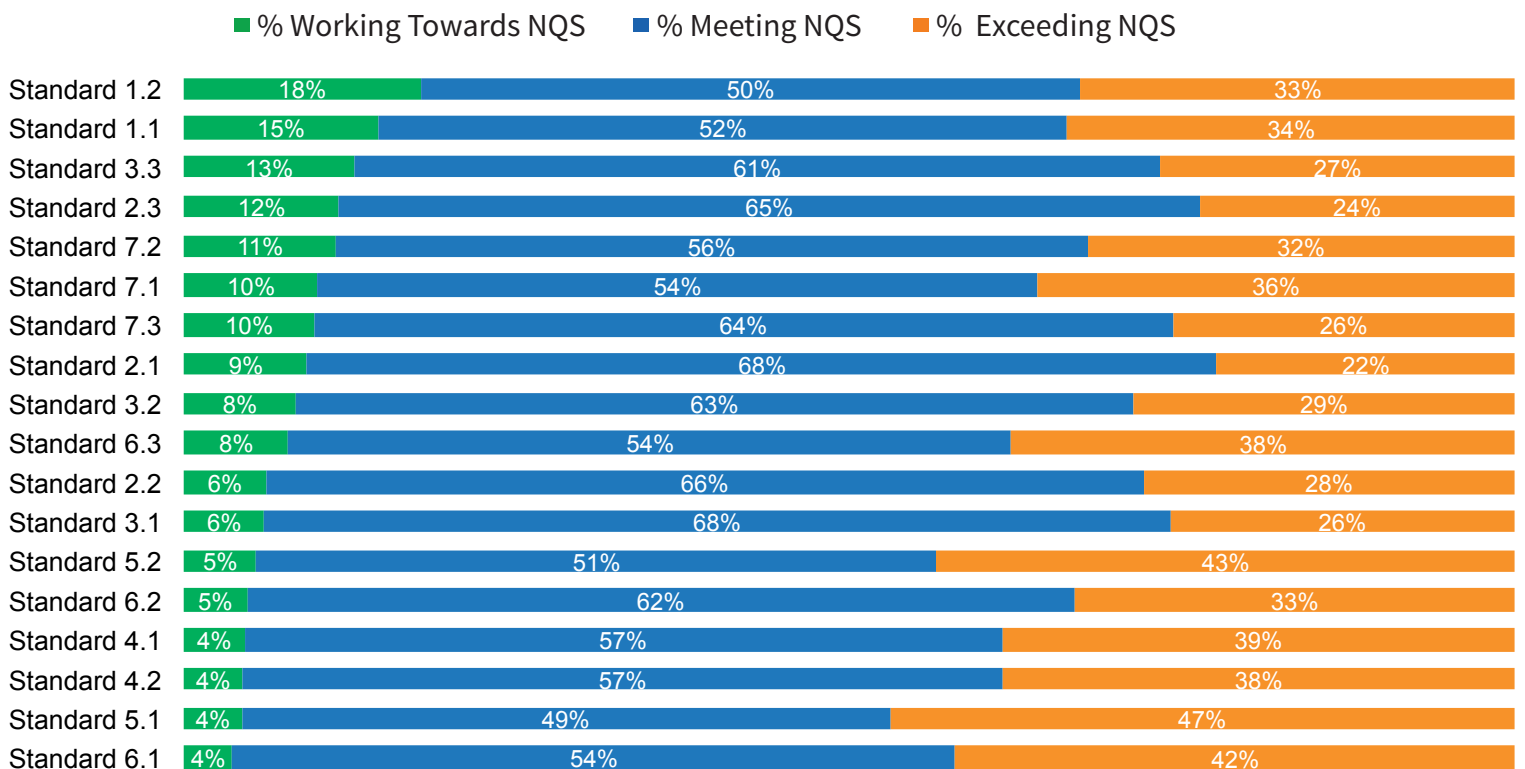
**Figure 10: Quality area ratings**



# Standard level ratings

Figure 11 ranks the 18 standards of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each standard.

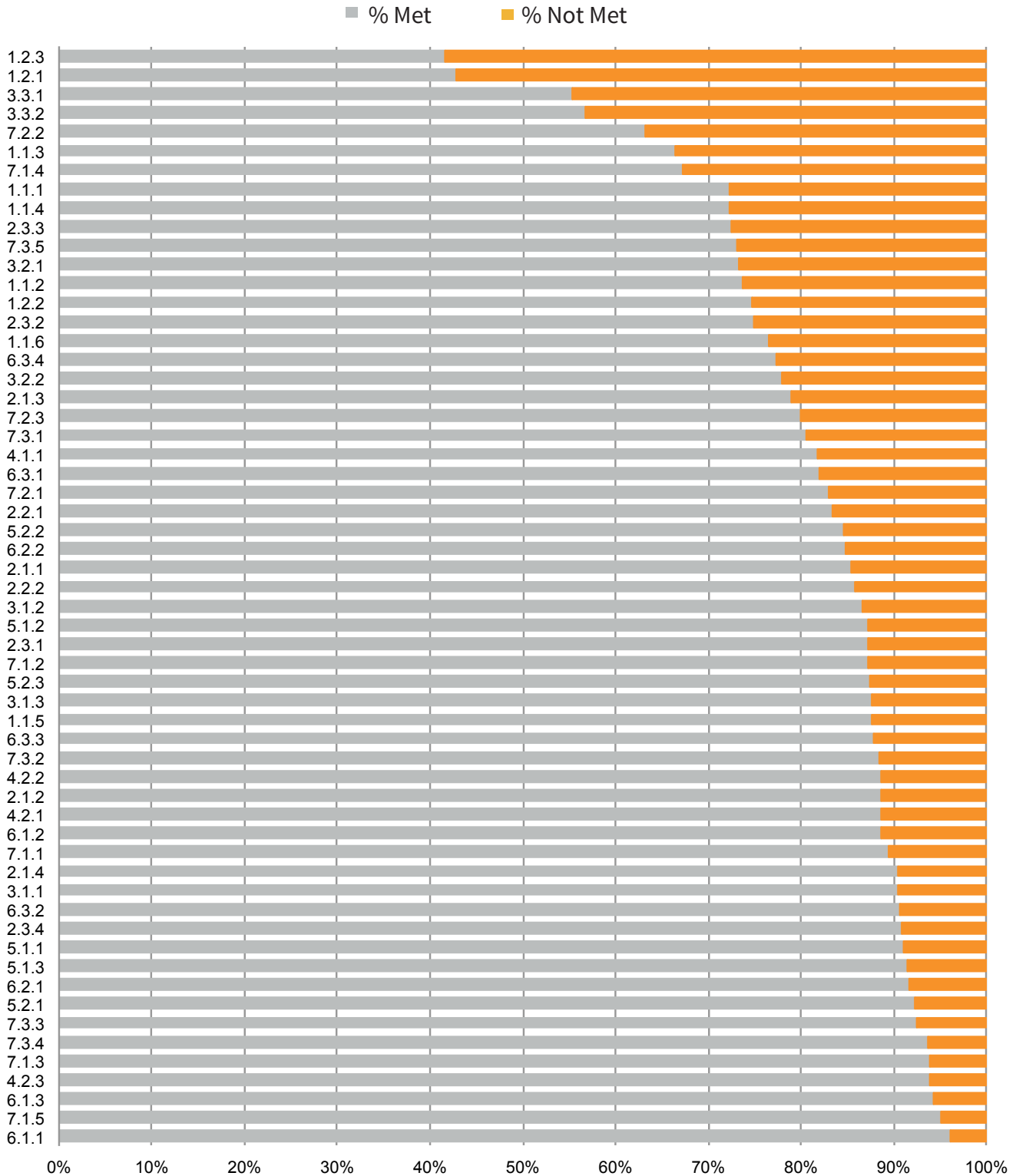
**Figure 11: Standard level ratings**



# Element level results

Figure 12 looks at the element level results for the 3632 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 12: 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 13: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of quality areas rated Working Towards NQS

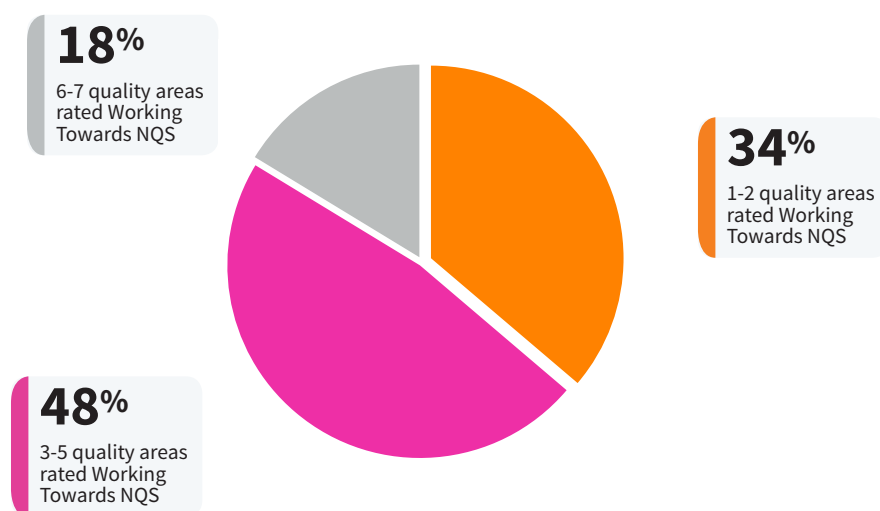
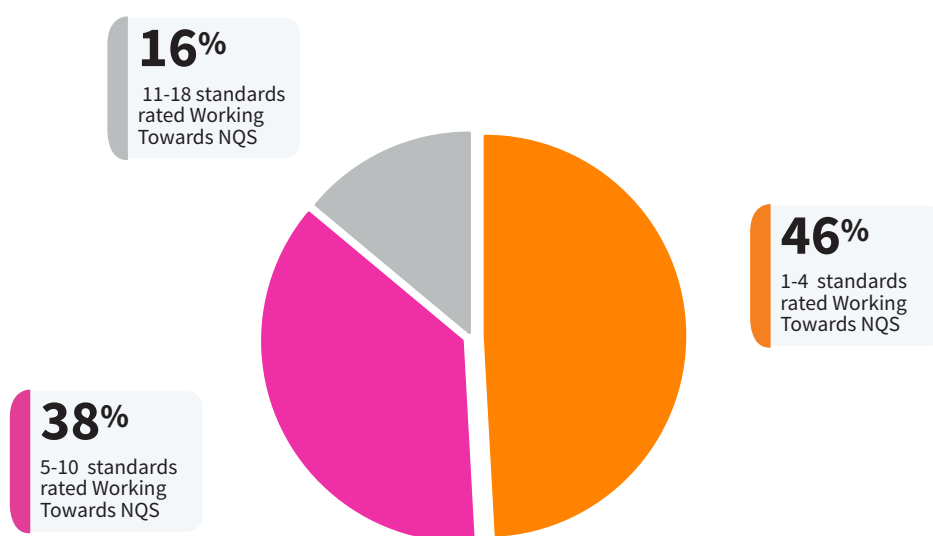


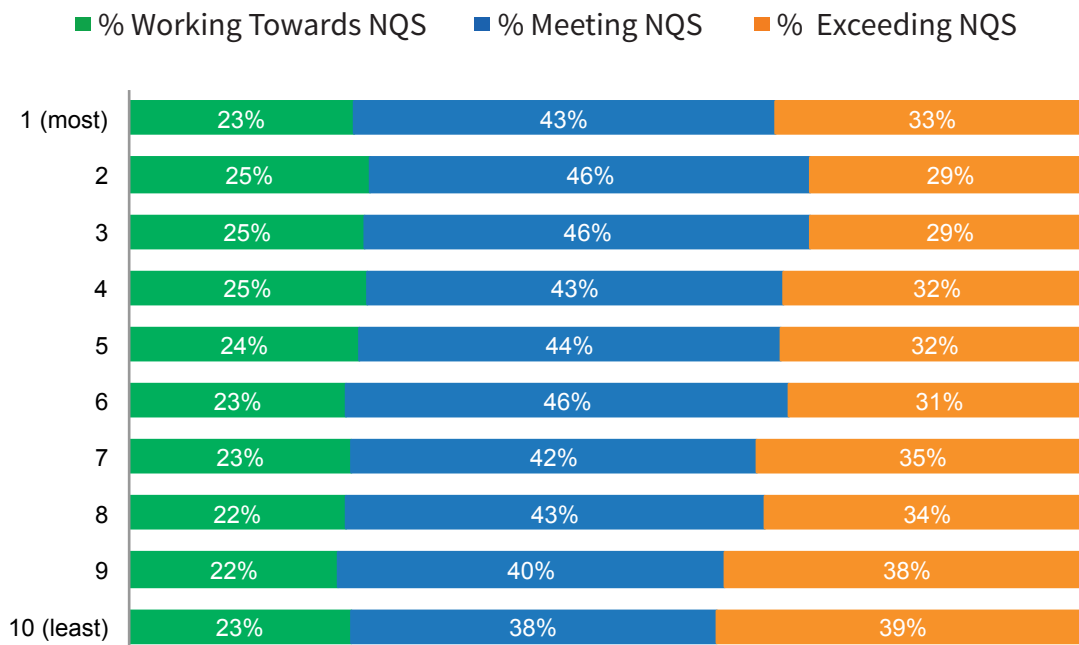
Figure 14: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of standards rated Working Towards NQS



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

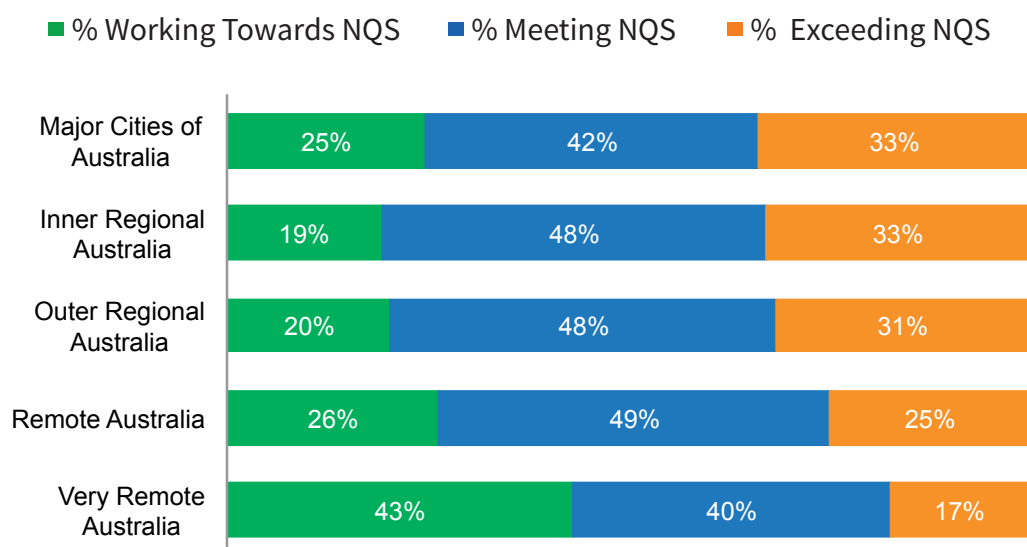
SEIFA is a product that ranks areas according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on census data. Variables used cover a number of areas including household income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other indicators of advantage and disadvantage.

Figure 15: Quality ratings by SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage



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

Figure 16: Quality ratings by remoteness classification



1 FDC services are excluded from SEIFA classification because their approval is not specific to one location. There are also 488 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. There are also 109 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with an ARIA+ classification.

# Australian Capital Territory summary

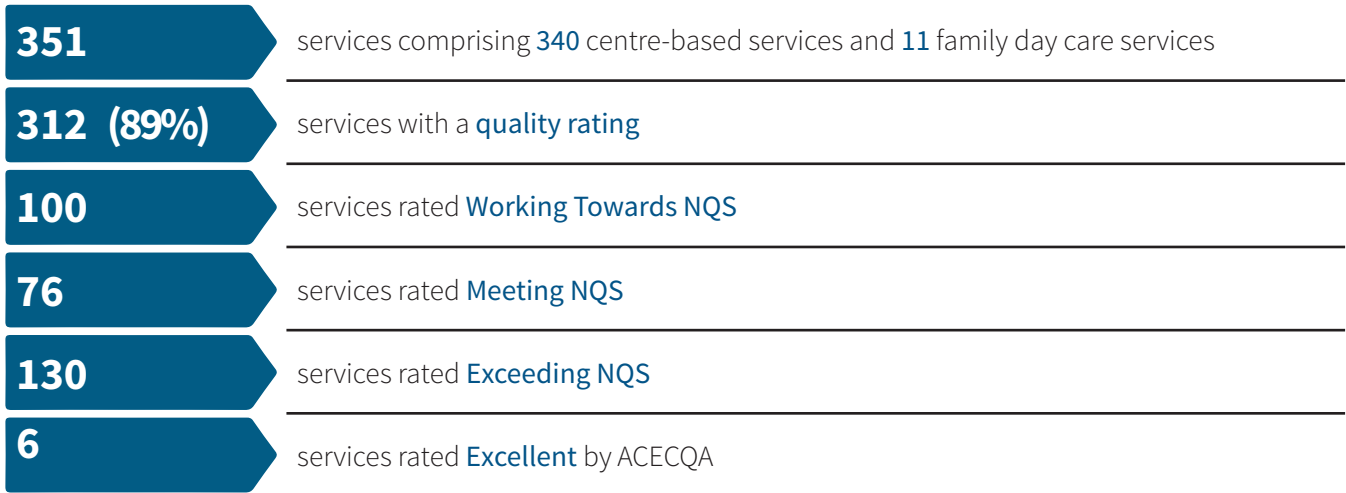
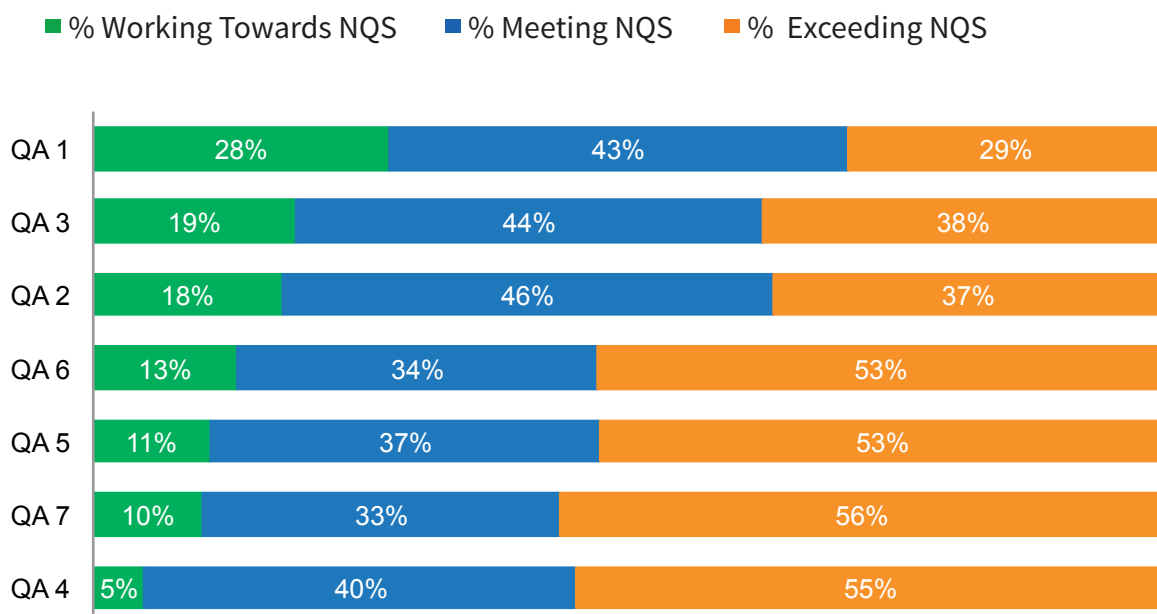


Figure 17 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

**Figure 17: Quality area ratings**



## 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

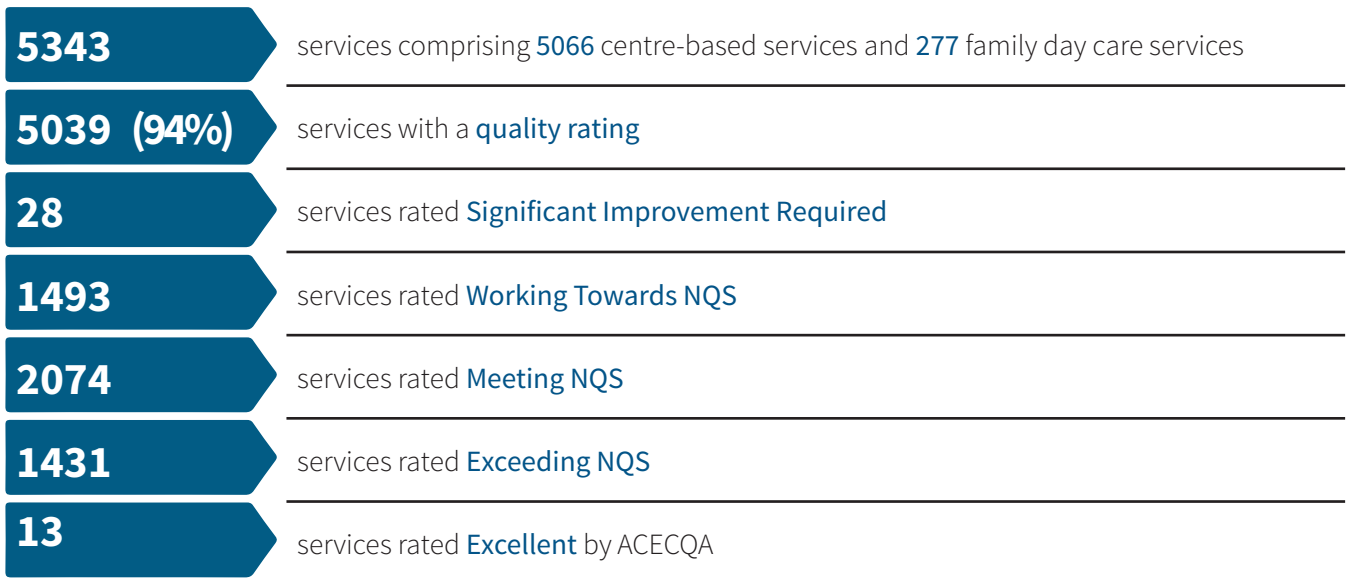
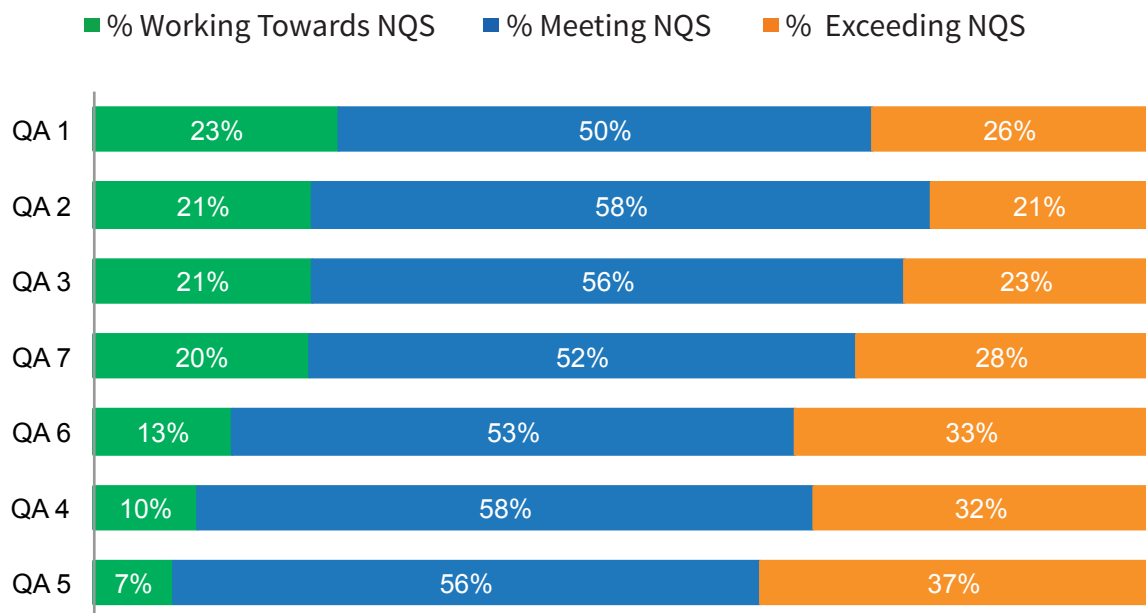


Figure 18 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

**Figure 18: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

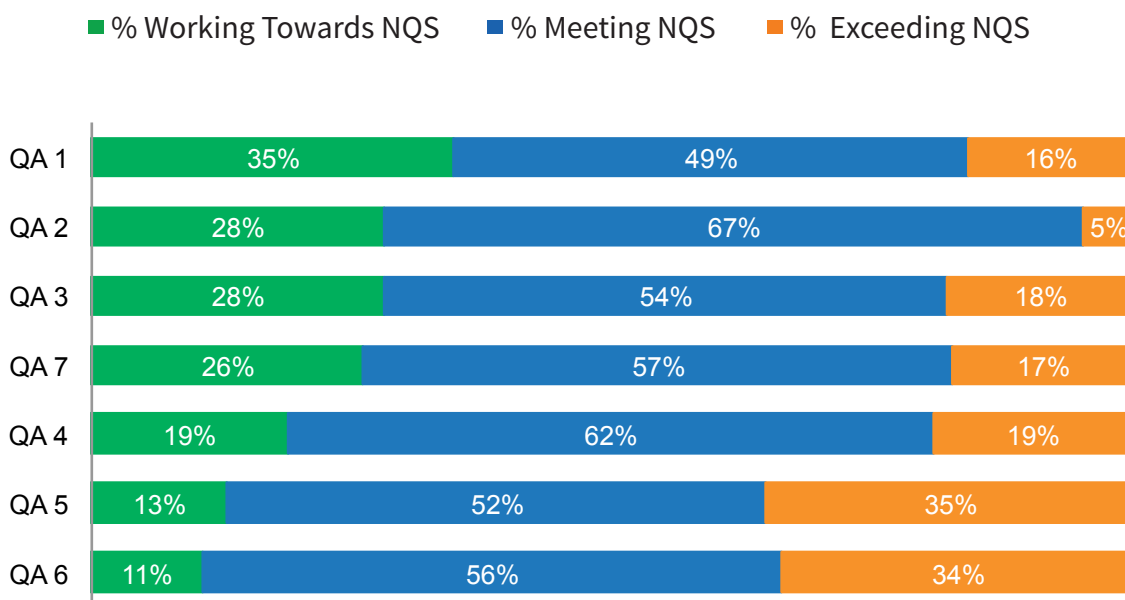
Department of Education  
 Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate  
[www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec)

# Northern Territory summary

<b>222</b>	services comprising <b>217</b> centre-based services and <b>five</b> family day care services
<b>207 (93%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>79</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>92</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>34</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>2</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

Figure 19 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.

**Figure 19: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

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

# Queensland summary

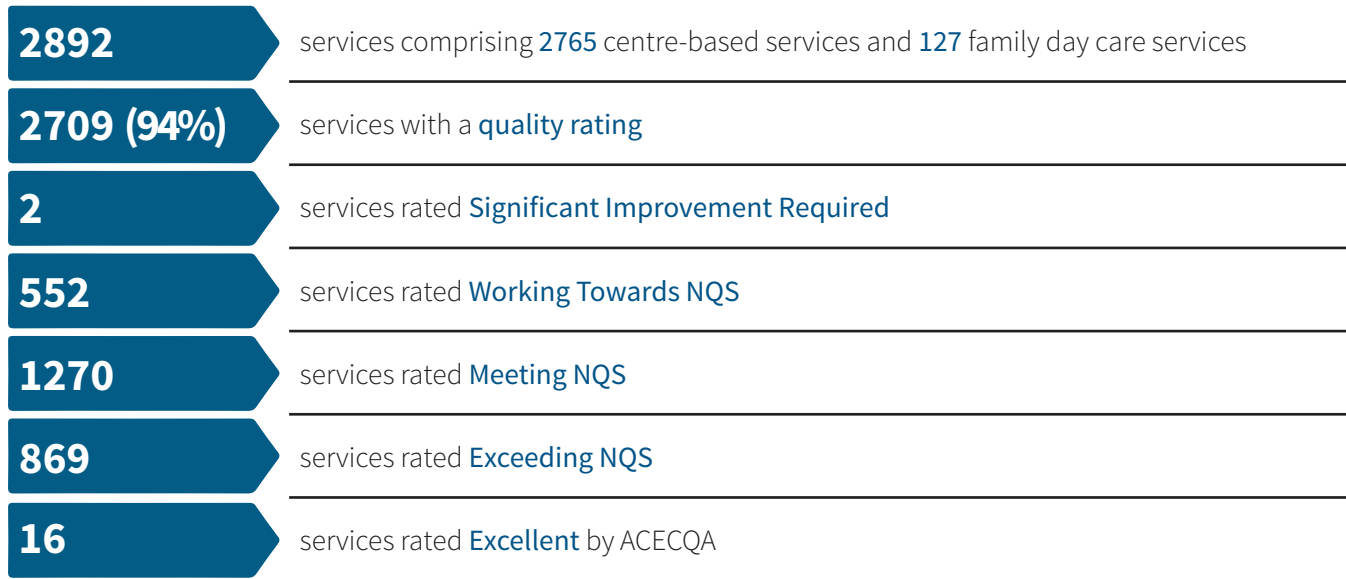
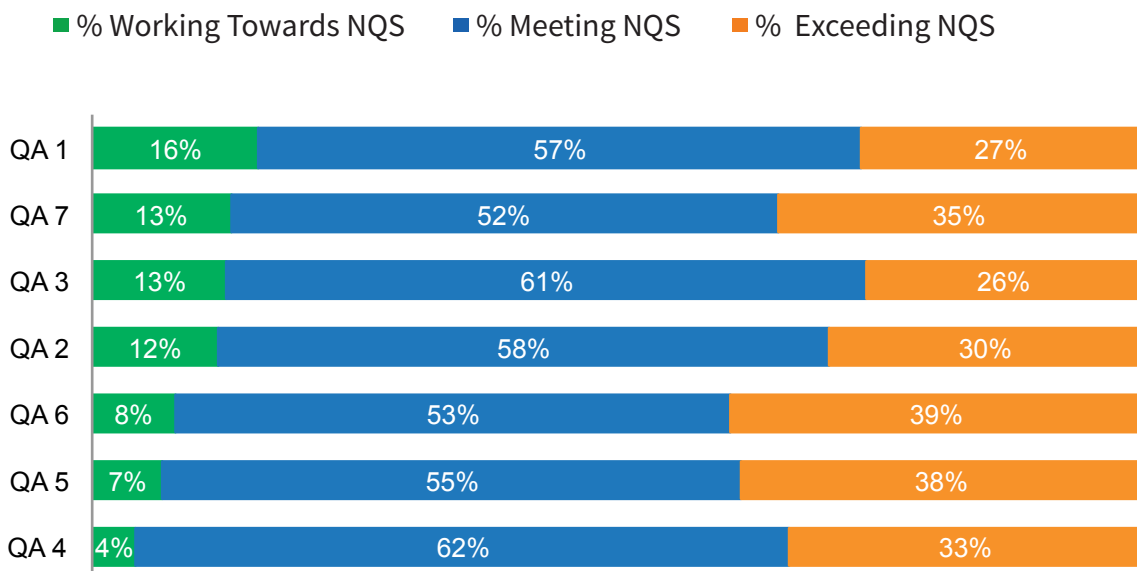


Figure 20 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.

**Figure 20: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

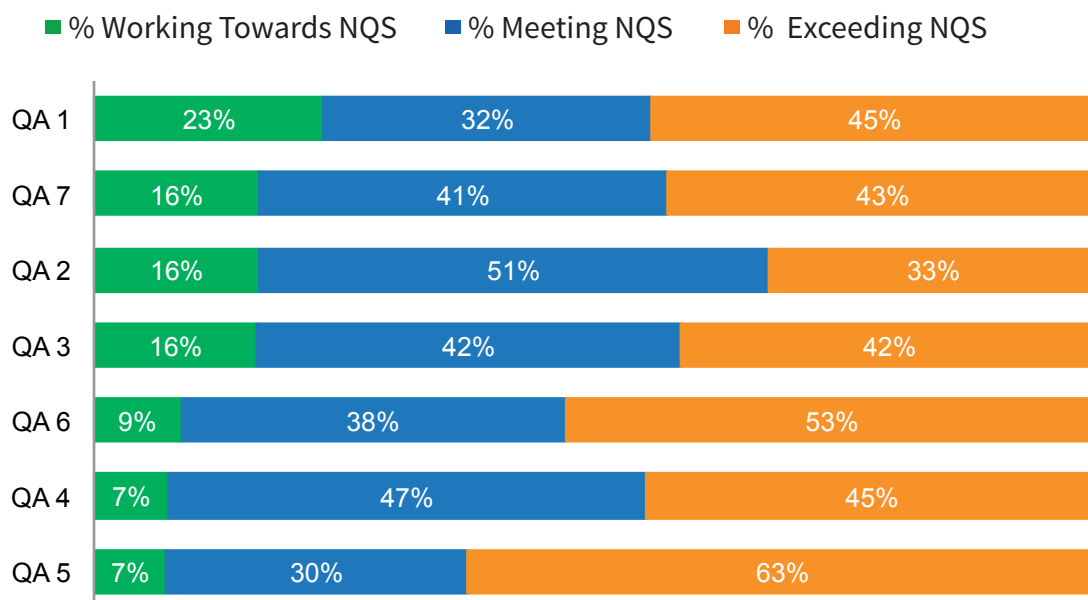
Department of Education and Training  
 Early Childhood Education and Care  
[www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood)

# South Australia summary

<b>1173</b>	services comprising <b>1144</b> centre-based services and <b>29</b> family day care services
<b>1007 (86%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>294</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>235</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>474</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>4</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

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.

**Figure 21: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

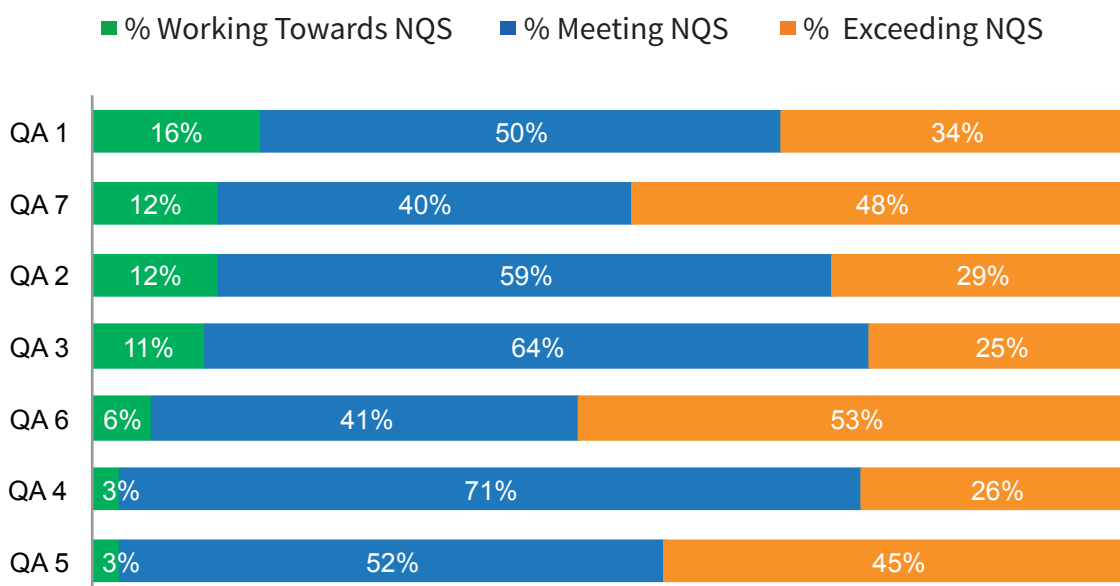
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards  
Board of South Australia  
[www.esb.sa.gov.au](http://www.esb.sa.gov.au)

# Tasmania summary

<b>236</b>	services comprising 222 centre-based services and 14 family day care services
<b>222 (94%)</b>	services with a quality rating
<b>48</b>	services rated Working Towards NQS
<b>88</b>	services rated Meeting NQS
<b>86</b>	services rated Exceeding NQS

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.

**Figure 22: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

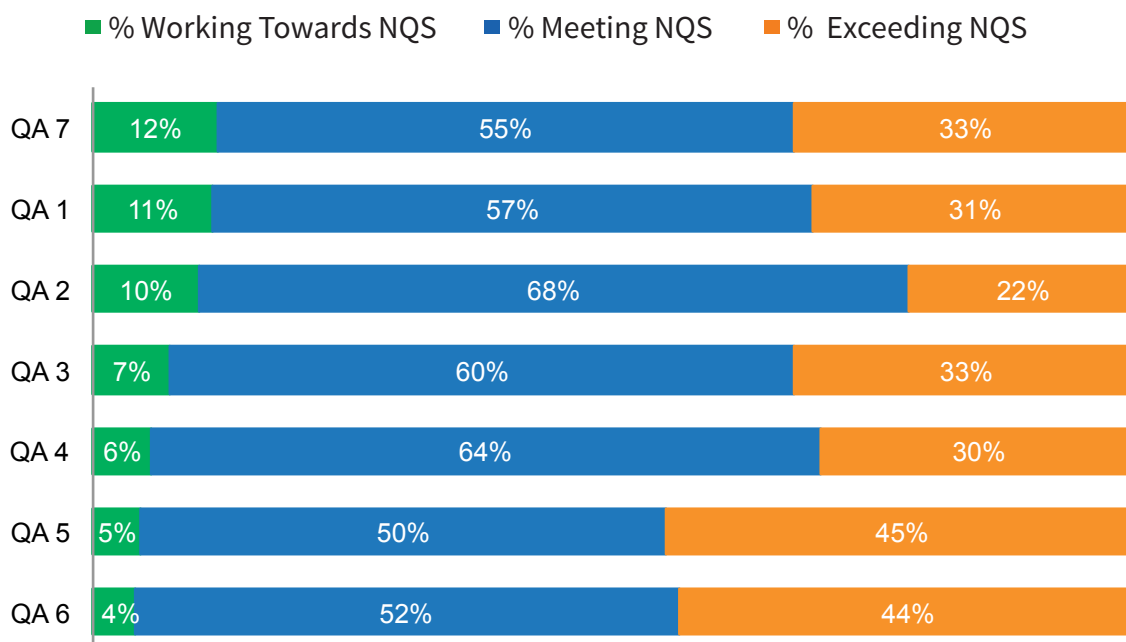
Department of Education  
 Education and Care Unit  
[www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au](http://www.educationandcare.tas.gov.au)

# Victoria summary

<b>4195</b>	services comprising <b>3846</b> centre-based services and <b>349</b> family day care services
<b>3853 (92%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>10</b>	services rated <b>Significant Improvement Required</b>
<b>642</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>1878</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>1315</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>8</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

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.

**Figure 23: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

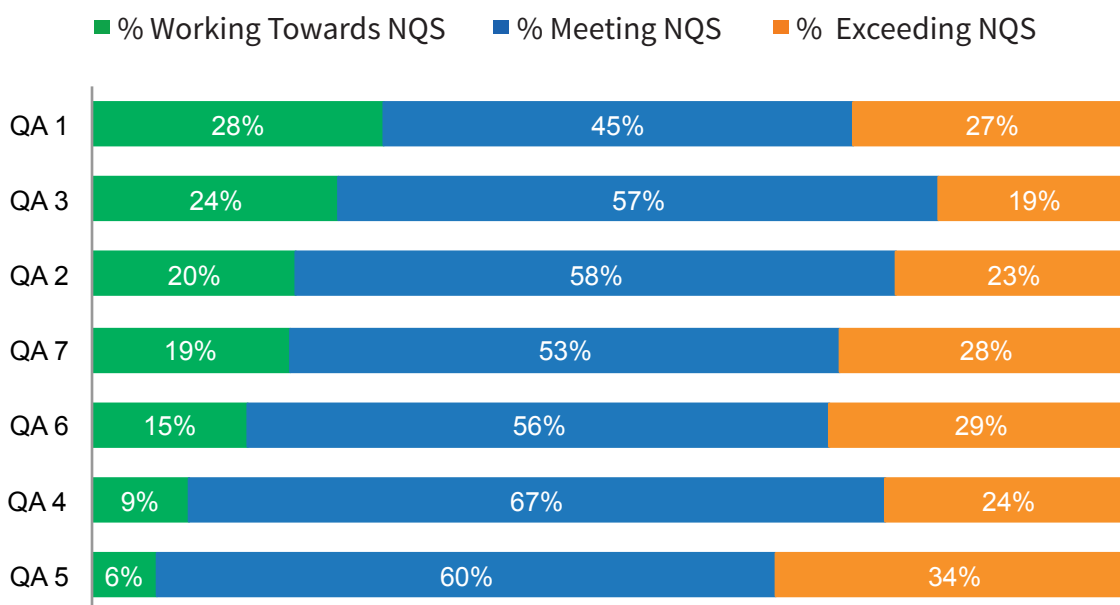
Department of Education and Training  
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation)

# Western Australia summary

<b>1162</b>	services comprising <b>1119</b> centre-based services and <b>43</b> family day care services
<b>1075 (93%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>384</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>408</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>282</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>1</b>	service rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

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.

**Figure 24: Quality area ratings**



## Contact details

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