

Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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Major milestone reached in Early Childhood Quality Reforms

The Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs today approved the release of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, which contribute towards the first national regulatory system for the early childhood education and care sector.

“The approval of the National Regulations is a major milestone and delivers on the commitment by all governments to reform the education and care sector in Australia,” said the Chair of the Ministerial Council, the Hon Martin Dixon MP.

The National Regulations are a part of the National Quality Framework for early childhood education, which comes into effect from January 1 2012.

“The National Quality Framework will promote greater consistency in early childhood education and care services across Australia by introducing nationally consistent educator-to-child ratios and educator qualification requirements.

As well as improved educator to child ratios, except in jurisdictions where these national ratios are already met or exceeded, the new quality rating system will provide families with more information on early childhood education and care services to help them choose those services that best meet their families’ needs,” Minister Dixon said.

Under the National Quality Framework the approval and monitoring of services and the quality assessment of services become the responsibility of state and territory Regulatory Authorities.

“The new arrangements will be of particular benefit to those providers that operate services across two or more states or territories.

“It means providers can be nationally recognised and can apply for Service Approvals in any Australian state or territory while adhering to the same quality standards across their services,” Minister Dixon said.

Comprehensive consultations with the sector about the National Quality Framework including the National Law and National Regulations were held throughout 2010 and 2011.

Minister Dixon said the development of the National Quality Framework including the National Regulations had been a collaborative effort between all governments and the education and care sector to implement a robust quality system.

The National Quality Framework commences on 1 January 2012 and will cover most long day care, family day care, outside school hours care and preschool services.

For more information about the National Quality Framework visit: <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/about/>

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