



# NQF Snapshot

## Q4 2016



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority™

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



# Table of contents



Overview	3
Snapshot highlights	4
Profile of the sector	5
Progress of assessment and rating	9
Quality improvement	10
Overall quality ratings of services	12
Overall quality ratings by management type	13
Overall quality ratings by service and service sub-type	14
Quality area ratings	15
Standard level ratings	15
Element level results	16
Services rated Working Towards NQS	17
Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by SEIFA	18
Overall quality ratings of centre-based services by remoteness classification	18
Jurisdiction summaries	19

# Overview

NQF Snapshot Q4 2016 is ACECQA's 16th 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 January 2017 for the period ending 31 December 2016.

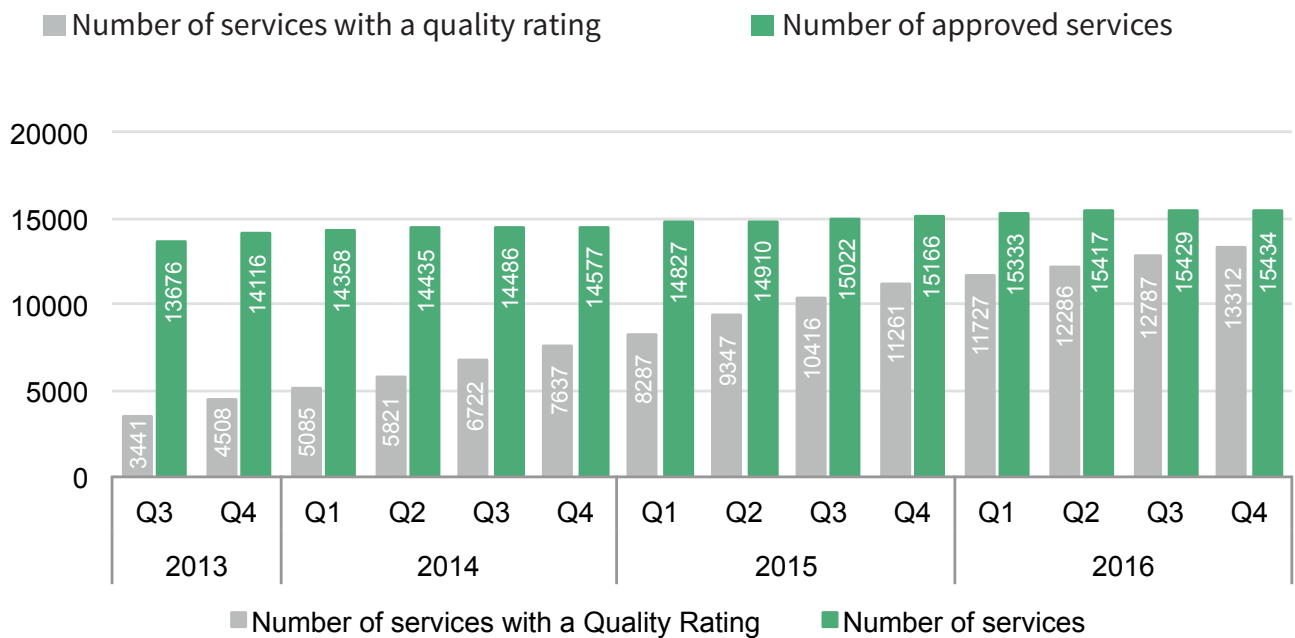
Due to rounding, individual percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%.



# Snapshot highlights

<b>15 434</b>	children's education and care services operating across Australia
<b>13 312 (86%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>9635 (72%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b> are <b>Meeting or above</b> the National Quality Standard
<b>7429</b>	<b>approved providers</b> operating services
<b>6174 (83%)</b>	approved providers operating <b>only one</b> children's education and care service
<b>53</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA <sup>1</sup>
<b>1705</b>	<b>quality rating reassessments</b> completed
<b>62%</b>	reassessed services improved overall <b>quality rating</b>

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

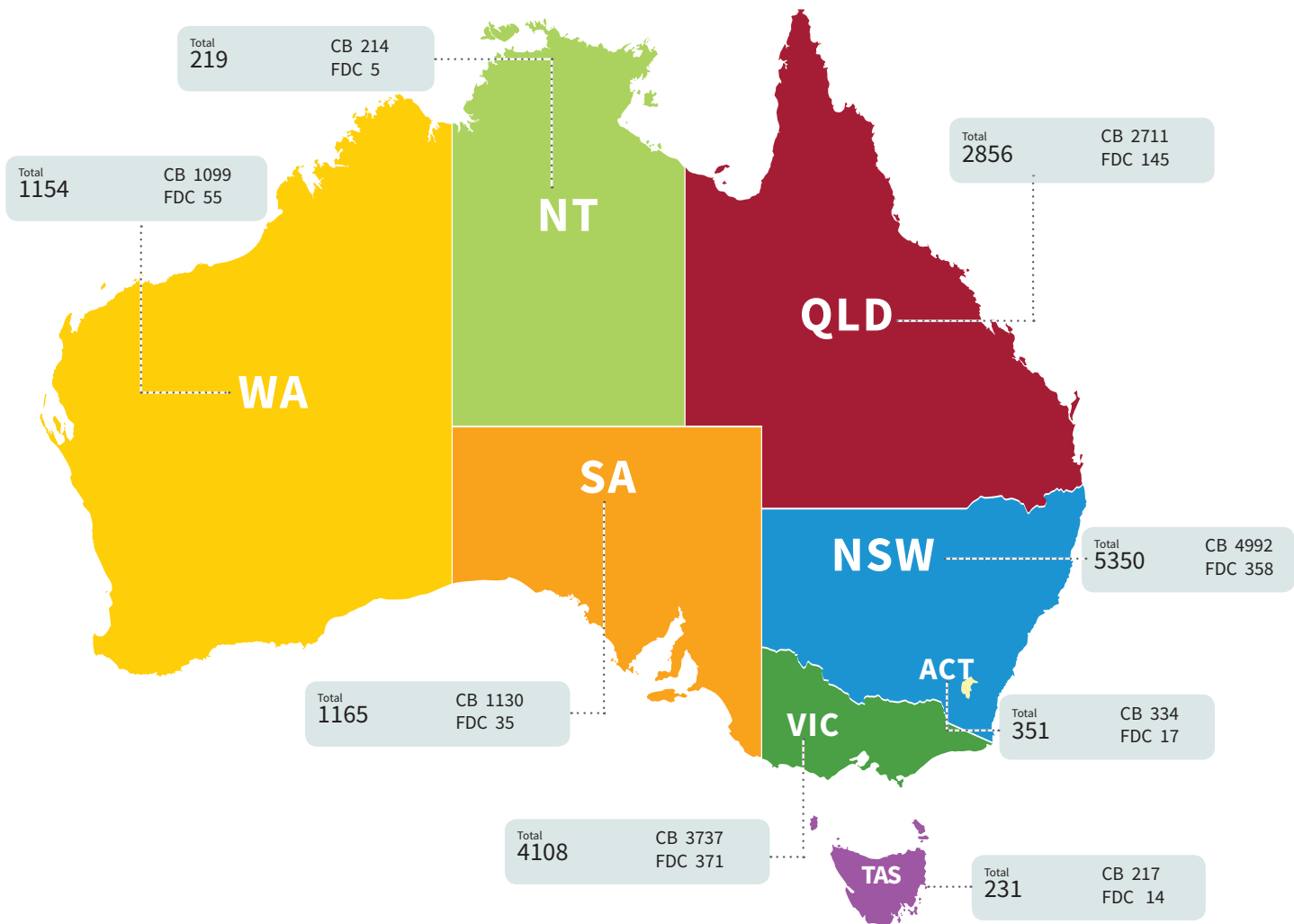


<sup>1</sup> The Excellent rating is awarded for a period of three years. Unless a reapplication for the Excellent rating is received, a service's rating will revert back to Exceeding NQS after this three year period. The Snapshot includes the current number of Excellent rated services.



# 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>14 434 (94%)</b></p> <p>2% Increase on Q4 2015</p>	<p>Total Family day care (FDC) <sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>1000 (6%)</b></p> <p>7% Decrease on Q4 2015</p>	<p>Total</p> <p><b>15 434</b></p> <p>2% Increase on Q4 2015</p>
--	---	---

<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>

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

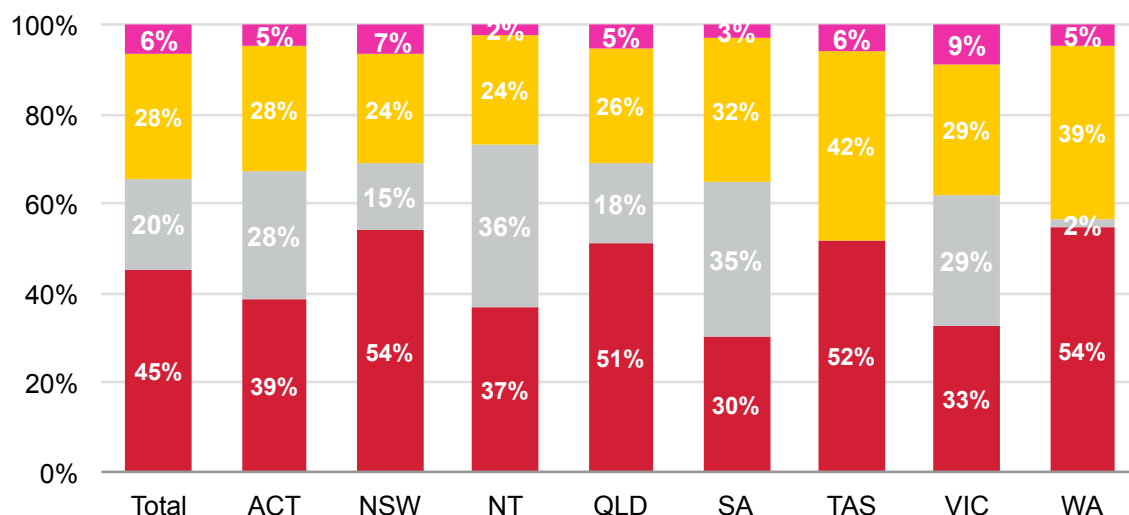


Table 1: Number of services by service sub-type and jurisdiction

	Family day care	Long day care	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Outside school hours care	Other	Total
ACT	17	136	99	99	0	351
NSW	358	2890	797	1304	1	5350
NT	5	80	79	53	2	219
QLD	145	1463	505	741	2	2856
SA	35	351	404	375	0	1165
TAS	14	120	0	97	0	231
VIC	371	1343	1203	1191	0	4108
WA	55	626	24	446	3	1154
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>7009</b>	<b>3111</b>	<b>4306</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15 434</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 'Nature of Care Other' excluded for graphical purposes.

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

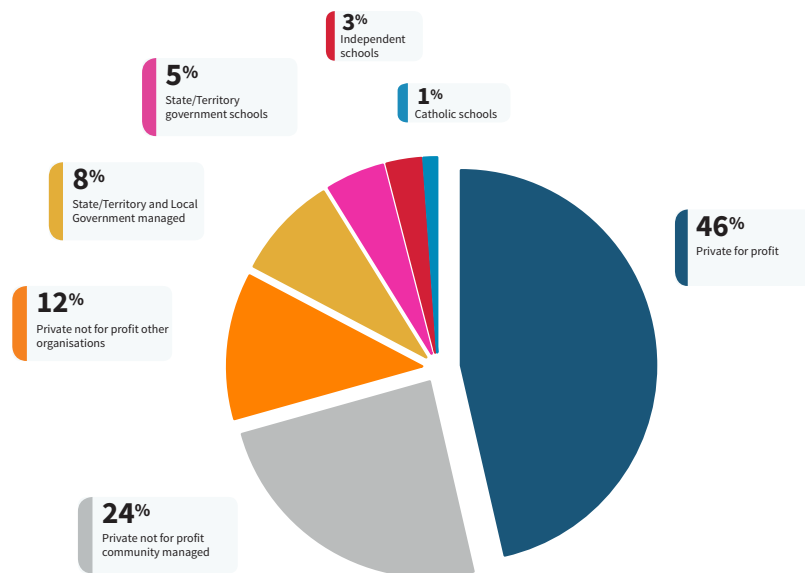


Table 2: Number and proportion of approved services by provider management type

Provider management type	Number of services	Proportion of services
Private for profit	7150	46%
Private not for profit community managed	3737	24%
Private not for profit other organisations	1859	12%
State/Territory and Local Government managed	1303	8%
State/Territory government schools	742	5%
Independent schools	445	3%
Catholic schools	174	1%
Not stated/Other	24	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15 434</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

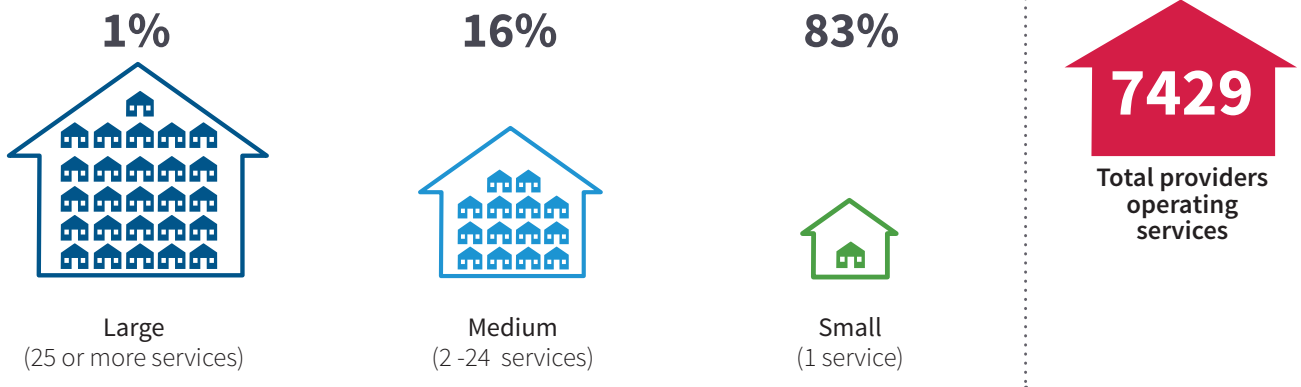


Figure 5 shows that 83% of approved providers operate a single service while 1% of approved providers operate 25 or more services.

Figure 6: Proportion of approved services by provider size

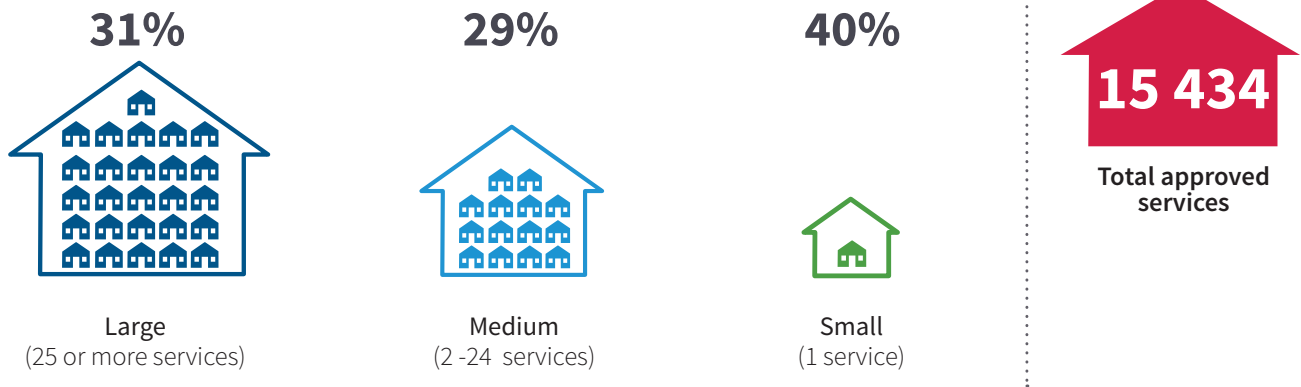


Figure 6 shows that 40% of approved services are operated by small approved providers while 31% of approved services are operated by large approved providers.



# 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	351	2%	304	87%
NSW	5350	35%	4502	84%
NT	219	1%	204	93%
QLD	2856	19%	2616	92%
SA	1165	8%	791	68%
TAS	231	1%	220	95%
VIC	4108	27%	3792	92%
WA	1154	7%	883	77%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15 434</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13 312</b>	<b>86%</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	4	117	94	89	0	304
NSW	140	2641	761	960	0	4502
NT	4	77	75	46	2	204
QLD	89	1366	491	669	1	2616
SA	6	261	244	280	0	791
TAS	12	116	0	92	0	220
VIC	278	1246	1173	1095	0	3792
WA	29	553	12	289	0	883
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>6377</b>	<b>2850</b>	<b>3520</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13 312</b>

# Quality improvement

Of the 1705 reassessments undertaken, 62% 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	1053	62%
Unchanged	579	34%
Lower	73	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1705</b>	<b>100%</b>

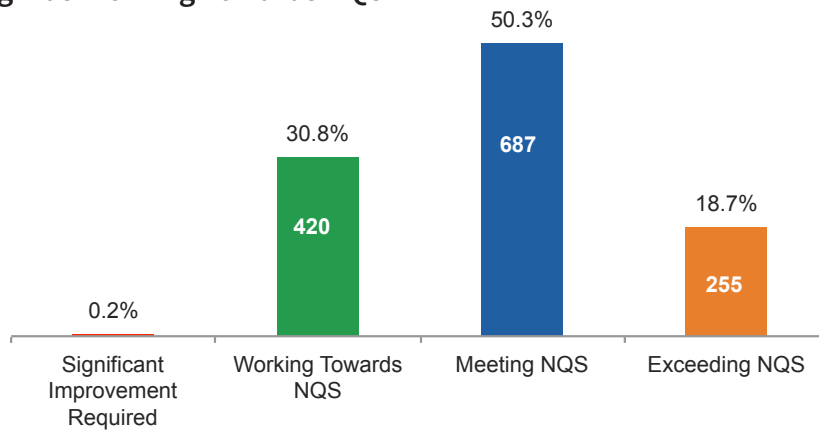
**Table 6: Number of reassessments by overall quality rating**

Table 6 presents a service's previous overall rating alongside its reassessed overall rating. For example, 687 of the services previously rated Working Towards NQS improved their rating to Meeting NQS after reassessment. While 420 services previously rated Working Towards NQS received the same rating again after reassessment.

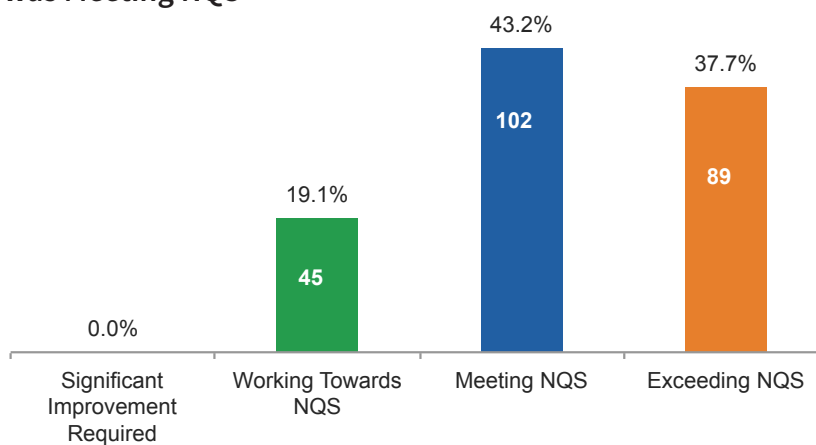
		Reassessed rating				Total
		Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	
Previous rating	Significant Improvement Required	6	18	4	0	28
	Working Towards NQS	3	420	687	255	1365
	Meeting NQS	0	45	102	89	236
	Exceeding NQS	0	12	13	51	76
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>1705</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**

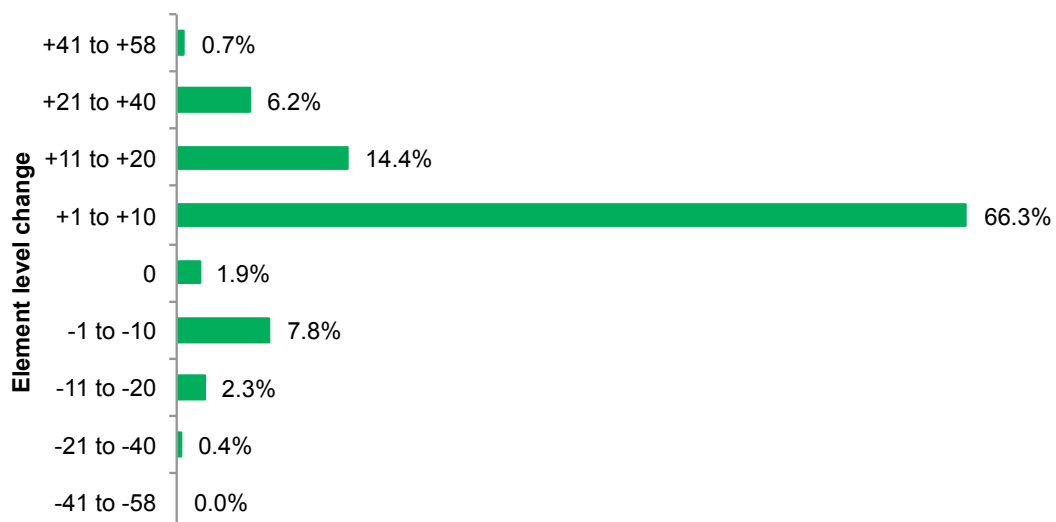


**Figure 8: Overall quality rating changes for services that have been reassessed where previous rating was Meeting NQS**



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

Figure 9 looks at the 1365 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'. 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. The figure only includes services previously rated Working Towards NQS because services rated higher than this already met all 58 elements of the NQS.



# 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.

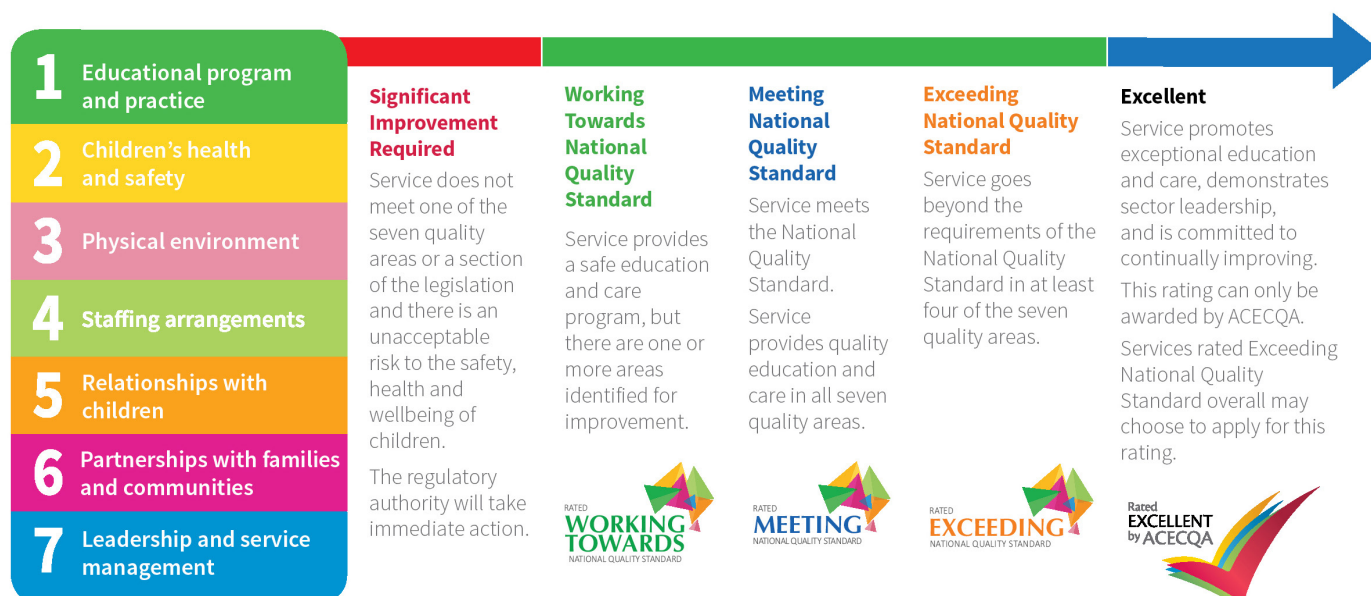


Table 7: Overall quality rating results by jurisdiction

	Significant Improvement Required	Working Towards NQS	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS	Excellent rated	TOTAL
ACT	1	108 (36%)	64 (21%)	124 (41%)	7	304
NSW	16	1480 (33%)	1820 (40%)	1173 (26%)	13	4502
NT	0	100 (49%)	72 (35%)	30 (15%)	2	204
QLD	1	620 (24%)	1163 (44%)	816 (31%)	16	2616
SA	0	253 (32%)	185 (23%)	348 (44%)	5	791
TAS	0	56 (25%)	87 (40%)	77 (35%)	0	220
VIC	15	689 (18%)	1809 (48%)	1271 (34%)	8	3792
WA	0	338 (38%)	337 (38%)	206 (23%)	2	883
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3644 (27%)</b>	<b>5537 (42%)</b>	<b>4045 (30%)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13 312</b>

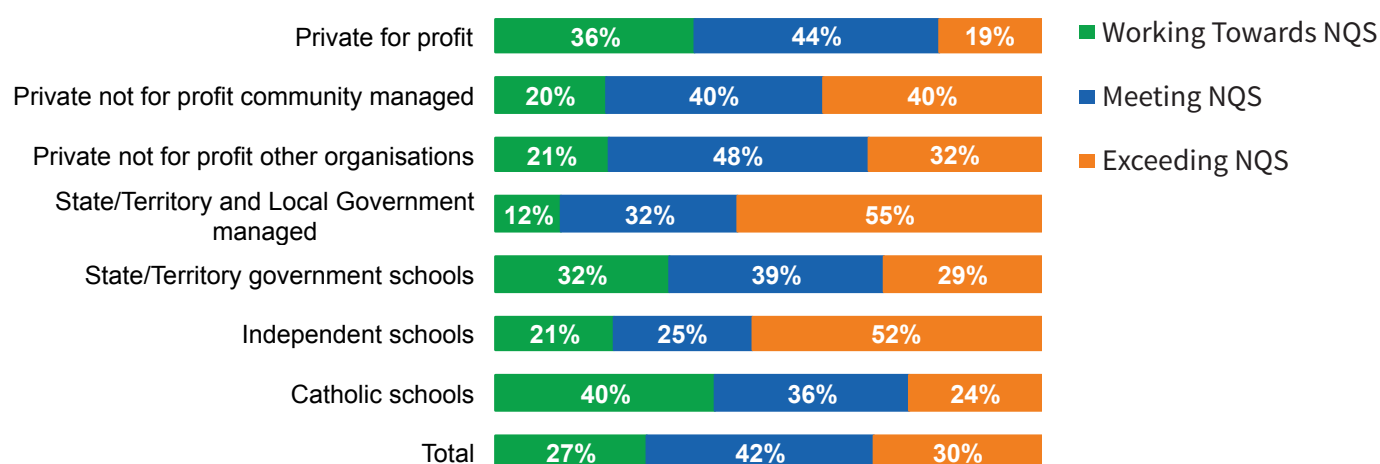


# Overall quality ratings by provider management type

Figure 10 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 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	31	2104	2562	1086	10	5793
Private not for profit community managed	1	686	1379	1372	25	3463
Private not for profit other organisations	1	353	819	545	3	1721
State/Territory and Local Government managed	0	132	354	608	3	1097
State/Territory government schools	0	217	270	197	2	686
Independent schools	0	81	94	199	9	383
Catholic schools	0	60	53	36	0	149
Not Stated/Other	0	11	6	2	1	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3644</b>	<b>5537</b>	<b>4045</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13 312</b>

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

# Overall quality ratings by service and service sub-type

Figure 11: Quality ratings by quality rating level and service type

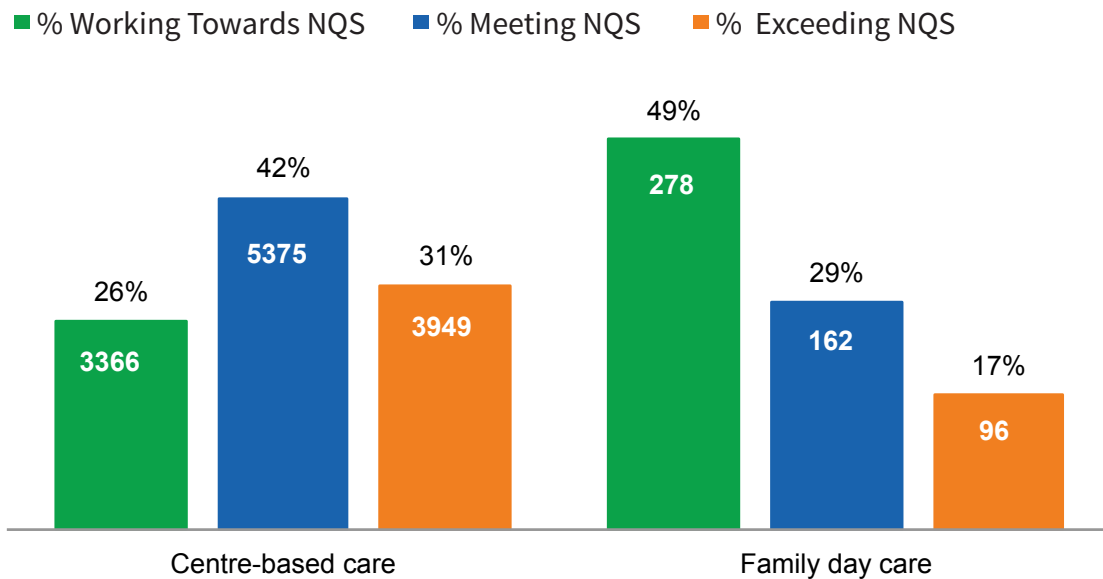
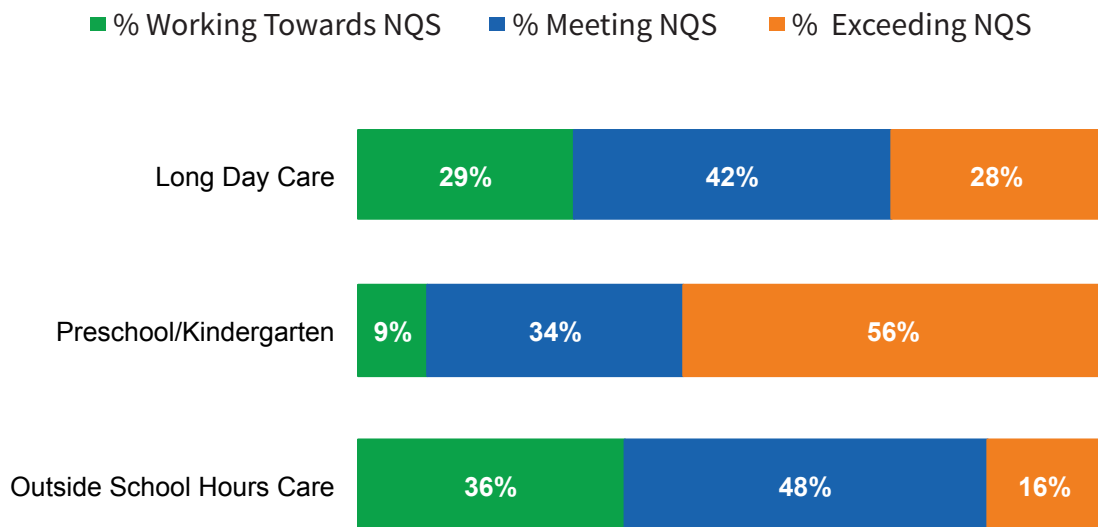


Figure 12: Quality ratings by centre-based service sub-type

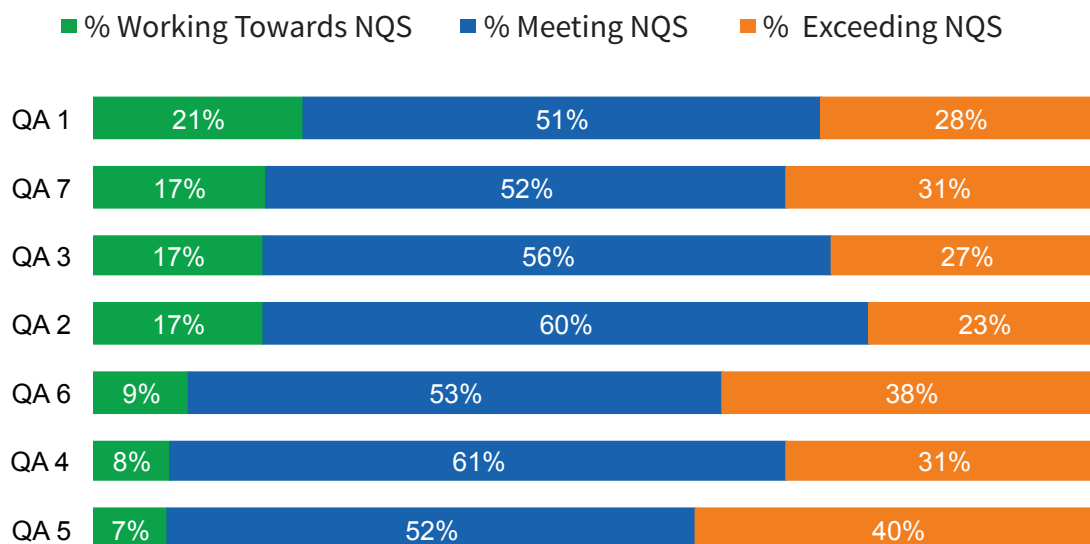


The interactive online version of the Snapshot includes additional analysis of service sub-type and provider management type and is available on the ACECQA website.

# Quality area ratings

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

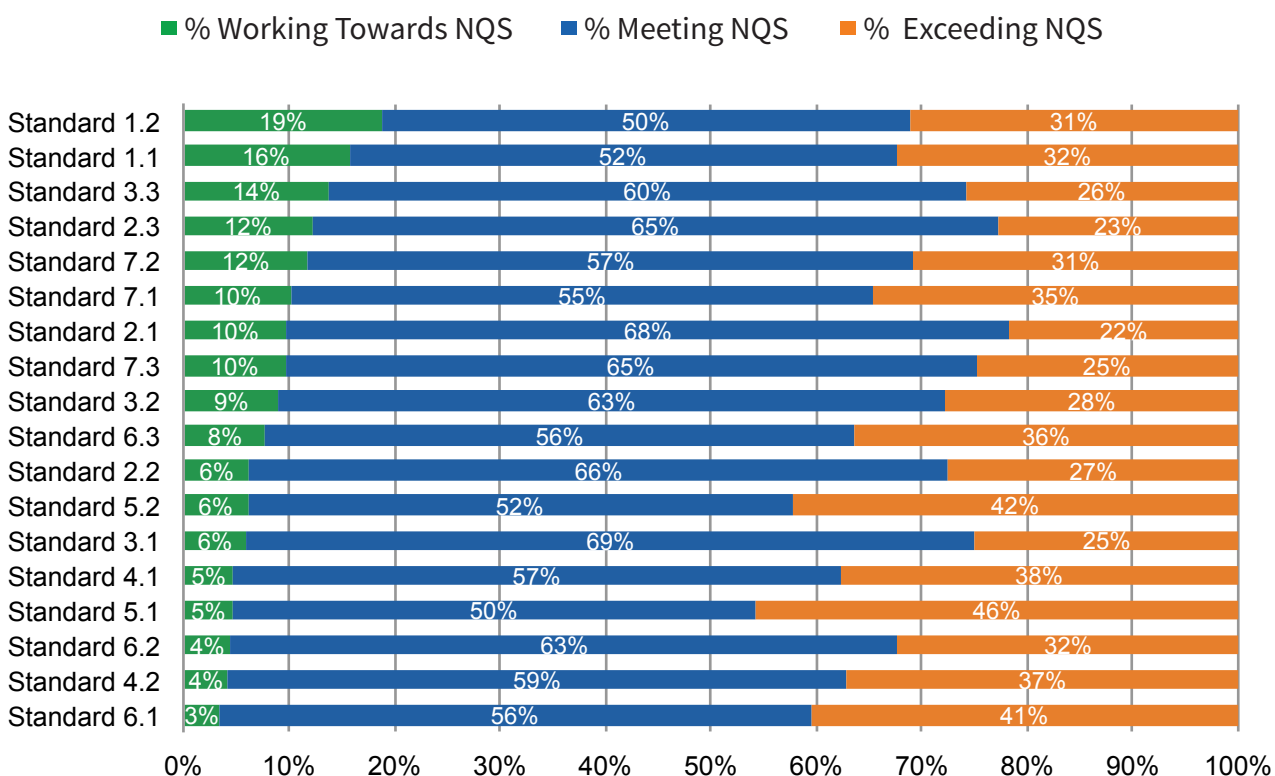
Figure 13 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



# 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**

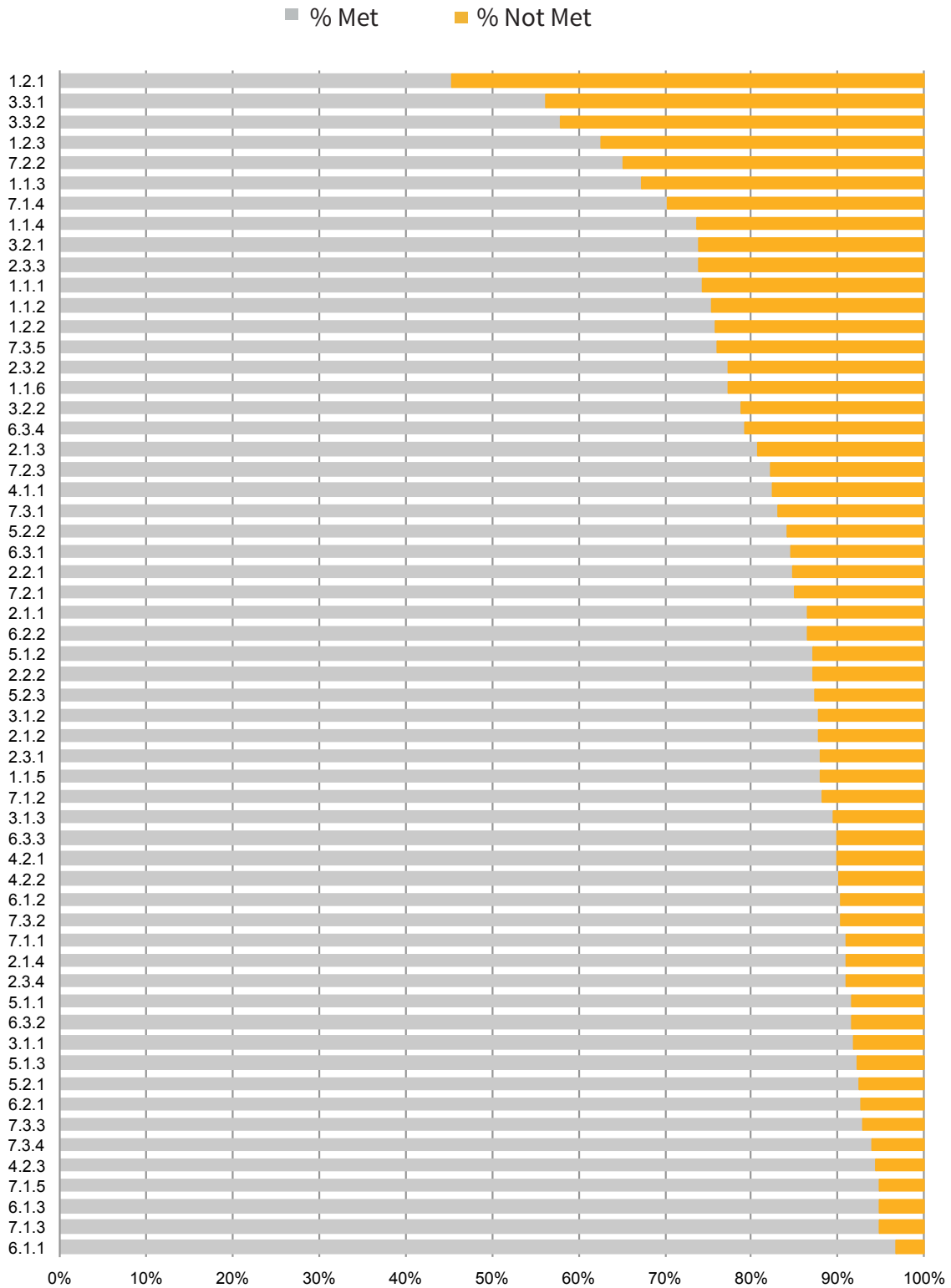


# Element level results

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 3677 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**

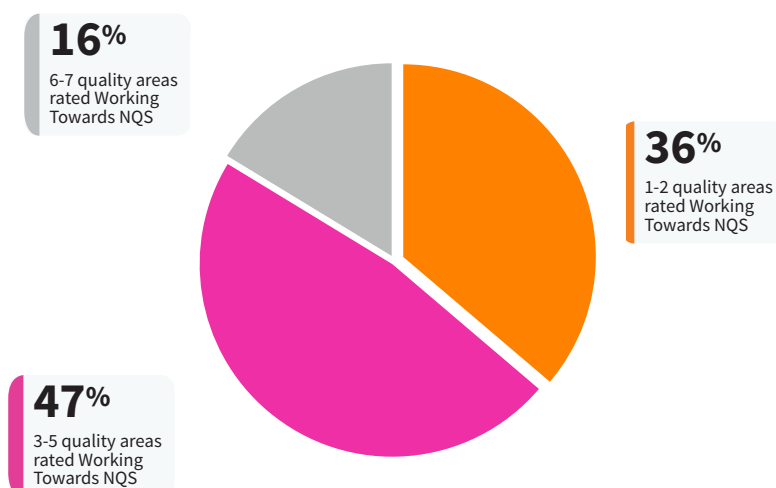




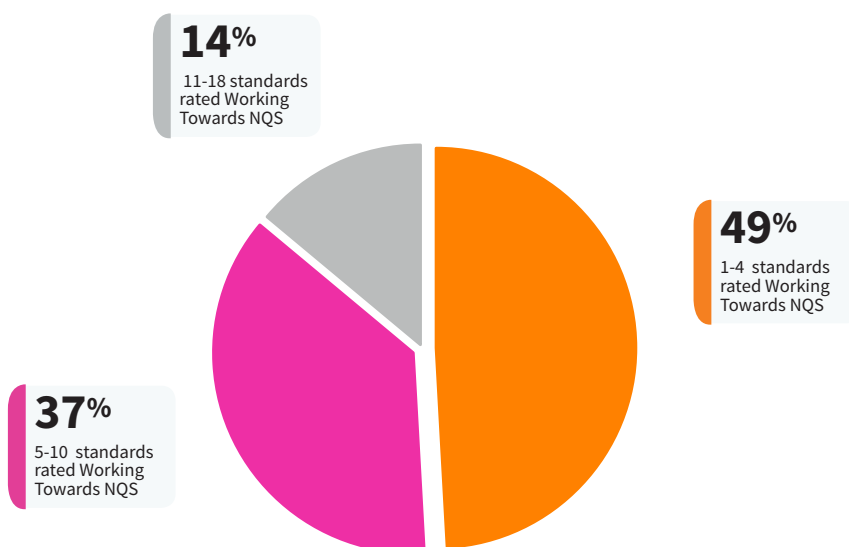
# Services rated Working Towards NQS

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



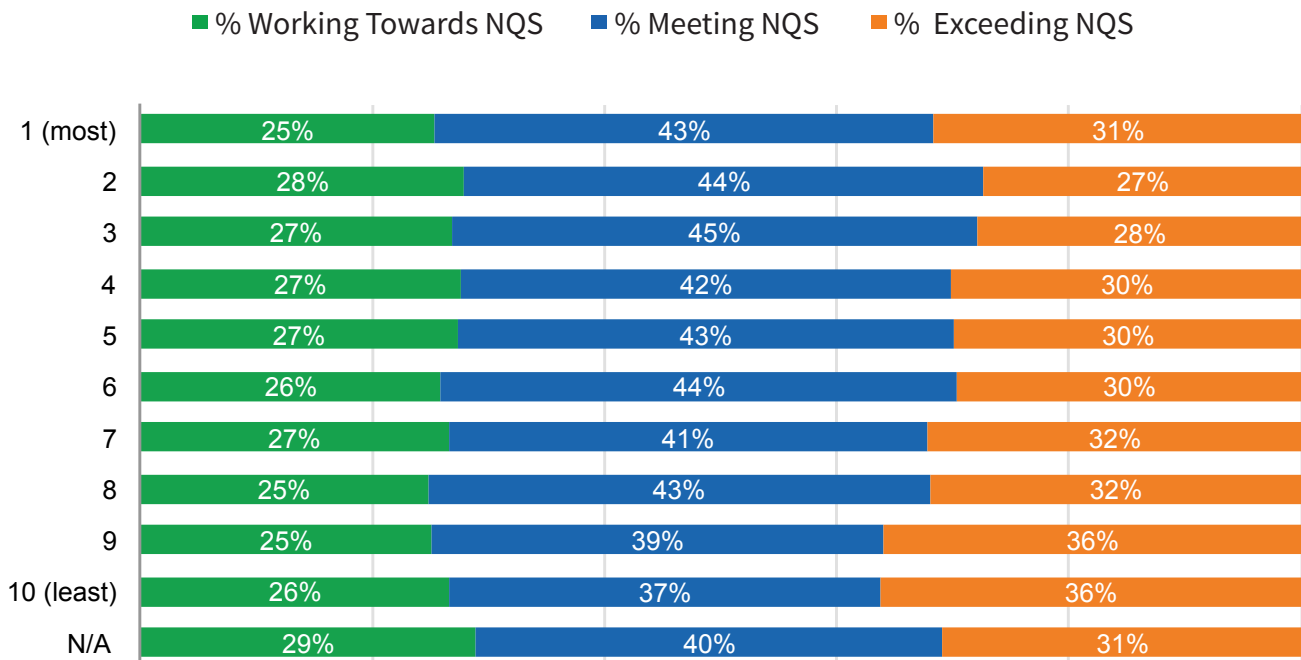
**Figure 17: Proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS by number of standards rated Working Towards**



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

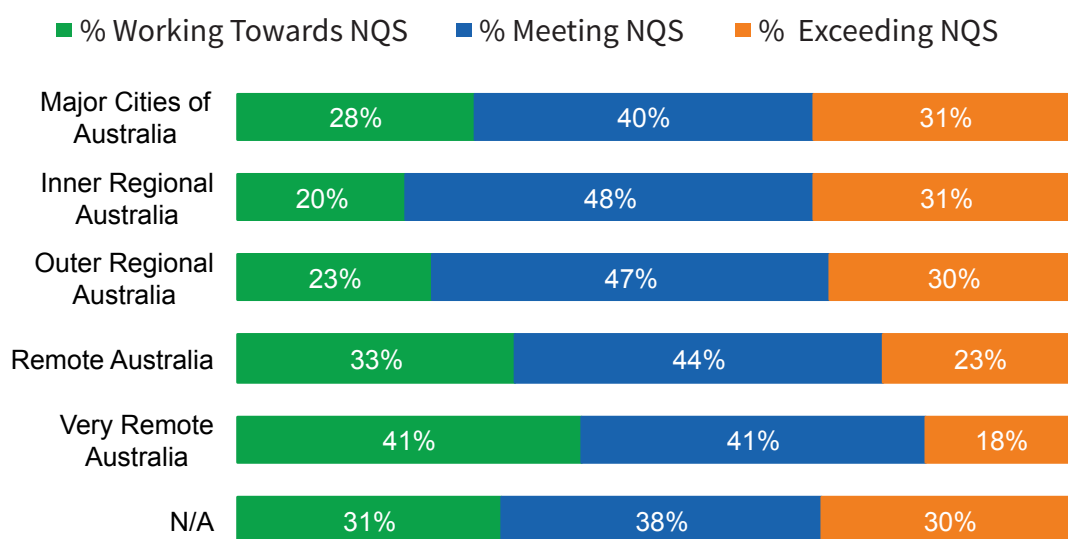
SEIFA is a product that ranks areas according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on census data. Variables used cover a number of areas including household income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other indicators of advantage and disadvantage.

Figure 18: Quality ratings by SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage



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

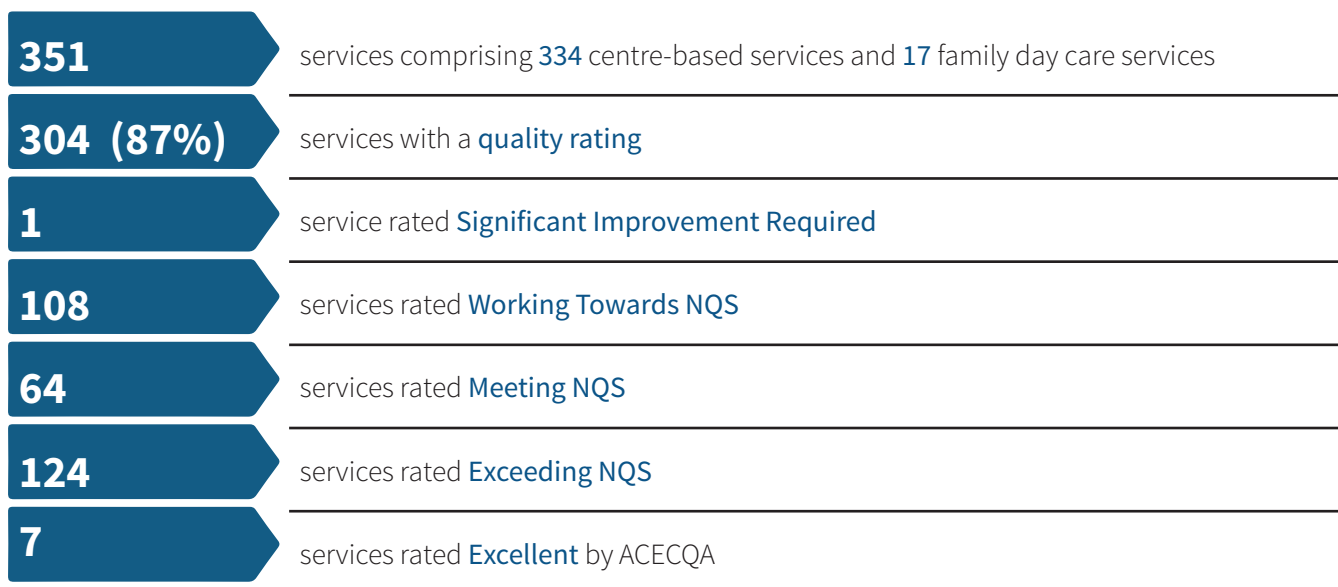
Figure 19: Quality ratings by remoteness classification



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

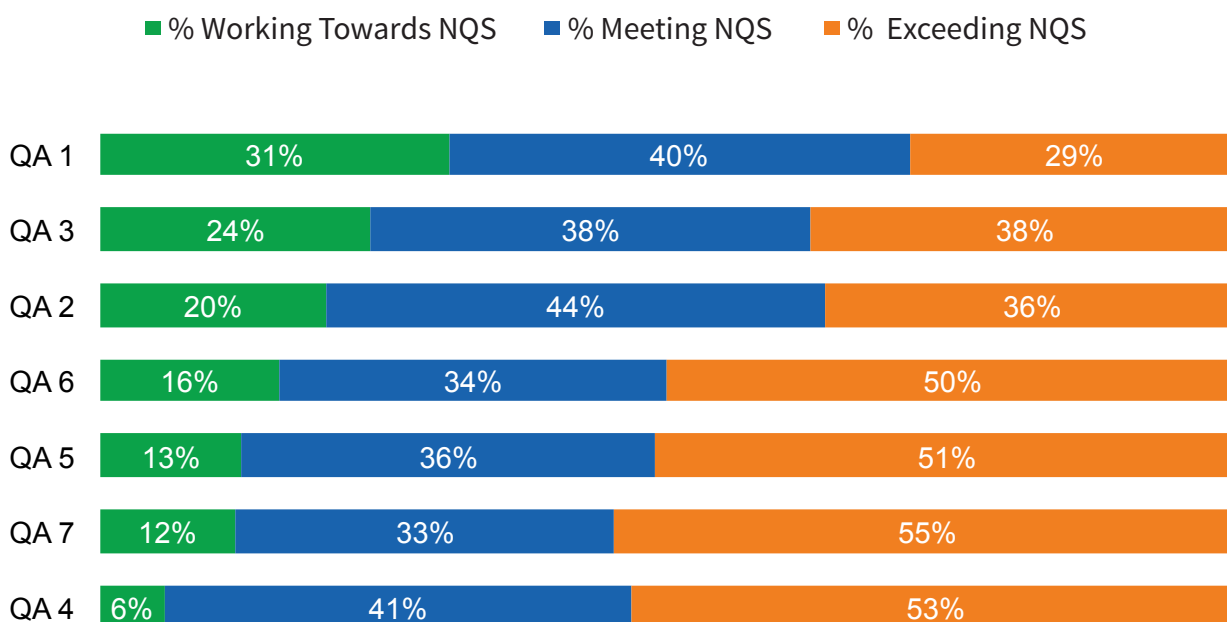
<sup>2</sup> FDC services are excluded from remoteness classification because their approval is not specific to one location. The N/A includes 101 centre-based services with an address that is unable to be tagged with an ARIA classification.

# Australian Capital Territory summary



**Figure 20: Australian Capital Territory services with a quality rating by quality area**

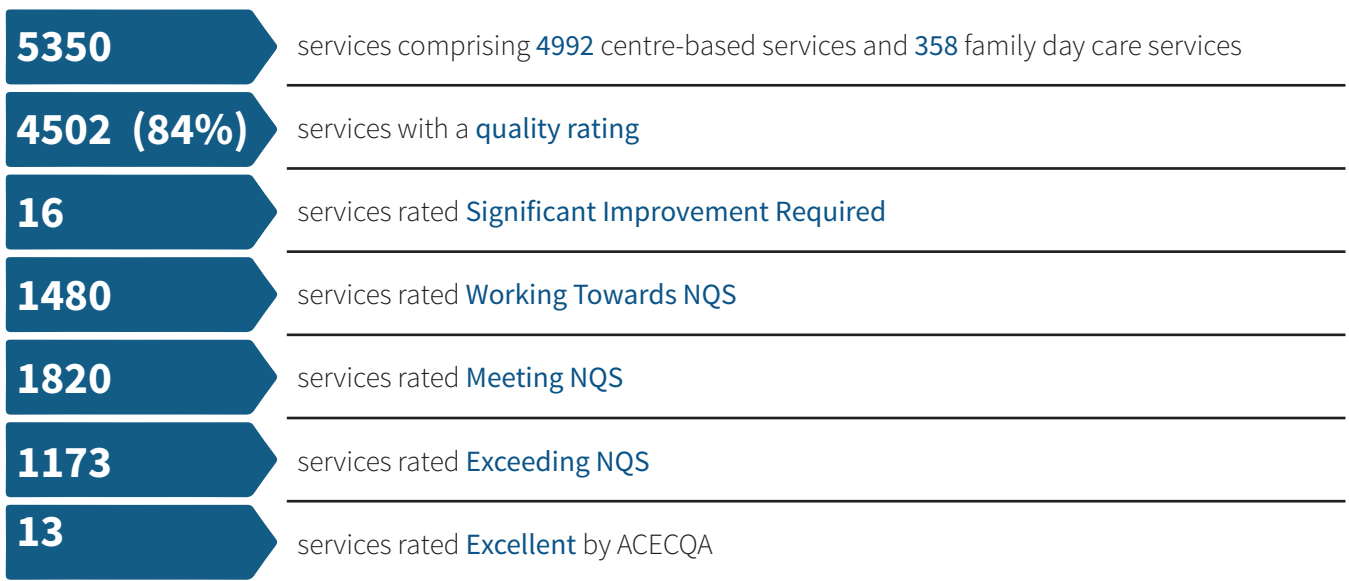
Figure 20 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



## Contact details

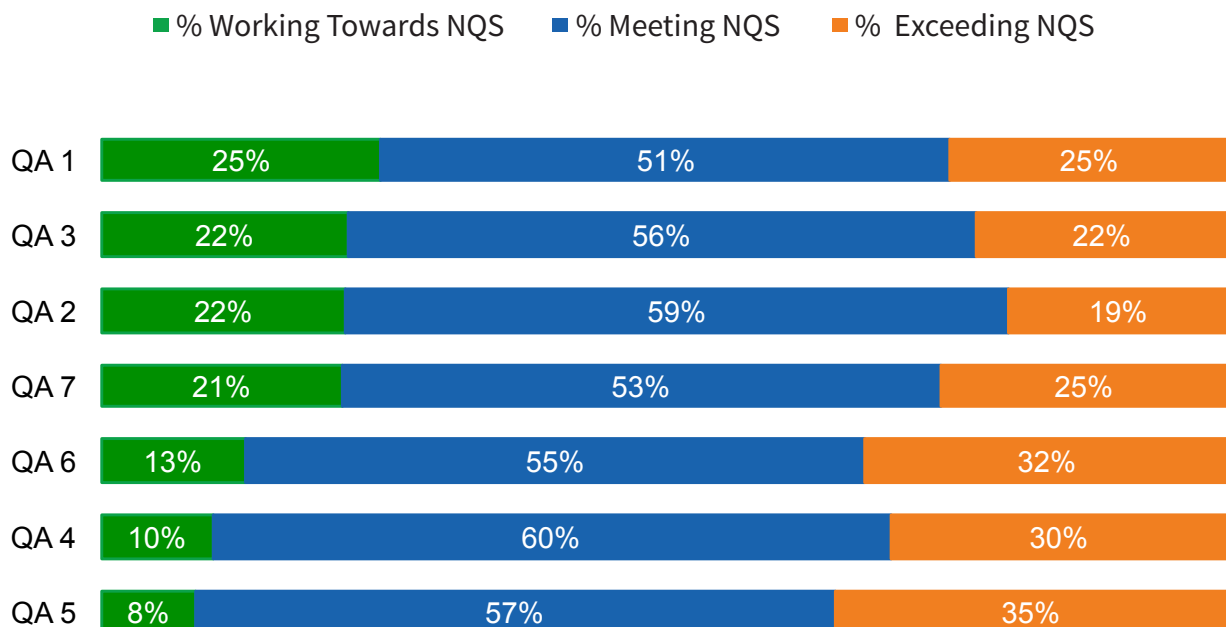
Education and Training Directorate  
 Children's Governance and Assurance  
[www.det.act.gov.au](http://www.det.act.gov.au)

# New South Wales summary



**Figure 21: New South Wales 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.

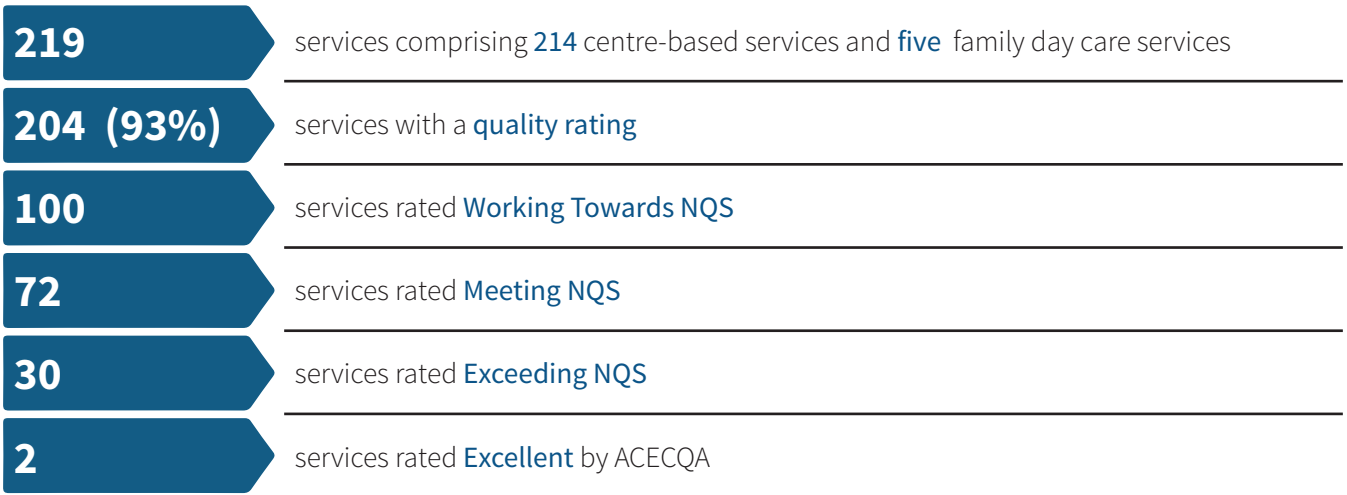


## Contact details

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

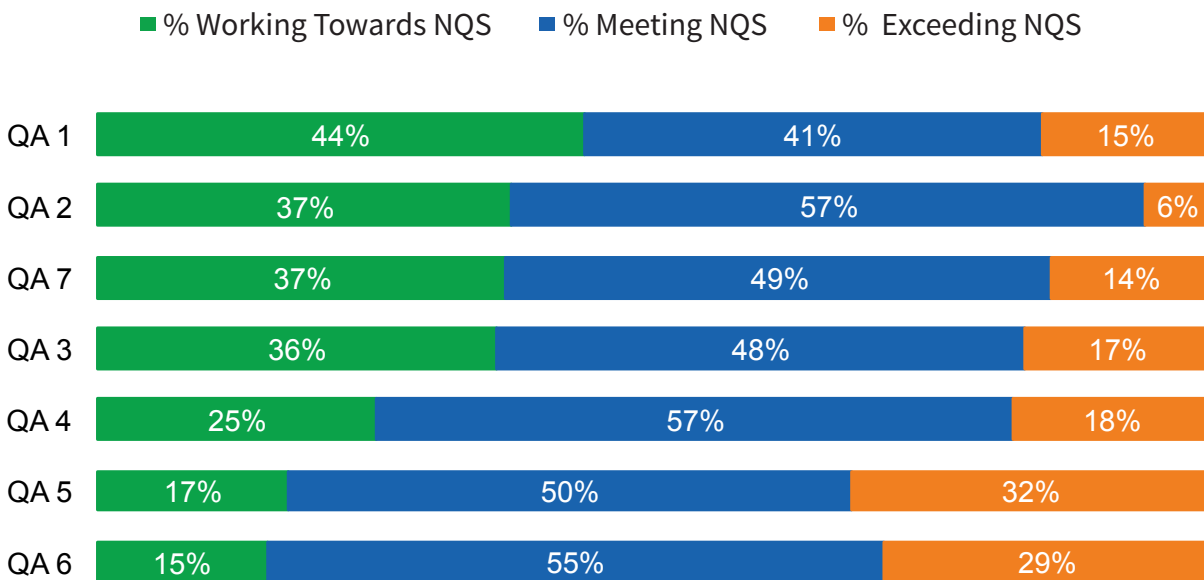


# Northern Territory summary



**Figure 22: Northern Territory 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

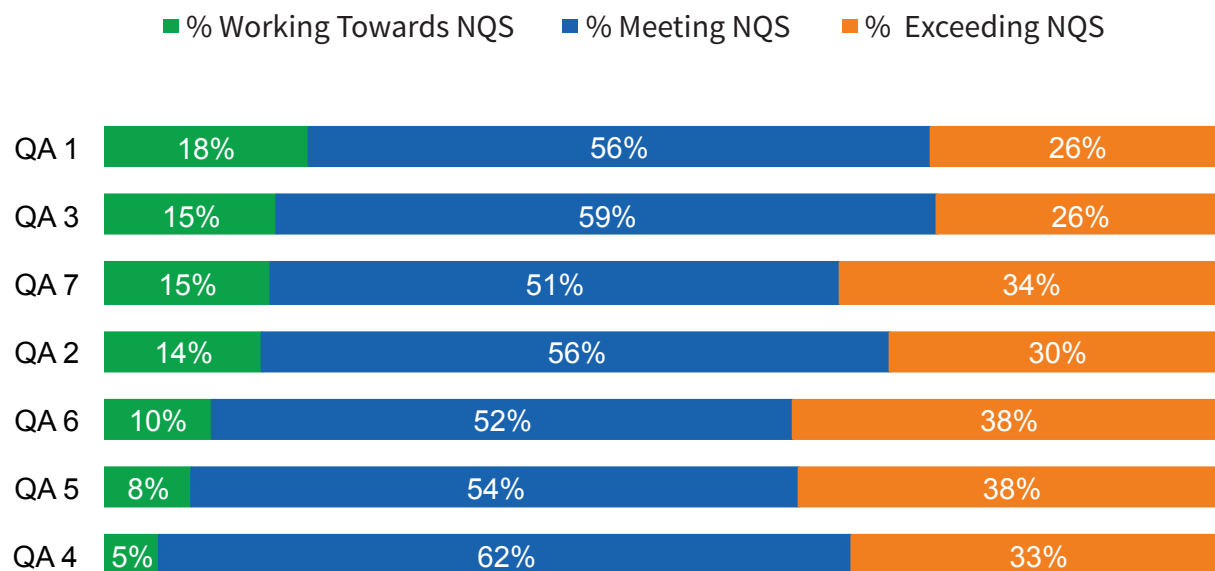
Department of Education  
Quality Education and Care NT  
[www.education.nt.gov.au](http://www.education.nt.gov.au)

# Queensland summary



**Figure 23: Queensland 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

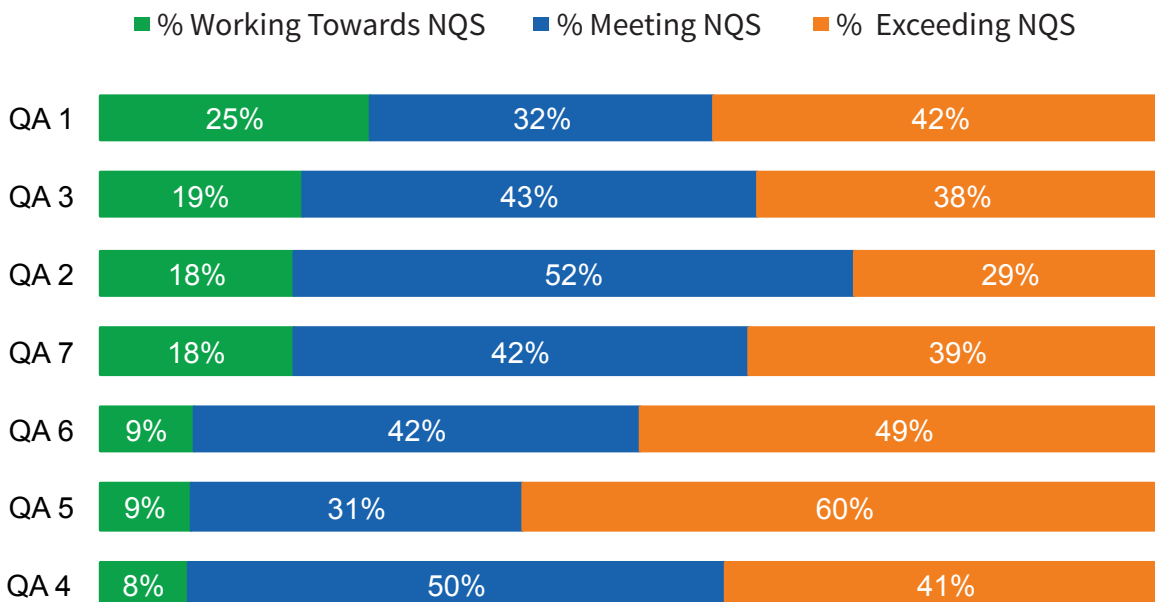
Department of Education and Training  
 Early Childhood Education and Care  
[www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.dete.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood)

# South Australia summary

<b>1165</b>	services comprising <b>1130</b> centre-based services and <b>35</b> family day care services
<b>791 (68%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>253</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>185</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>348</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>
<b>5</b>	services rated <b>Excellent</b> by ACECQA

**Figure 24: South Australian 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

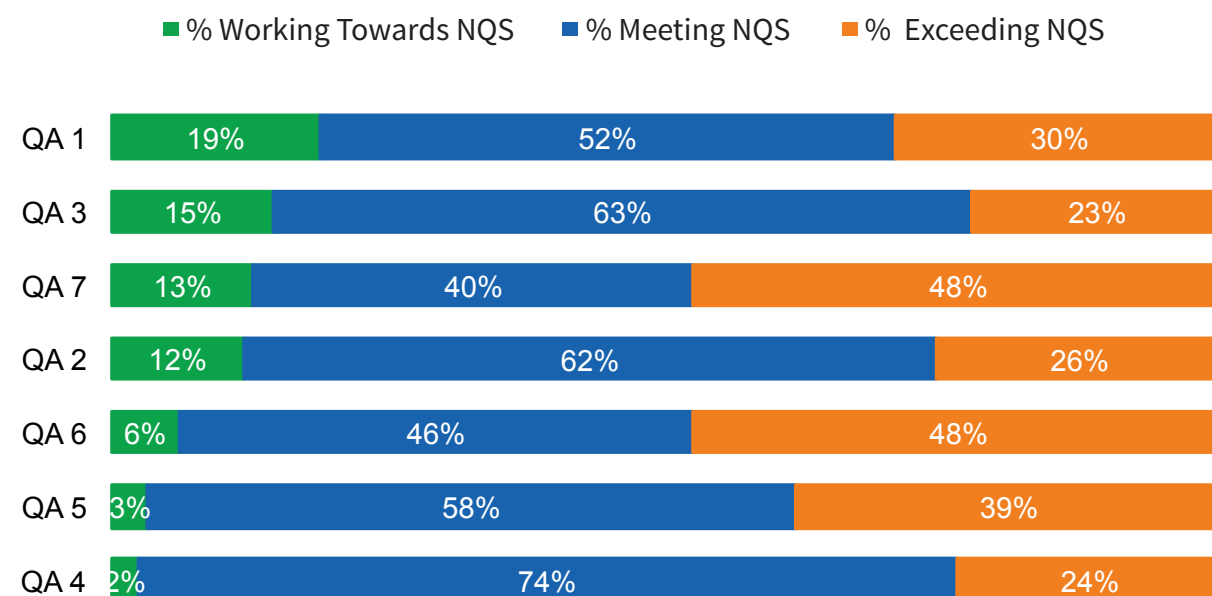
Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards  
Board of South Australia  
[www.eecrsb.sa.gov.au](http://www.eecrsb.sa.gov.au)

# Tasmania summary

<b>231</b>	services comprising <b>217</b> centre-based services and <b>14</b> family day care services
<b>220 (95%)</b>	services with a <b>quality rating</b>
<b>56</b>	services rated <b>Working Towards NQS</b>
<b>87</b>	services rated <b>Meeting NQS</b>
<b>77</b>	services rated <b>Exceeding NQS</b>

**Figure 25: Tasmanian services with a quality rating by quality area**

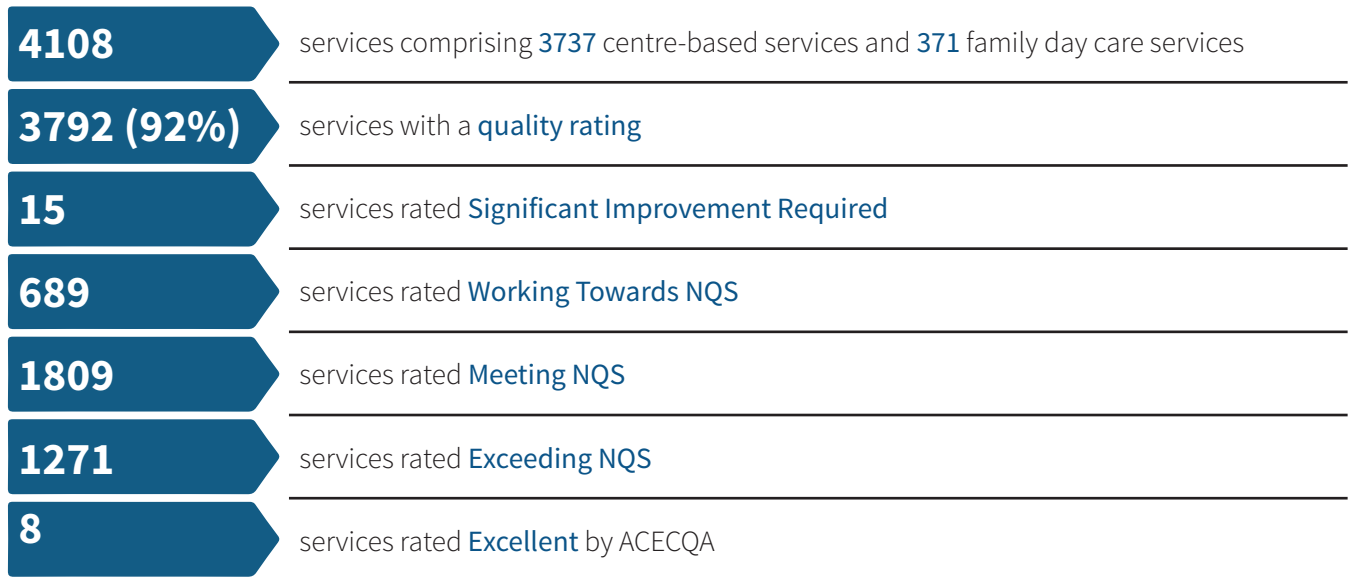
Figure 25 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



## Contact details

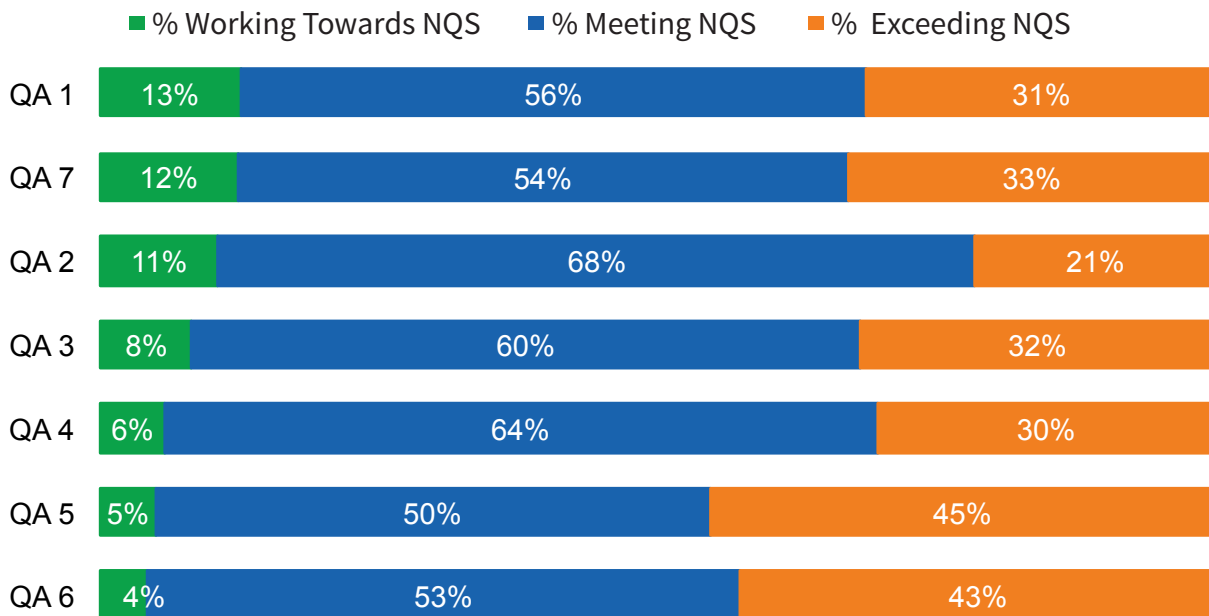
Department of Education  
 Education and Care Unit  
[www.education.tas.gov.au](http://www.education.tas.gov.au)

# Victoria summary



**Figure 26: Victorian services with a quality rating by quality area**

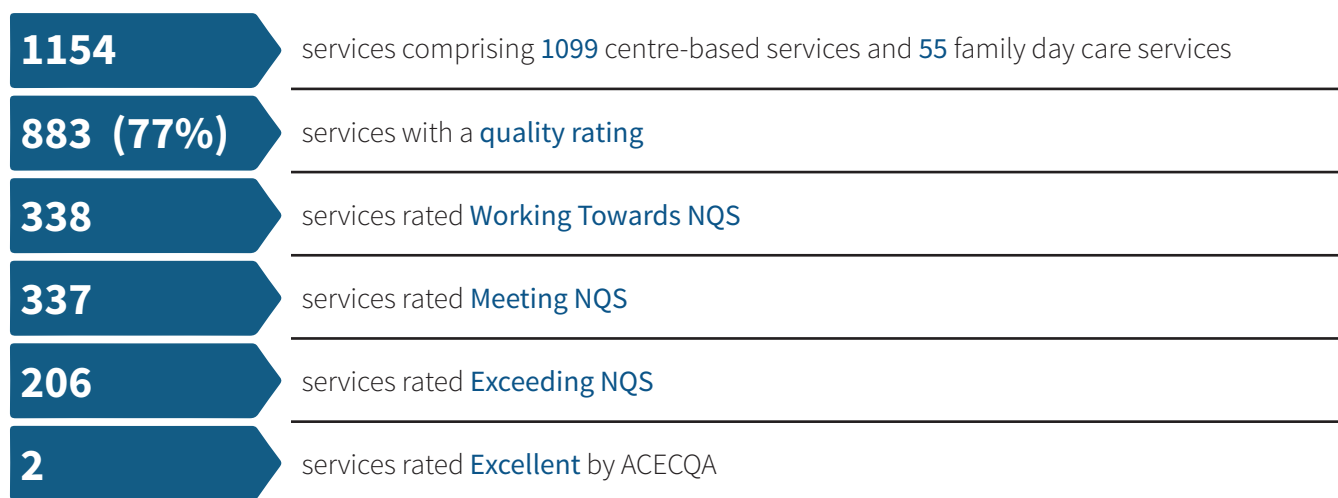
Figure 26 ranks the seven quality areas of the NQS in descending order based on the proportion of services rated Working Towards NQS in each quality area.



## Contact details

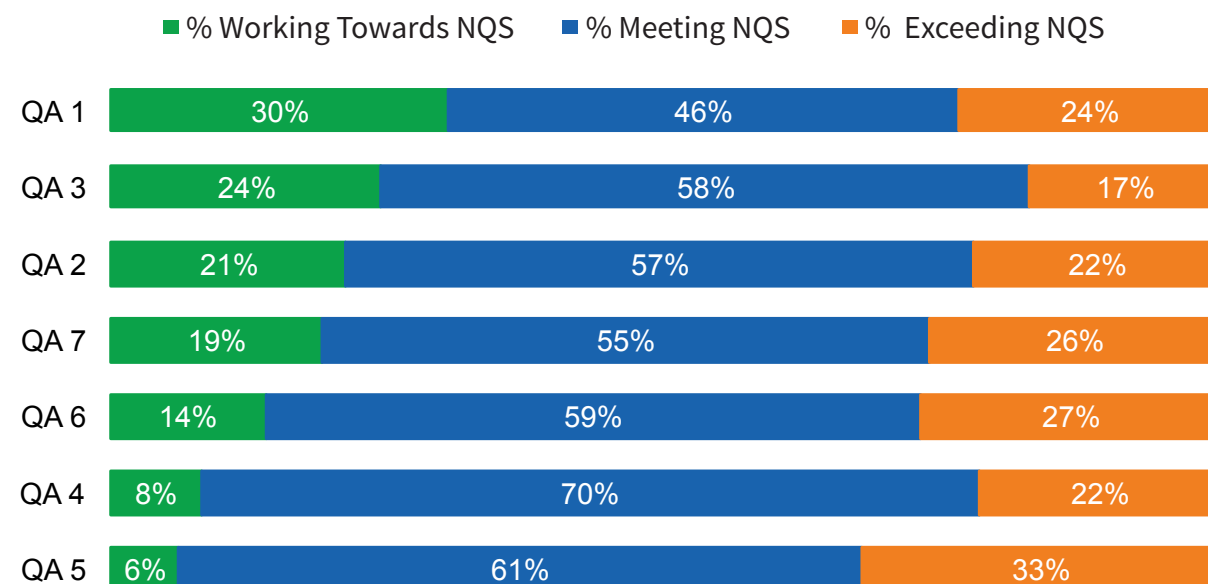
Department of Education and Training  
 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation)

# Western Australia summary



**Figure 27: Western Australian 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 Local Government and Communities  
 Education and Care Regulatory Unit  
[www.dlgc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au)





© Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority 2017

This work has been produced by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). Apart from any use permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this publication may be reproduced by any process without written permission from ACECQA.

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcomed and should be forwarded to ACECQA.

Published by ACECQA

ABN 59 372 786 746

Level 6, 175 Liverpool Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Web: [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)

Email: [enquiries@acecqa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@acecqa.gov.au)

Media enquiries: [media@acecqa.gov.au](mailto:media@acecqa.gov.au)





Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority